

The Township of Norvell

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ERIC B. JOHNSON, SUPERVISOR

ANDREA BARNETT, CLERK

DESERRE SAUERS, TREASURER

PAMELA JOHNSON, TRUSTEE

MATHEW D. DAME, TRUSTEE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 2017, 6 P.M. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NORVELL TOWNSHIP BOARD HELD IN THE NORVELL TOWNSHIP HALL, 106 E COMMERCIAL ST, NORVELL MI 49263

PRESENT: Supervisor Johnson, Clerk Barnett, Treasurer Sauers, Trustee Johnson, and Trustee Dame. The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all those residents of the Township who have passed away since the last board meeting.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Trustee Dame Under new Business wants to add a tax cut. Under unfinished Business wants to add Deputy Supervisor's compensation and posting of the fire reports.

Supervisor Johnson asked for any objections.

Trustee Johnson objected

H. Tax cut

Trustee Dame motioned to add H. Tax Cut to the agenda.

Trustee (Supervisor) Johnson supported

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, No, Sauers, No, Barnett, No, Supervisor *Johnson*, No, Trustee Dame, Yes. 4 No's 1 Yes' motion failed.

C. Deputy Supervisor's compensation to the agenda.

Trustee Dame motioned to add C. Deputy Supervisor's compensation to the agenda
Sauers supported

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, Yes, Sauers, Yes, Barnett, Yes, Supervisor *Johnson*, Yes, Trustee Dame, yes. All Yes' motion passed.

D. Posting of the fire reports

Trustee Dame motioned add D. Posting of the fire reports to the agenda

Trustee Johnson supported

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, Yes, Sauers, Yes, Barnett, Yes, Trustee Dame, Yes,

Supervisor *Johnson*, Yes. All Yes' motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Barnett motioned, Supervisor Johnson supported to approve the Agenda with the additions.

All Yes' motion passed.

Supervisor Johnson motioned to reconsider the agenda and to the add minutes from the May 8th, May 17th, May 22nd, June 5th, and the June 19th 2017 meetings.

Trustee Johnson supported.

Supervisor Johnson amended his motion to include June 7th 2017 minutes.

Sauers supported

Trustee Dame once again brought up the needing to have the packets ahead of time. Trustee Johnson stated that she has been on the board the longest and it has always been that we got the packets the night of the meeting. Supervisor Johnson stated that in order to give the packets *ahead* (a head) of time they would be incomplete. Sauers asked why we needed to do the additions to the agenda, why couldn't Trustee Dame call ahead of time and ask that they be put on.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, Yes, Sauers, Yes, Barnett, Yes, Trustee Dame, No, Supervisor *Johnson*, Yes. 1 No, 4 Yes' motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sauers motioned to approve the May 8th 2017 minutes

Trustee Johnson supported. 4 yes' 1 no motion passed.

Trustee Johnson motioned to approve the May 17th 2017 minutes

Sauers supported 4 yes' 1 no motion passed.

Trustee Johnson motioned to approve the May 22nd 2017 minutes

Supervisor Johnson supported 4 yes' 1 no motion passed.

Trustee Johnson motioned to approve the June 5th 2017 minutes

Sauers supported 4 yes' 1 no motion passed.

Barnett motioned to approve the June 7th 2017 minutes

Sauers supported. 4 yes' 1 no motion passed.

Trustee Johnson moved to approve the June 14th Board Meeting minutes

Sauers stated that Trustee Johnsons name is spelled wrong and Trustee Dame

would like to change those to these.

Trustee Johnson amended her motion to approve the minutes with the changes. Sauers supported. All Yes' motion passed.

Sauers motioned to approve the June 19th minutes

Trustee Johnson supported

4 yes, 1 no motion passed.

Trustee Johnson motioned to approve the June 28th 2017 public hearing minutes
Barnett supported.

4 yes' 1 no motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A resident would like to know about the baseball team that had talked to the board members at a past meeting. He brought up the packets being given sooner and the agenda going up on the website. Another resident brought up M124 and all the deaths that have happened on that road. He would like to see the bike path moved. He also brought up that he liked that we had a good budget and that he didn't like the fact that they had to pay twice for their sewer (Wamplers Lake). He says it would be nice if we could take some of the money and refund the people.

Supervisor Johnson said that he went to a MDOT meeting about M124 and the bike path. There are some things in the works for both. Trustee Dame brought up the fact that he has been working with a senator about the speed limit on M124, trying to get it so that the residents on that road can get the speed limit changed. Supervisor Johnson stated that the township has also put in over \$40,000 for the Wamplers Lake sewer to keep the cost down for the township residents. Trustee Johnson asked why the board was just now hearing about the meeting Trustee Dame had with the senator. A resident chimed in and agreed that Trustee Dame should not be using his Norvell Township status while going around talking to other people about M124 without the knowledge of the Township Board.

Supervisor Johnson put an end to that topic and another resident stated he had been to a few other meetings and asked why the packets couldn't be handed out sooner. Supervisor Johnson mentioned that we don't have the staffing to do so and we would have to close the office for half a day, so that no other business would be taking place and the packets could get done. Trustee Dame spoke about the fund the board is trying to set up, and about the chart he gave to the Supervisor at a past meeting. He then read what the chart said. Supervisor Johnson stated that no money has been moved or spent. That once we have things set up, it will go to the planning commission to look over. He stated that in 2015 this fund was approved

and that our auditor stated it was best to do it with the budget, like we had done.

CONSENT AGENDA REPORTS

- A. Building Report
- B. Zoning Report
- C. Fire Report
- D. Assessors Report
- E. Village Of Brooklyn Sewer Report
- F. Officer Truchan gave the sheriff's Report
- G. Planning Commission Minutes (there was none)

OTHER REPORTS

The financial report was given by Treasurer Sauers.

Clerk Barnett gave the clerk's report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

-Consumers Energy Electric Franchise Renewal:

The Board approved this last month, but the printing deadline was missed, therefore it needs to be voted on again.

Barnett motioned to *reapprove and* post the Consumers Energy Electric Franchise Renewal in the paper.

Trustee Johnson supported

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, Yes, Sauers, Yes, Barnett, Yes, Trustee Dame, Yes, Supervisor *Johnson*, Yes All Yes' motion passed.

-Deputy Supervisor Job Description:

Trustee Johnson asked if the person would be hourly or salary and how many hours the person would work.

Sauers motioned to approve the job description of Deputy Supervisor

Trustee Johnson supported

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, Yes, Sauers, Yes, Barnett, Yes, Trustee Dame, No, Supervisor *Johnson* Yes. 4 yes' 1 no motioned passed

-Deputy Supervisor Compensation:

Trustee Dame thinks he could save us money by taking the sexton job and some of Supervisor Johnsons zoning pay and giving it to the Deputy Supervisor. The Supervisor asked why Trustee Dame isn't willing to give up any of his money if he wants to save the township money.

Trustee Dame motioned to add the duties of Sexton under the guise of the Deputy Supervisor and compensate the position of Deputy Supervisor with the \$7,200 used to compensate the Sexton and reallocate \$2,800 in the Zoning Administrator budget line to that of Deputy Supervisor.

Trustee Johnson supported

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, No, Sauers, No, Barnett, No, Trustee Dame, Yes, Supervisor *Johnson*, No. 4 no's 1 yes motioned failed.

-Posting of the Fire Departments Ratings Reports:

Trustee Dame motioned that the Township post the Public Protection Classification reports for the Cambridge and Napoleon Fire Departments on the Norvell Township website before the next monthly Board Meeting.

Sauers supported. All Yes' motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

-Resolution 17-05 Leoni Township Account Settlement

Supervisor Johnson stated that Treasurer Sauers brought up in 2015 that there was something wrong with how the billing was being done. This settlement will give the township a new start. Leoni has agreed to the new numbers for the payments.

Trustee Johnson motioned to approve Resolution 17-05

Barnett supported.

Trustee Johnson took a moment to thank the Treasurer and Supervisor for all the hard work they have put into getting this settled. Sauers asked if the Township will be taking over the payments, The Supervisor said no. Clerk Barnett brought up the fact that her name is wrong and will need to be fixed. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, Yes, Sauers, Yes, Barnett, Yes, Trustee Dame, Yes, Supervisor *Johnson*, Yes. All Yes' motion passed.

-Resolution 17-06 Capital/Public Improvement Fund

The Supervisor stated that in 2015 this fund was set up and was called Public Improvement Fund. That somehow the board started calling the Fund The Capital Improvement Fund instead. This resolution will clear up any misunderstandings about the name of the fund.

Trustee Johnson motioned to approve Resolution 17-06

Sauers supported. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, Yes, Sauers, Yes, Barnett, Yes, Trustee Dame, No, Supervisor *Johnson*, Yes. 4 yes' 1 no motion passed.

-Re-appointment to Planning Commission-Jeff Oswalt

Supervisor Johnson asked that we hold off on this until he can talk with Jeff Oswalt. He had been hoping to hear back from him before the meeting, but he hadn't. He did hand out a sheet on William Sutherland, who would like to be considered for the spot. Trustee Dame asked about if there were spots on the board for another member, and the Supervisor stated that there are terms that are coming up and there for there would be room. This was tabled until next month.

-Purchase printer for the Treasurer's Office

The Treasurer needs a new printer, her old one stopped working.

Trustee Johnson motioned to approve spending up to \$250 for a new printer Sauers supported. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, Yes, Sauers, Yes, Barnett, Yes, Trustee Dame, Yes, Supervisor *Johnson*, Yes. All Yes' motion passed.

-Final Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Budget Adjustments

The Clerk informed anyone on the board that may not know how the adjustments work, that they are to help balance out the last fiscal year before starting the new fiscal year.

Sauers motioned to approve the 2016/2017 budget adjustments.

Trustee Dame asked how it works and where the money comes from. The Supervisor explained it to him. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, Yes, Sauers, Yes, Barnett, Yes, Trustee Dame, No, Supervisor *Johnson*, Yes. 4 yes' 1 no motion passed.

-NorvellTimes.com

Due to the letter that Trustee Dame put in the paper with this website listed, Supervisor Johnson asked MTA if it was normal for another board member to have their own website. The person that Supervisor Johnson talked to then emailed him back and talked about freedom of speech. He then emailed her the link to the website and she stated to call for legal advice. Supervisor Johnson then met with the lawyer on this matter. The lawyer sent Supervisor Johnson a letter on this matter. Supervisor Johnson read the letter into the record. (see attachment) Supervisor Johnson motioned to put the full text of the letter into the minutes for the record. Trustee Johnson supported

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, Yes, Sauers, Yes, Barnett, Yes, Trustee Dame, Yes, Supervisor *Johnson*, Yes. All Yes' motion passed.

-MTA Ethics Policy Draft

Supervisor Johnson motioned to have a closed session meeting at 10am on 7/17/2017 at 300 Mill St Norvell MI 49263 to discuss matters with the lawyer about the laws and ethics policy and to take action on these matters.

Barnett Supported.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, Yes, Sauers, Yes, Barnett, Yes, Trustee Dame, Yes, Supervisor Johnson, Yes. All Yes' motion passed.

PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

Mr. *Sutherland* (Southerland) thanked us for considering him for the planning commission board. He also wondering if the new Deputy Supervisor could write up something for the paper about the comings and goings of the township. Someone asked The Treasurer if the next bills could state that they can now pay online. Trustee Dame brought up the minutes being available 8 business days after the meeting and about the Deputies raises being approved. Trustee Johnson informed him that the raises were not approved. Trustee Dame would also like to get rid of the 1% tax fee. Sauers informed him that the tax fee is what runs her department and the assessors. Trustee Johnson stated that Trustee Dame does not understand how the budget works and she tried to explain it to him again.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Trustee Johnson motioned, Sauers supported, to pay bills and payroll, (checks #'s 27071 through 27096) totaling \$44,359.22. And EFTPS for June 2017 \$2851.69. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Johnson, Yes, Sauers, Yes, Barnett, Yes, Trustee Dame, No, Supervisor *Johnson*, Yes. 4 Yes' 1 No. motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, Barnett motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Barnett, Clerk

