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

Council Members Present:

President McCann Trustees: Gale, Cavendish, Cook, Ager, Harper and Conley

Absent Members: None

Staff Present: Clerk-Joni Scott, Village Manager/Zoning Administrator- Jim Dyer, DPW Superintendent- Chris Holton, Bill Rosemurgy- Harbor Master, Diana Simons- Treasurer

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Trustee Cook **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Gale to approve the October 10, 2024, Regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of Agenda (amendments/additions):

The Village Manager requested the addition of a new business item to the agenda as item 10E via a simple resolution. The resolution would increase the concrete contract authorization for dock repairs to $11,200. This adjustment was necessary because the original authorization from the last meeting was for up to $11,000, but the actual amount was higher than that. The manager emphasized the importance of having the correct amount documented in case the transaction is flagged during an audit.

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Conley to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion Carried.**

Correspondence:

Barb Conley- resignation from the Village Council

William Harper- resignation from the NLTUA Board

Anne Harper- correspondence on the speed limit for Rose Street

Public Comment:

Anne Harper- expressed her continued support for the 15 mph speed limit on Rose Street, citing the importance of pedestrian and cyclist safety in an area with limited sidewalks. She emphasized the need for vehicles, including golf carts and trucks, to slow down, especially in a scenic area with many residents and guests, including children and seniors, who may not be able to move quickly. Harper also expressed gratitude for Jane Gale's contributions to the village, acknowledging her as a steady advocate for thoughtful dialogue and talent, and offered her thanks as Gale may be departing from the village council.

Karl Wizinsky added to Anne Harper's comment regarding the speed limit on Rose Street, suggesting that sidewalks should be planned for that stretch of road if they are not already. He emphasized the danger posed to pedestrians, especially on Fridays when the market is open, as there is only one sidewalk on one side of the street. Wizinsky supported postponing the decision on the speed limit until there is a clear plan and budget for sidewalks to ensure the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

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 James Dyer provided an update on several initiatives, including Consumers Energy's reconfiguration of street lights to LED, offering an opportunity to reassess necessary lights. He discussed a proposed condominium development at the end of Vincer Way near M22, highlighting the challenge of a 75-foot isolation distance from the well, which will reduce the number of lots, and recommended a preliminary review by the Planning Commission.

1. Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee: (Budget Presentation)

James Dyer presented the village's budget report, highlighting key figures for revenues, operating expenses, and salary expenses across major village funds. For the first quarter (July-September), the Marina collected 79.01% of expected revenues, with expenses at 60%, showing strong financial performance. General Fund revenues were at 75%, and expenses were only 11.12%, placing the fund in a good position for the winter. Salary expenses were slightly higher than 25% in some funds, mainly due to seasonal employment and better salary allocation. The new financial reporting format was well-received by the Finance Committee for its clarity in understanding the village's financial status, with Dyer attributing the success of the reporting to the hard work of staff, particularly Joni and Diana.

B. Infrastructure Report:

Trustee Cavendish provided the Infrastructure report, highlighting ongoing efforts related to sidewalks. The team has started discussions on identifying and prioritizing locations for new sidewalks, alongside their maintenance. Additionally, Cavendish mentioned that the Waukazoo Street sewer work, done for NPG, has been completed. She pointed out the importance of improving communication for future projects, noting that the timeline changes for Waukazoo Street were not well communicated to surrounding property owners, especially businesses. Although the project wasn't directly managed by the village, she emphasized the need for better communication moving forward.

2. Ex-Officio Board Reports:

A. Planning Commission:

Trustee Gale provided the Planning Commission report, mentioning a thorough discussion on future land use and zoning district amendments, particularly the idea of creating a continuous business district rather than having scattered business zones. The zoning administrator received valuable feedback on this. Jim Dyer added that the Planning Commission identified up to 20 areas where zoning might need to be changed, and the plan is to define these areas more specifically, identify the affected lots, and prioritize them. There is also a plan to engage property owners early in the process to gather their input. Dyer anticipates having this list prepared for the Planning Commission's next meeting, after which it will be reviewed and included in the next council packet.

3. Discussion Items:

A. Discuss and Appropriate Recognition for the Tribal and Foundation Contributions to the new Playground Equipment:

President McCann shared that the equipment is nearly fully installed, with only one small piece missing, preventing the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The playground was funded through a joint effort from the Leelanau Township Community Foundation and a GTB 2% grant. President McCann suggested having a plaque or sign to acknowledge the collaboration. Village Manager James Dyer proposed obtaining designs for the recognition sign and getting approval from both the grant funders and the village council before proceeding. The council expressed general support for the recognition, with a focus on ensuring the sign is culturally appropriate and aligns with the grant providers' requirements.

4. New Business:

A. Resolution Implementing Village Credit Card Policy:

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Harper that the Northport Village Council approve the resolution to initiate the village credit card program and authorize the village manager, clerk, and treasurer to sign all necessary documents. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) **Motion Carried.**
Resolution Declared Adopted

B. Resolution Modifying Social District Boundary and Map:

Trustee Ager Moved, Supported by Trustee Gale to approve the boundaries and map of the Social District as presented, with the village manager authorized to take the necessary steps to implement the change.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas (7) Nays (0) Abstained (0) Absent (0) **Motion Carried.**
Resolution Declared Adopted

C. Resolution to Modify Speed Limit on Bay/Rose Street:

Trustee Cook **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Conley to increase the speed limit on Bay and Rose Street from 15mph to 25 mph. **Discussion:** Trustee Cook claimed that the 4-way stop had resolved most of the traffic issues, especially in the busy summer season, and suggested raising the speed limit to 25 mph. However, other trustees, concerned about pedestrian and cyclist safety, particularly near the farmers market, opposed the change. Trustee Conley proposed keeping the 15 mph limit near the farmers market and increasing it further down the street, but the council felt multiple speed limits on the same street would be confusing. President McCann opposed increasing the speed limit on Rose Street, arguing that the 15 mph limit should remain in place until sidewalks are added. He noted that while cars generally slow down when pedestrians are present, many pedestrians walk directly on the road instead of using the grassy areas, which creates safety concerns. McCann emphasized that cars need to be able to pass through while pedestrians should step aside when vehicles approach. Thus, he advocated for maintaining the low-speed limit to ensure safety until infrastructure improvements, like sidewalks, are made.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas (0) Nays (7) Abstained (0) Absent (0) **Motion Failed.**

D. Resolution to Establish Transient Slip Rates for 2025:

Trustee Ager **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Conley to approve the transient slip rates for the 2025 season as presented and direct the village manager to include these rates in Marina revenue when presenting the 2025 budget. **Discussion**: The Waterfront Committee had already reviewed and approved the rate changes intended to make the marina more competitive with other area marinas, as the current rates were considered too low for the amenities provided. Additionally, there was mention of the need to adjust the village's fee schedule to reflect the new rates in the budget process.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas (7) Nays (0) Abstained (0) Absent (0) **Motion Carried.**

E. Action Concerning an adjustment to the Budget for the concrete work at the Marina:

Trustee Conley **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to increase the budget for the concrete work at the Marina from $11,000 to $11,200. Discussion: Village Manager James Dyer explained that although the council had previously authorized $11,000 for the concrete work, the actual cost came to $11,200, so this motion was to adjust the budget to the correct amount. The increase was necessary to ensure the correct amount was documented, particularly in case the transaction was audited.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas (7) Nays (0) Abstained (0) Absent (0) **Motion Carried.**

Payment of Bills:

President McCann **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cavendish to pay the bills for October for $312,765.85 when funds become available. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) Absent: (0) **Motion Carried.**

Public Comments:

None

Council Comments:

Trustee Harper expressed mixed feelings about learning that the village manager, Jim Dyer, is pursuing career advancement opportunities. Harper noted being disheartened by the lack of attendance from the qualified candidates who had expressed interest in serving on the council, highlighting a sense of frustration. However, Harper's main concern was feeling blindsided by the news about Dyer's job search. Harper acknowledged that there was no legal obligation for Dyer to inform the council, he expressed that as a courtesy, it would have been appreciated if Dyer had communicated his intentions earlier, especially considering the effort that went into hiring him and the progress made under his leadership. Harper also emphasized his support for Dyer's decision, offering a recommendation if needed, but expressed disappointment at the timing of the revelation.

Trustee Conley expressed gratitude to Village Manager Jim Dyer for his significant contributions to the village. Conley also shared that this would be her last meeting, reflecting on her enjoyment of serving on the council, working with the team, and contributing to improving the village. She thanked everyone for their experience and support during her tenure.

Trustee Cavendish expressed gratitude to Trustee Conley for her service on the council and also thanked Jane Gale for her many years of dedicated service, particularly for her help taking minutes for numerous committees. Cavendish acknowledged the significant time and effort Jane Gale has contributed and noted that her presence and support would be greatly missed.

Adjournment:

President McCann adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Several Citizens attended via Zoom.

Joni l. Scott, Village of Northport Clerk

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