

**NORMAN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

Supervisor Mobley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor Mobley, Treasurer Tighe, Clerk Montgomery, Trustee Fraley. Absent/Excused: Trustee Skiera and a maximum audience of Twenty Six (26).

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: Tighe moved, Fraley seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2024, Expense Voucher of October/November 2024, Treasurers Report of October 2024 and adoption of the agenda. Ayes: Mobley, Fraley, Tighe. Nays: Montgomery. Absent: Skiera. Motion Passes.

Clerk Montgomery questioned why Board Members had consistently approved the Treasurers Statement when they had been advised, and provided evidence, that it was incorrect due to outstanding checks. Supervisor Mobley indicated that was not an issue according to another Supervisor he spoke with and the accountant. Treasurer Tighe indicated she was still working on it but offered no further explanation. Montgomery clarified that checks have been outstanding for almost 9 years and that the Treasurer has not found anytime in 9 years to resolve the issue and reminded the Board that the State of Michigan Escheats Department outlined the process to resolve outstanding checks, that this was provided to the Treasurer and that the accountant had indicated the unbalanced reports in the most recent audit. Montgomery also asked the Treasurer where she was in resolving the Journal entries that were sent back to her for corrections, along with an updated list of all accounts, almost 6 weeks ago. The Treasurer indicated she is working on them. Montgomery added that the Journal entries provided by the Treasurer have had consistent errors over the past 4 years or more and that the former clerk as well as herself had made numerous corrections but she got tired of doing the Treasurers work. It was further clarified that the Treasurer was responsible to providing the Clerk with documentation of ALL deposits to bank accounts since the Clerk had been completed entries for ambulance payments, state refunds, veterans' insurance payments, and revenue received.

REPORTS:

1. Fire Department: No report was provided because the Fire Chief was attending a class.
2. Ambulance: No report was provided because the Fire Chief was attending a class.
3. Assessors: Building permit inspectors, and records request.
4. Custodian: Outdoor lights have been installed at the Township.
5. Transfer Station: No report
6. Management Council: Fundraisers and private parties.
7. Park and Recreation: No report.
8. Planning: Working on Chapter 6 of the Master Plan.
9. Zoning: 3 Accessory building permits, a couple of driveway permits, and blight issues being addressed.

PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNICATION: Resident reminded the Board that it was not legal to release the names of those who made blight complaints, told Board members that should be more aggressive on blight issues since it is a major issue, asked when a complaint form was developed as he had never been asked to complete one until recently, encouraged the Board to consider using Manistee County to handle zoning blight issues citing neighboring communities who utilize them have far less blight. Wellston Branch Librarian gave an overview of the services and programs provided highlighting the recent approval of the King Arthur Baking program grant, providing of a mobile hot spot to residents at no cost, and tremendous utilization of the Wellston Branch by residents compared to other branches. Resident read a Notice to the Supervisor and Board citing Michigan Constitution Article 1 Declaration of Rights, Section 1: Political Power, Maxims of Law, Michigan Constitutionals Declaration of Rights Sector 3: Assembly, consultation, instruction Petition, entering the notice into the public record, and publicly stating that they have read and understand these provision within thirty (30) days.

NEW BUSINESS:

Montgomery moved; Fraley seconded to approve the workman's Comp renewal with Accident Fund Group. Yeas: Mobley, Montgomery, Tighe, Fraley. Absent/Excused: Skiera. Motion passed.

Montgomery moved, Tighe seconded to approve the AT&T metro act right of way renewal. Yeas: Mobley, Montgomery, Tighe, Fraley. Absent/Excused: Skiera. Motion passed.

Mobley moved, Tighe seconded to change the date of the next Board Meeting to December 13, 2024 at 7 p.m. Yeas: Mobley, Montgomery, Tighe, Fraley. Absent/Excused: Skiera. Motion passed.

Mobley moved; Skiera seconded to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement for fire services throughout Manistee County. Yeas: Mobley, Montgomery, Tighe, Fraley and Skiera. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk Montgomery questioned why the fire department purchase of 6 mobile radios in excess of twelve thousand dollars was not brought to the board for approval prior to purchase. Supervisor Mobley indicated that the County was delayed in providing the hand-held radios when the changeover to 800mhz occurred and that the vendor misunderstood the request to purchase one and an additional 5 at a later date and sent all 6. Montgomery questioned whether they could be returned and was told no. Montgomery indicated that the public was aware of the change over to 800mhz as noticed in the Manistee News Advocate in May, that no mention of the need was budgeted or mentioned during the budget process and that an emergency meeting of the Board should have been called to approve the purchase ahead of time. She further asserted that while the radios are needed the process in obtaining them was not property followed.

Clerk Montgomery also reminded the public that dumping of yard waste debris in the National Forest and State land was illegal and encourage Township employees and officials to uphold the law.

ADJOURNMENT: Tighe moved; Fraley seconded to adjourn at 7: 30p.m. Motion passed.