

**NORMAN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2024**

Supervisor Mobley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor Mobley, Treasurer Tighe, Clerk Montgomery, Trustee Skiera and Trustee Fraley and a maximum audience of Thirty-Two (32).

Clerk Montgomery requested clarification on the Master Plan work by the zoning official noting the individual had exceeded the approved 50 hours approved by the Board by roughly 50%. Supervisor Mobley indicated the work done was well received by the Planning Commission and wished to continue towards the final completion. Supervisor Mobley requested the addition of New Business item #3 approval of additional hours by the Zoning official for Master Plan work.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: Skiera moved, Fraley seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2024; Voucher Lists of August 13, 2024 and Treasurer's Statement of July 2024 as presented. Yeas: Mobley, Tighe, Skiera and Fraley. Nays: Montgomery. Motion Passed.

REPORTS:

1. Fire/Ambulance Department: Chief Vanderbie thanks the public for their support of the Fire and Ambulance millages. Clerk Montgomery requested approval to discuss accounting issues with the ambulance billing service since both May and June's invoice, although paid, do not reflect actual deposits of funds from the service. Vanderbie indicated his staff is still working on it and he had been left off of email correspondence by the service but has been added back in.
2. Assessor: Building permits are done, 20% of rechecks are underway and a Principal Resident Exemption (PRE) review had been done resulting in several residents' properties being adjusted.
3. Custodian: Reported everything is going well. Clerk Montgomery asked if the Board was still considering holiday lighting at the Township indicating the coming months would be a good time to install. Supervisor Mobley indicated this could be discussed at the next meeting.
4. Transfer Station: None.
5. Management Council: Reported a forthcoming picnic in the park, the usual hall usage by groups and indicated a date for the new flooring install had not been confirmed.
6. Park and Recreation: The picnic tables are being repaired.
7. Planning: Work on the Master Plan is moving along. Four chapters are near completion. Commission member discussed the desire to create an ordinance addressing political signs on Township property. Supervisor Mobley indicated he had already discussed this with the Township attorney. The next Commission meeting is August 18th at 6:00 p.m.
8. Zoning: No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNICATION:

Representative from the Benzie Manistee DirtBirds Club ORV organization presented the organizations vision of having a designated trail in Norman Township and is seeking a letter of agreement/approval from the Township. While roads are already open, the purpose of the designated route is to develop maps and trail markers and provide a preferred route in the community. The group indicated by designating a route, they could seek grant funding to enhance policing of ordinance offenders and provide an improved riding experience. Manistee County Sherriff spoke on the lack of funding for officers to police trails, Lake County Sherriff spoke on the benefits of establishing one ORV ordinance that covered all of Manistee County to

improve policing, Manistee County District Commissioner asked what benefits having a designated trail could be to the community, and members of the public spoke on damage caused by those who violate the ORV ordinance. Supervisor Mobley outlined the proposed route, presented alternative route options and expressed his opposition noting he wished to protect the small number of property owners on the route who may see an increase to road damage noting the Township does not have money to make repairs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Skiera moved; Montgomery seconded to approve the proposed Designated ORV Route proposed by the Benzie Manistee DirtBirds Club. Yeas: Tighe, Montgomery, Skiera and Fraley. Nays: Mobley. Motion Passed.

Supervisor Mobley outlined the proposal my Maddux Electric for a portable generator. Clerk Montgomery indicated she had spoken with PAR grant personnel who had informed her that a new grant for a portable generator would need to be presented since it was a major deviation from the standalone unit in the original grant. Further that the PAR grant had only funded portable generators for transfer stations.

Montgomery moved; to purchase a 22kw standalone generator for the Township Community center from Jim Leach utilizing the \$4K grant received. No second was received. Motion died for lack of support.

Mobley moved: Skiera seconded to approve an additional 100 hours for the zoning official to work on the Master Plan and that the hours encompass the additional 26 hours already worked. Yeas: Mobley, Tighe, Skiera and Fraley. Nays: Montgomery. Motion Passed.

Fraley moved; Tighe seconded to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Yeas: Mobley, Tighe, Montgomery, Skiera and Fraley. Motion Passed.