President Christopher McCann called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Council Members Present:
President McCann Trustees: Gale, Cavendish, Harper, Cook, Ager and Conley
Absent Members: None
Staff Present: Clerk-Scott, Village Manager/Zoning Administrator- Jim Dyer, Treasurer- Diana Simons, DPW Superintendent- Chris Holton,

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Trustee Cook **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Gale to approve the March 14, 2024, Regular meeting minutes. Discussion: Trustee Conley clarified for the record that she did not receive a call from Anne Harper regarding the Social District. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of Agenda (amendments/additions):

Trustee Conley **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cavendish to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried**.

Correspondence:

Don Monte- Thanked the Council for developing a housing committee.

Public Comment:

Tom Weber- expressed concerns and sought clarity on several agenda items: South Shore Drive and Homewood Drive, the land surveyor contract's purpose, the inclusion of a liquor license in the golf course contract, and the refurbishment of solar panels. He requested more detailed explanations for better understanding.

Pam Steffens- questioned the need for public bathrooms in the business district, citing the availability of facilities at the marinas in Suttons Bay and Leland. She argued that taxpayers should not bear the cost of additional facilities when existing options suffice.

Staff Reports:

The Council received written reports from the Clerk, Treasurer, Harbor Master and DPW Superintendent.

A. Village Manager/Zoning Administrator -

Village Manager/Zoning Administrator:

Village Manager Jim Dyer provided a report to the Council, outlining key updates. He expressed disappointment over the unsuccessful grant application to the financially distressed cities and villages program, indicating plans to seek feedback for reapplication next year. Dyer highlighted potential funding challenges due to project costs and limited program budget. Additionally, he discussed a meeting with Hemeyer's regarding their proposed Fairway Residences development on the golf course, noting considerations for self-development or partnership options, with positive feedback on fee arrangements. Dyer also shared details on zoning permits and introduced a new format for the report, incorporating proposed motions for agenda items.

1. Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee:

Trustee Gale, Finance Committee Chair, provided an update on the recent Finance Committee meeting. While the minutes from the March meeting were included in the current meeting packet, no minutes were available for the April 10, 2024 meeting. However, the committee focused on reviewing the new method of capturing budget information, which differs from previous budget worksheets. The new approach appears to be more user-friendly and easier to understand. Additionally, the committee discussed ongoing monitoring of all bond debt retirement.

B. Parks and Trails Committee:

President McCann provided an update on the Parks and Trails meeting, noting that it did not occur last month. The discussion primarily focused on the playground equipment, with changes made to the designs. McCann mentioned that the installation of the proposed equipment is likely to take place in early fall due to the installer's busy schedule, which is often inundated with requests from school districts during June and July. McCann suggested constructing a display with pictures of the design to be placed at the site, allowing people to see what the equipment will look like before installation. Additionally, he proposed managing the delivery of the equipment by shipping it directly to the installer rather than storing it at the beach all summer.

2. Ex-Officio Board Reports:

A. Planning Commission:

Trustee Gale provided an update on the Planning Commission's recent activities. Jim Dyer presented the redevelopment community participation plan to gather input from commissioners on how to incorporate public feedback into master planning and capital improvement projects. The Planning Commission is also preparing for the Master Plan, with notices of intent to be sent to surrounding governmental bodies as required. Two commissioning seats will be open, with postings for interested parties published in the local newspaper and around town. Additionally, the tree committee is organizing an Arbor Day recognition ceremony on April 26, with a tree planting near the youth sailing school in Marina Park. The public is invited to attend, and connections with the school are growing each year. Trustee Gale also addressed a question about the Seventh Street project, noting that a formal recommendation is expected soon, potentially leading to a vote on rezoning in June.

B. NLTUA:

President McCann provided a brief update on the NLTUA meeting, noting that it was one of their shortest meetings ever, lasting around 15 minutes. The meeting consisted mostly of reports from Jacobs, and they will have their annual meeting next week to reelect officers. McCann mentioned that they will continue to follow the work from Dawn Lund’s rate study.

3. Discussion Items:

A. Homewood Subdivision/South Shore Drive:

President McCann initiated the discussion on the Homewood Subdivision South Shore Drive location problem, pointing out a jog in the road. Village Manager Jim Dyer elaborated on the issue, explaining that there are undefined areas between lot lines and the road, as well as parcels encroaching on the road. Dyer requested input from council members or the public with knowledge of the history of the road's construction. Trustee Harper mentioned the creek as a factor in the road's design. The conversation explored potential solutions, including road abandonment or further investigation into historical context. DPW Superintendent Chris Holton highlighted changes during the sewer project and the railroad right-of-way's influence. The issue was deemed a potential obstacle for property sales but not inhibiting ongoing projects. Manager Dyer emphasized the need for resolution and invited input from all stakeholders.

B. 2023-2024 Trash Pickup Budget Allocation:

The Council engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding the allocation of the 2023-2024 trash pickup budget, voicing concerns about its cost and proposing alternative solutions. They noted the disproportionate benefit to a limited number of residents and the lack of advantage for downtown merchants, prompting suggestions to repurpose the funds for other community needs. Ideas included establishing a central drop-off site for dumpsters and investigating partnerships with the township. Village Manager Jim Dyer proposed assigning staff to formulate recommendations to address the raised issues, with plans to revisit the topic at the May council meeting. The consensus among council members was to maintain an open-minded approach and thoroughly explore options before reaching a decision.

4. New Business:

A. Motion to Approve Renewal of Golf Course Management Agreement:

Village Manager Jim Dyer clarified the modifications to the Golf Course Maintenance Agreement, emphasizing that it encompasses three contracts: the golf course maintenance, the solar panels, and the driving range. The goal is to extend the existing successful 10-year contract to another 10 years, providing stability for planning and fostering alternative revenue sources. The mention of a liquor license aims to rescind the provision prohibiting alcohol sales, granting the golf course the option to pursue a license independently. Any additional revenue generated from this would be reinvested into capital improvements without affecting the village's current revenue share. The intent is to enable the golf course to explore new income streams for necessary upgrades while maintaining the village's financial interests and potentially boosting golf participation and revenue.

Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Ager to approve the Golf Course Management contract extension, as amended with the signer for the Village of Northport being the Village Manager vs Village President. Roll Call Vote: Yeas (6) Nays (0) Abstained (1) President McCann. Motion Carried.

B. Motion to Approve Placement of Tribal Memorial Sculpture:

Village Manager Jim Dyer presented a proposal regarding the placement of the Kchi Wiikwedong Anishinaabe Cultural Marker within or near Haserot Park. The proposal includes three potential locations, two on the south and one on the north side of Northport Creek. The preferred site by the marker's proponent is site "B" north of Northport Creek. Village administration supports this placement as a means to engage with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and to celebrate shared cultural heritage. Since the final location will depend on local conditions, Dyer recommended authorizing the placement of the monument in the area of the Northport Marina, to be determined by the Village Manager in consultation with the Department of Public Works.

Trustee Gale Moved, Supported by Trustee Conley authorizes the placement of the Anishinaabe monument in the area of the Northport Marina, to be decided by the Village Manager and Department of Public Works. Roll Call Vote: Yeas (7) Nays (0) Motion Carried.

C. Motion To Approve Rain Garden Expansion Contract:

Trustee Ager Moved, Supported by Trustee Harper to approve the Northport Main Street stormwater reduction project contract addendum number one as presented. Motion Carried.

D. Dietrich Land Division 359 West Third Street/Status of Land Division Ordinance:

Village Manager Jim Dyer presented an overview of the land division for Karyn Dietrich, discussing a parcel located adjacent to Third Street with complex zoning classifications. Despite existing structures, conservation area designation typically prohibits development, with the proposed division aligning with zoning by restricting development to wetlands areas. However, inconsistencies in village ordinances regarding land divisions complicate matters, with one ordinance requiring Council approval and a newer ordinance assigning final approval to a committee. Dyer recommended approving the division motion under the older ordinance and referring the matter to the land division committee for final determination, addressing the inconsistency. The proposed land division for tax parcel 042-234-033-00, located at 359

W. 3rd St. and owned by Karyn Dietrich, involves splitting the property into three parcels, as advised by real estate brokers to aid in its sale. Village Manager Jim Dyer outlined the lot split process, highlighting the challenge of conflicting village ordinances. Despite this inconsistency, the Village administration recommends approving the proposed division. To address the conflict, the recommended motion is to approve the division under ordinance 66B and refer the matter to the Land Division Committee for final determination, as required by ordinance 131-2021.

Trustee Harper **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Ager to approve the division under ordinance 66B and refer the matter to the Land Division Committee for final determination, as required by ordinance 131-2021. **Discussion:** Trustee Cavendish raised questions about the presence of power in the barn and its source, expressing concerns about potential issues for future buyers. Village Manager Jim Dyer clarified that there is currently no purchaser for the property, but any sale would require an agreement for a principal residence to be placed on the parcel within a specified time frame. Dyer assured that appropriate mechanisms would be in place to enforce zoning ordinances and address sewer, water, and electrical connection issues if a sale occurs. He also mentioned that the property has been on the market for over six months and has undergone a wetland delineation process. Trustee Cavendish emphasized the importance of ensuring enforceability and avoiding the creation of non-conforming parcels, to which Dyer agreed. **Motion Carried.**

E. Approval of Electronic survey documents:

Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Cook to approve the addition of the agenda item as 10E. Motion Carried.

Village Manager Jim Dyer noted that the item concerning the approval of electronic survey documents for the Village of Northport, although not initially included in the agenda, was added as item 10E. The agreement with JFK Land Surveyor allows for the release of electronic files to the village at no cost, with an additional component involving a release of liability. The documents will be utilized for future projects.

Trustee Ager **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Harper to approve the release of the survey documents to the Village of Northport as presented by the surveyors. **Motion Carried.**

Payment of Bills:

President Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to pay the bills for March in the amount of $663,705.34 when funds become available. Roll Call Vote: Yeas (7) Nays (0) Absent: (0) **Motion Carried.**

Public Comments:

Anne Harper- expressed her views on trash pickup, emphasizing that individual trash disposal should not be the responsibility of taxpayers. She suggested reallocating the $20,000 budgeted for trash pickup to improve sidewalks for community safety. Anne also advocated for environmental leadership and urged individuals to take responsibility for their trash generation. Additionally, she highlighted the need to address excessive street lighting for dark sky concerns.

Pam Steffens- expressed her concerns about the Dark Sky initiative in the village of Northport. She noted that Northport is a small village with limited streetlights and emphasized that the dark sky push might be more suitable for larger cities with excessive illumination. Pam raised safety concerns, particularly regarding liability issues if someone fell in a ditch due to a lack of lighting. She suggested that dark sky initiatives may not be appropriate for smaller villages like Northport.

Council Comments:

Trustee Cavendish announced the upcoming second annual Restaurant Week for Northport and Omena, scheduled from April 27 to May 5. She expressed excitement about the event and mentioned the participation of numerous businesses, all of which will offer price-fix menus during the event.

Trustee Harper suggested commemorating Northport's upcoming 175th anniversary by proposing a banner to be displayed under the Northport sign. He indicated that there is a budget allocated for promotion and suggested using it for this purpose. Trustee Harper expressed enthusiasm for commemorating the milestone and emphasized the significance of the event.

President McCann highlighted the need for improved public restroom facilities in the business district, citing concerns about inconvenience, especially for young families with children. He referenced the positive example of public restrooms in Glen Arbor and emphasized the importance of considering the full expense of such facilities.

Village Manager Jim Dyer informed the council about a vacancy in the village staff due to the departure of the administrative assistant because of family issues. He expressed sadness at this development but mentioned that a part-time position for an administrative assistant with clerical and potentially social media experience is now open. Dyer encouraged anyone interested or aware of suitable candidates to contact him via phone or email.

Adjournment:

Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Cook to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm.
Motion Carried.

Several Citizens attended via Zoom.

Joni l. Scott, Village of Northport Clerk

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