

**NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP
Township Board Special Meeting
Minutes
February 14, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Supervisor Chockley at 8350 Main Street.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Supervisor Chockley provided a brief invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Marlene Chockley, Supervisor	Present
Kathleen Manley, Clerk	Present
Lenore Zelenock, Treasurer	Present
Tawn Beliger, Trustee	Absent with notice
Janet Chick, Trustee	Present
Wayne Dockett, Trustee	Present
Jacki Otto, Trustee	Present (arrived 7:07 P.M.)

Also present:

Public Safety Director William Wagner
Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Dan Willis
Community Center Director Tammy Averill
Township Manager Steven Aynes
Township Attorney Paul Burns
Recording Secretary Lisa Lemble
Members of the community

ADOPT AGENDA

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick supported, that the agenda be adopted as presented.
Motion carried 5—0 on a voice vote.

FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Sue Shink, 600 W. Joy Road, County Commissioner and member of the Land Preservation Committee, spoke in favor of the contribution for the preservation of a 75 acre farm. She reported that the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program has added \$10,000 toward the purchase.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Zelenock thanked everyone present for being available for the special meeting.

[Otto arrived].

AGENDA ITEMS

1.

**Hiring of Full-time Police Officer:
Michael Buxton**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick supported, that Michael Buxton be hired as a Full-time Police Officer a step 2 salary of \$56,060.68 per year with a start date of March 11, 2019, pending successful passing of physical and background check.
Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

2.

**Hiring of Paid On-Call Fire Fighter:
Sam Walsh**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Manley supported, to hire Sam Walsh as a Paid On-Call Fire Fighter at a probationary level I wage of \$10 per hour pending successfully passing physical and background checks.
Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

3.

**Resolution 19-601: Letter of Support for
Historical Society Grant Application**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick supported, to approve Resolution 19-601 in support of the application for a certified local government grant for the Northfield Township Historical Society to complete the historic context for the Northfield Township Phase I Survey, and to authorize the Supervisor to send a letter of support.

Dockett said he does not understand why the Township is getting involved. Board members said the request is only for support for the grant, not for funding from the Township.

Motion carried 5—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed. Resolution adopted.

4.

**\$2000 Contribution to Assist in the Preservation
of a 75 Acre Northfield Township Farm**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Zelenock supported, to approve \$2,000 as matched funds to assist in the preservation of a 75 acre working farm and authorizing a letter to Ann Arbor City Council offering the matched funds, contingent upon project approval.

**Northfield Township Board Meeting
Minutes of Special Meeting
Public Safety Building; 8350 Main Street
February 14, 2019**

Board members expressed concerns (including that communities surrounding Ann Arbor do not have input on the decisions about the parcels that are purchased, the Board does not have a policy regarding donations of this type, this has not been done for other parcels, and this is subsidizing a private land owner) and support (including that surveys show a majority of Northfield Township residents support open space and farmland preservation, other Townships have made similar donations, and the property has met the rigorous criteria for preservation).

Motion carried 4—2 on a roll call vote, Otto and Dockett opposed.

**5.
Grant Application to Request Matching Funds
from Washtenaw Urban County
for Community Center**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Otto supported, to authorize the application to Urban County for matching funds to repair and improve to the Community Center, to identify a Township match of up to \$35,000, and to set up an *ad hoc* committee to determine what repairs and improvements should be included in the application.

Chockley said this request is very similar to one funded for Ypsilanti Township, and it would allow the Township to participate in the Meals on Wheels program and provide needed maintenance. She said the application must be submitted by March 22nd and the decision will be made in April.

The Board discussed the work that needs to be done on the Community Center, future possible improvements, and maintenance and renovation needs of other Township buildings.

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

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 February 26, 2019.

Kathleen Manley, Clerk

Official minutes of all meetings are available on the Township's website at http://www.twp-northfield.org/government/township_board_of_trustees/

6.

Payment of Open Bills

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Manley supported, to approve payment of open bills (expected check run date 2-15-2019) for a total of \$104,866.13 from all funds in the Municipal Investment Fund (MIF) account.
Motion carried 6—0 on a roll call vote.

SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Sue Shink thanked the Board for approving the donation for the preservation of the 75 acre farm in the Township and the support of the Northfield Township Historical Society grant application.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board members wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day, requested that a discussion of ethics be added to a future agenda, requested that a decision about the disposition of 75 Barker Road be added to a future agenda, noted that taxes are due today without penalty, and thanked the public watching on television.

ADJOURNMENT

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Manley supported, that the meeting be adjourned.
Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.