

2016 Norwich Township Minutes Summary

1/13/16

- Fire well update--waiting for new bid which will include town hall's use of water
- Camping ordinance revisions tabled
- Freeman Propane has installed a new tank and will refill automatically as needed
- Zoning Administrator job description reviewed, changes will be made and discussed at next meeting
- Board was advised of availability of land south of cemetery, were questioned about possibility of land to the east, and were asked if new well will be too close to the site of the possible additional cemetery at town hall
- Special Assessments for 2015 were for Benson and Conklin drains
- Road repair--Supervisor drove the Township roads with Kelly Smith of Road Commission to determine the worst roads. Supervisor to get bids on top 6 roads.

2/10/16

- Camping ordinance issue tabled; new Planning Commission secretary to review all background information and make recommendations to Planning Commission at April meeting
- Next newsletter to be included in Tax Assessment Notices
- Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals members' terms have been extended
- Township sign in process of being updated
- Grant application for township cleanup on hold until September window opens
- Zoning Administrator will provide information as needed from MTA on Zoning Board of Appeals Standards Used in an Appeal
- Seven Mile Road split does not meet all three requirements of Zoning Ordinance
- Election inspectors to receive pay increase to \$10.00 in order to be in line with other townships
- Request for millage proposal from Big Rapids Community Library tabled
- Road mills: 2 mill renewal and 1 mill increase have expired and will be on August ballot for renewal
- Fire mill: 1 mill for fire does not generate enough to cover both fire and EMS services. Board will continue to draw money from general fund to cover for another year. A 0.5 mill for EMS services may be proposed in the future
- Expenses for fiscal year discussed; budget to be presented at March Public Budget Hearing.

3/9/16

- Plans were approved for a 5" well for town hall to be dug at same time as fire well
- Planning Commission Secretary will review all documentation regarding modification of camping ordinance and make recommendation to Planning Commission
- Newsletter to go out in Assessment Notices
- Supervisor will drive roads with Jim David of Newaygo County Road Commission to rate roads in order of need of repair for road bids
- Board voted to include \$5000.00 in budget to cover cost of Township's share in clean-up grant to be submitted when window opens in September
- Amended line items for 2015-16 budget
- Budget for 2016-17 approved
- Discussed renewal propositions for road and fire: 2 mills road, 1 mill road and 1 mill fire.

4/13/16

- Link to State website for election information is www.mi.gov/elections
- Fire well and hall well will be placed side by side; old well will be sealed; pit in front of hall will be cleared and filled with sand
- Revised camping ordinance approved and will be sent to Township attorney for input/advice
- County Road Commission rated roads in order of need for repair; Board approved \$363,050 to complete repairs
- 5-year contract with Big Rapids Fire Department was approved
- Members of township spoke about having a proposal for extra funding for the Big Rapids Community Library on the August ballot. Road and fire millages are expiring so are given top priority on August ballot. Board asked group to form a committee and bring petition to another meeting. Board may look at possible placement on November ballot
- EMS contract cost is up from \$4910.69 last year to \$12,850.00
- Cost for 2 road bringings will be same as last year
- Private campground--owner is meeting with DEQ and Zoning Administrator to secure proper permits

5/11/16

- Camping Ordinance 3.30E- revision sent to Township Attorney for input/advice
- Newsletter proofed and to be sent with summer tax bills
- Grant application for township cleanup is due in August
- Big Rapids Library wish for millage proposal on ballot--petition needed for this to happen
- Base for plaque for Township's sign built and contributed by resident Dan Harris
- EMS - As of July 1st, Life EMS of Newaygo County will provide service without cost to Township; customers will be billed. First Responders from Big Rapids Fire Dept will continue to provide service. Patients cannot be transported until Life EMS arrives.

6/8/16

- Camping Ordinance 3.30E-review received from attorney, will be returned to Planning Commission for next step in process
- Big Rapids librarian advised to contact State Election Office to get information regarding a petition to put new millage request on the ballot
- EMS service will be provided by Life EMS of Newaygo County as of July 1, 2016. Big Rapids First Responders from the Big Rapids Fire Dept will still assist
- Law Enforcement/Military Training Center--240 acres being considered for purchase; rezoning issues
- Dan Harris designed and presented a new steel base for the hall sign plaque

7/13/16

- Web page-agendas for meetings will be placed on web at least one week ahead of meeting
- Fire well bill received but as pump is not here, bill will not be paid at this time
- Camping Ordinance changes approved by Board and returned to Planning Committee
- Building permit for home on Polk is in compliance
- Grant for township clean-up is due Sept 1
- Township may be expected to sign a contract to provide funding for BR library, if BR Township millage passes; if it doesn't pass, it may go to a district library
- Life EMS contract began 7/1/16
- Abandoned well in front of town hall has been filled with sand
- Seven Mile property issue-Zoning Board of Appeals met July 12 as bank wants a variance; tabled to determine options
- Public comment: resident expressed concern over time delay of Life EMS coming from White Cloud; Board approved possibility of placing proposal on November ballot to provide funding for Mecosta Co. EMS
- Jason VanderStelt spoke of qualifications for County Clerk position
- Charles Chandler spoke of the need for the Commission on Aging proposal to be voted on in August
- Joe Brugnoli spoke about his offer on 240 acres on 8 Mile and Hardwick for a Law Enforcement Training Center and was referred to the Planning Commission; resident expressed disapproval of this training center
- After providing a new site plan to the Planning Commission, The Place to Bee fence request will be discussed at August Planning meeting
- Resident spoke on condition of 9 Mile west of town hall; many potholes left unfilled
- Class A roads/no weight laws/any in township?

8/10/16

- Web page-discussed addition of committee members; few Newaygo County townships include this information. Board concluded not necessary as contact information of elected board members is on home page. Board will look into putting more information in the newsletter
- Fire well-5 hour test completed; Big Rapids Fire Department to install a locked box
- Clean-up grant-next deadline is February 2017
- Condition of 9 Mile west of town hall is in poor condition despite some patching
- Library funding-no further action can be taken at this time; waiting for Big Rapids Township
- EMS service-Resolution to put proposal for 1 mill for EMS Service on November ballot passed
- Zoning Administrator reported: 7 Mile property split issue has been put on hold. Mohnke campground--no action can be taken until an application is requested. The Place to Bee special use permit for a 10ft. fence has been given to the Planning Commission to schedule a public hearing. The Law Enforcement Training Center buyer has backed out of the purchase

9/14/16

- Web page-will add site plan for fence being discussed at Public Hearing 10/5/16
- Fence/Camping Ordinance update-Public Hearing scheduled for Oct. 5th
- Fire Well-up and running, can pump 160 gal per minute. Discussed options for finishing road to well.
- Newsletter-next letter is due in November

- EMS millage-November 8 ballot contains request for 1 mill for 6 years-2016 thru 2021. If millage passes, funds will be available to Board for possible contract with Mecosta County EMS rather than Life EMS for which there is no charge. (EMS contract--The Board has had an on-going discussion regarding EMS services which is summarized as follows: Prior to July 1, 2016, the Norwich Township was contracted with Mecosta County EMS. The 2014 cost to the Township was based on 3 tenths of a mill @\$4,910.69. The 2015 cost to the Township was based on 7 tenths of a mill @\$12,850.00. The estimated cost for 2016 to the Township was to be based on 1 mill @ approximately \$18,356.74. Due to the continued increase in cost, the Board discussed and chose the option of contracting with Life EMS out of White Cloud at no cost to the Township. As of July 1, 2016, service has been provided by Life EMS. First Responders from the Big Rapids Fire Department continue to service the Township. Response times will vary depending on the location of the call. Whenever Life EMS or Mecosta County EMS determines they cannot respond in a reasonable amount of time, they contact the other EMS to assist. Due to concerns raised by Township residents regarding response times, the Board voted to put 1 mill on the November ballot to provide funding to purchase EMS services.
- Town hall carpet-Clerk will get bids for cleaning
- Corner of Cypress and 8 Mile-Discussion and many suggestions on how to improve corner-from a stop sign to a left hand turn lane. No resolution at this time.

10/12/16

- Web page-Zoning Amendment to Camping Ordinance and Annual Camping Registration Form will be added
- Fencing Issue-fence allowed under Right to Farm Act
- Zoning Amendment to 3.30E adopted
- Fire well road-waiting for good weather to level road and add asphalt
- Newsletter-results of Nov. 8 millage proposal to be included; newsletter due in White Cloud by Nov. 9
- EMS millage-discussion will continue after results of Nov. 8 election

11/9/16

- Fire well road-waiting on good weather to level road and add asphalt
- EMS millage passed; full one mill will be assessed on 2016 winter taxes; EMS provider discussed
- Corner of Cypress and 8 Mile Road discussed
- Red Cross use of hall in case of emergency-renewal of permission discussed
- Zoning Administrator contract discussed
- Board approved transfer of \$60,000 to road fund to cover recent repairs

12/14/16

- November minutes were corrected to include discussion on condition of west section of Woodward Avenue, a seasonal road; no improvements will be done at this time
- Fire well road-crushed cement (same price as gravel) has been delivered and will be leveled in spring
- EMS millage-Board will seek new contract with Mecosta County EMS
- Corner of Cypress and 8 Mile Road-County will not put a stop sign on this corner
- "Year in Review" to summarize Board's actions was suggested; Board discussed possibility of February newsletter and/or on website.