

# NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP Township Board Minutes March 15, 2016

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Supervisor Engstrom at 8350 Main Street.

## PLEDGE

Supervisor Engstrom led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## ROLL CALL

Marilyn Engstrom, Supervisor	Present
Angela Westover, Clerk	Present
Kathy Braun, Treasurer	Present
Janet Chick, Trustee	Present
Wayne Dockett, Trustee	Present
Jacki Otto, Trustee	Absent with notice
Tracy Thomas, Trustee	Present

Also present:

Township Manager Howard Fink  
Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent  
Tim Hardesty  
Public Safety Director William Wagner  
Community Center Director Tammy Averill  
Township Attorney Brad Maynes  
Members of the community

## CONSENT AGENDA:

- Minutes and Bills
- GYOA Leasing

Dockett requested that Bills and Minutes be pulled for discussion.

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Chick supported, that the consent agenda be adopted as amended.  
**Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

## ADOPT BALANCE OF AGENDA

Dockett asked that discussion be added about the agenda order when guests have been invited to meetings.

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, supported, that the balance of the agenda be adopted as amended.  
**Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

## FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC

**Whitmore Lake Sewer District.** Sherry Wagar, 6431 Whitmore Lake Road, as to be excluded from the district.

## BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

**Whitmore Lake Sewer District.** Dockett commented on the requirements for property owners to hook up.

## CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

## REPORTS

*Fire.* Wagner said he will check on the response time listed.

*Police.* Wagner answered a question from Dockett about the officer funded by the federal government and commented on the consequences of the 8 Mile Road bridge over US-23 being removed after being hit by a truck.

*Wastewater Treatment Plant.*

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Braun supported, to approve a request from the Water Pollution Control Facility to purchase a new 2016 truck with a snowplow blade. The cost of vehicle from Signature Ford is \$33,086.00. The snowplow blade to be put on by Bullion Sales of Dexter has a cost of \$5,482.00 for a total cost of \$38,568.00. Purchase would come out of the 2016-2017 budget. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Braun supported, to approve the purchase of a new Exmark lawnmower from Bullion Sales of Dexter for a total cost of \$5,069.60 for the Water Pollution Control Facility with the funds to come from the Wastewater Treatment Plant fund. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Braun supported, to approve the purchase of a boiler for the Wastewater Treatment Plant at a cost of \$14,000.00, with the funds to come from the Water Pollution Control Facility fund. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

*Senior Center and Financial.* No questions.

*Township Manager.* Fink provided information about a land parcel along the Horseshoe Lake Drain which was deeded to the Township by the County after it did not sell at auction. Board members indicated they would not have a problem with this being sold back to the prior owner.

*Zoning Board of Appeals.* No report.

*Planning Commission.* Chick reported that on March 2<sup>nd</sup> the Commission asked for reports regarding the Biltmore request and is in the process of reviewing where churches should be allowed.

*Parks and Recreation.* Thomas noted the Parks and Recreation Proposal is on this agenda.

## AGENDA ITEMS

1. **DDA Redevelopment Liquor License Policy, and**
2. **Resolution 16-538:  
Redevelopment Liquor License**

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Chick supported, to approve Resolution 16-538, Redevelopment Liquor License. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

**Northfield Township Board Meeting  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Public Safety Building; 8350 Main Street  
March 15, 2016**

Engstrom confirmed that this action indicates the Board agrees with the DDA's policy choices outlined in the packet materials.

**3.  
Parks and Recreation Proposal**

Fink reviewed the proposal from the Parks and Recreation Commission to establish them as a Board with \$10,000 in funding.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Engstrom supported, to formally designate the Northfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission as the Parks and Recreation Board. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

Fink said he is comfortable with this proposal and would be happy to provide a presentation on the budget. Board comments suggesting that the budget as a whole be reviewed if this is approved and to fund things of this type with millages.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Engstrom supported, to give an allotment of \$10,000 annually to the Northfield Township Parks and Recreation Board beginning with the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Dockett called for a roll call vote.

- ▶ **Motion carried 5—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed.**

**4.  
Ordinance 16-47 Amending the Sewer Use Ordinance by adding Section 32.55: Regulations Applicable to the Whitmore Lake Road Sanitary Sewer Special Assessment District (SAD)**

The Board discussed the requirements for members of the district to connect to the sewer line, including engineering approval and the need to connect within one year. Whether hardship exemptions for hookup could be granted was discussed. Fink said he will look into that, but said it would be difficult to create such an ordinance.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Engstrom supported, to approve Ordinance 16-47, the Sewer Use Ordinance, by adding Section 32.55: Regulations Applicable to the Whitmore Lake Road Sanitary Sewer Special Assessment District.

The Board further discussed concerns about the requirement to connect within one year. Fink and Maynes said the ordinance can be written however the Board wants, but there does not appear to be consensus, and

there is no current example of a district member not being connected in an existing SAD.

- ▶ **Amended motion:** Chick moved, Engstrom supported, to approve Ordinance 16-47, the Sewer Use Ordinance, by adding Section 32.55: Regulations Applicable to the Whitmore Lake Road Sanitary Sewer Special Assessment District, replacing the wording in item #1, "within one year after date of written notice to connect" with "at such time as the property owner's septic system fails."

Maynes said it is likely that creating a hardship ordinance would be very difficult and involved and perhaps not possible. It was noted that Otto had raised this issue and is not present at this meeting. Fink noted a hardship exemption would not be necessary if this motion passes.

**Motion carried 6—0 on a roll call vote. Resolution adopted.**

**5.  
Minutes and Bills**

Fink and Wagner answered questions from Dockett about a reimbursement and a sprinkler system repair.

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Chick supported, that the minutes and bills be approved as presented. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

**6.  
Guests at Meetings**

Dockett said agenda items involving professionals charging the Township fees should be heard early in meetings to save money. Fink said that is done already.

**SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mary Devlin, 9211 Brookside, objected to Dockett's assertion that renters and non-residents participating in the community do not care about it.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chick said renters pay property taxes through their rent and many contribute to the community in other ways. Thomas suggested that any unsafe situation on the parcel deeded to the Township by the County be corrected and the related costs recouped if it is sold.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Engstrom adjourned the meeting at 8:42 P.M.

---

Submitted by Lisa Lemble.

Corrections to the originally issued minutes are indicated as follows:  
wording removed is ~~stricken through~~; wording added is underlined.

Approved by the Township Board on \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Westover, Clerk