

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
January 11, 2021

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7:30pm virtually by ZOOM. All members were present except Bill Smith. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to approve the minutes from the December meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$1,354.27 for General Fund, \$5,598.03 for Sewer Maintenance, \$1,479.43 for Cemetery General, \$879.04 for Road Fund and \$10,953.50 for Fire Fund. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heidi Drowley moved to renew the Gratiot County Road Commission Maintenance Contract for fiscal year 2021. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Brett Fidler. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
February 8, 2021

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Brett Fidler moved to approve the agenda. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the January meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$5,166.21 for General Fund, \$3,164.84 for Sewer Maintenance and \$2,204.13 for Cemetery General. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion took place regarding the North Star Township website. After working for almost a year on creating a website for North Star Township, the vendor we originally hired has been unable to complete the project. Another bid has come in from AccuNet Web Services.

- John Hardman moved to hire AccuNet Web Services for an estimated launch fee of up to \$1,000 and an annual fee of \$385 which will provide website hosting, software, maintenance, security, and customer service. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

Carman Tree Service was hired to cut down multiple trees in the cemetery but they have not been able to get to it yet. Another bid has come in from Flat River Tree Service which is estimated to be much cheaper at a rate of \$1,900 *per day* rather than a fee *per tree*.

- Heidi Drowley moved to hire Flat River Tree Service to remove multiple trees, along with their stumps and trimming low hanging tree branches for a fee not to exceed \$8,000 which is the amended fee for this service in our current budget. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Hardman moved to approve a property split for Bob Gagne @ 813 S. Crosswell, Parcel #11-005-021-00. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley offered a Resolution to adopt 2021 Poverty Exemption Guidelines for implementation by the Supervisor John Hardman and the Board of Review. Second by John Hardman. Upon a roll call vote, the Resolution passed unanimously.
- John Hardman moved to approve Budget Amendments as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to hire Yeo & Yeo to complete a required bi-annual audit for fiscal year ending March 31, 2021 for a fee of \$9,500. An Interim procedure will have to be completed for fiscal year ending March 31, 2020 for a fee of \$1,500 to \$2,000. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to set the Budget Public Hearing for Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7:30pm. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.

Board of Review dates have been set for **Tuesday, March 9th** and **Thursday, March 11th**

- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Brett Fidler. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
March 8, 2021

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the Budget Hearing to order @ 7:30PM. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 was presented and discussed. Heidi Drowley moved to close the Budget Public Hearing. Second by Brett Fidler. The Budget Public Hearing was closed @ 8:01PM. Supervisor called the regular meeting to order.

- Brett Fidler moved to approve the agenda. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$14,799.53 for General Fund, \$345.48 for Sewer Maintenance, and \$1,408.13 for Cemetery General. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bill Smith moved to approve the North Star General Appropriations Act. General Fund Revenues are estimated at \$204,253 and Expenditures at \$117,254. Cemetery General Fund Revenues are estimated at \$32,050 and Expenditures at \$32,050. Fire and Rescue Revenues are estimated at \$61,500 and Expenditures at \$67,205. Sewer Operating Revenues are estimated at \$98,800 and Expenditures at \$54,735. Roads Fund Revenues are estimated at \$210,000 and Expenditures at \$203,418. Second by Brett Fidler. Upon a roll call vote, the Act passed unanimously.
- John Hardman moved to approve February budget amendments as presented. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to approve the 2021-2022 Ithaca Fire amounts of \$48,130 and Ithaca Rescue amount of \$10,751. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to approve the 2021-2022 Ashley Fire and Rescue amount of \$8,324. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to approve the following Gratiot County Road Commission contracts for 2021-2022:
 - Chloride contract for 3 full applications in the amount of \$42,898
 - Gravel contract for 9.88 miles of gravel in the amount of \$61,770
 - Gravel & Chloride cemetery in the amount of \$18,545
 - Chip & Fog Seal streets of North Star in the amount of \$11,455
 - Chip & Fog Seal Baldwin Rd (Washington Rd to Buchanan Rd) \$43,500
 - Chip & Fog Seal Wisner Rd (Washington Rd to Buchanan Rd) \$21,750
(Cost share with Hamilton Township also paying \$21,750)Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Drowley Clerk

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
April 12, 2021

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mark & Scott Crumbaugh, Tom Fabus Sr, Tom Fabus Jr (Cheryl), and Teresa with DTE Energy were visitors to our meeting. DTE Energy would like to construct a solar park in North Star Township and Washington Township. As a comparison, the two solar parks in Lapeer which are composed of nearly 2,000 solar panels and produce enough clean, emission-free energy to power over 9,000 homes was discussed. Teresa informed us of DTE's vision for this area, the progress that has been made so far, and fielded questions from the Board and visitors.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the minutes from the March meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$3,286.11 for General Fund, \$1,111.01 for Sewer Maintenance, \$1,019.43 for Cemetery General and \$19,277.15 for Fire Fund. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website update:

North Star Township's website has launched and is fully functional.

We hope to add the ability for residents to pay Sewer and Tax payments in the near future.

Blight update:

The Intergovernmental Agreement for Blight Services that we entered into last November allows us to deal with two properties per year that have Blight issues/complaints filed against them.

Complaints are better served if they come from concerned citizens rather than from the Board.

Both properties we are dealing with this year have been given 30 days to clean up the blight.

So far, at least one of the properties is making an effort to clean up. We do not yet know the next step if these properties do not comply.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heidi Drowley offered a resolution to set our Regular Monthly Board Meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7:30PM for fiscal year 2021-2022. Second by John Hardman. Upon a roll call vote, the resolution passed unanimously.
- Brett Fidler moved to renew the following contracts for fiscal year 2021-2022:
 - Sewer Maintenance contract with Jason Akers
 - Assessor contract with John Hardman
 - Hall Caretaker contract with Stephanie Lamey
 - Grave Digging agreement with Jeremy McAllister
 - Brady Cemetery mowing contract with Grant Reeves
 - Mowing/Snow Plowing contracts with Mow and Snow
(Cemetery and Township Hall properties)Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to approve Budget Amendments as presented for fiscal year 2020-2021. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

Spring Clean-up will be set for **Saturday, June 5th from 8am – 11am**. Postcards will be sent.

- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.
Respectfully submitted, Heidi Drowley, Clerk

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
May 10, 2021

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the April meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$3,815.66 for General Fund, \$399.88 for Sewer Maintenance, \$6,106.15 for Cemetery General and \$879.04 for Road Fund. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

After several months of research and discussion regarding updating the Cemetery Ordinance, Bill Smith moved to adopt the revised version. Second by John Hardman. After a roll call vote, the revised Cemetery Ordinance passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve a property split for the Hipolite family (Alvin & Donna) Property #29-11-029-005-00. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to hire Stanley Steemer to strip and wax the hall floors for the same price as in 2018. (\$2,659). Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Bill Smith. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
June 14, 2021

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Due to the large number of guests present and indoor COVID restrictions, we moved the meeting outdoors to the parking lot. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

An estimated 70 plus guests were in attendance to voice concerns and frustrations regarding the premature implementation of our revised Cemetery ordinance. Following the reading of a prepared statement by John Hardman from the North Star Township Board, guests were given limited time to speak to allow the opportunity for each one wishing to speak, time to do so. Lack of enough notification, poor timing, and discarding of items were some of the biggest concerns mentioned.

From our prepared statement: “There was never a malicious thought about implementing these changes and if we could reverse time and do things differently, we most definitely would. We had nothing to personally gain from any of this and obviously could not fathom our actions would have caused such angst. There is a business/maintenance/financial side of the cemetery that is our responsibility but this did not coincide with the personal side of the cemetery of which we now deeply regret. We can only ask for some mercy as we again apologize that things were not handled properly and we would be open to suggestions to address the problems we face” Suggestions mentioned included, but not limited to, better ways in which to reach as many people as possible regarding rule changes, spring and fall volunteer cleanups, a Facebook page for North Star Township, help from local high school students, asking the Boy Scouts to put out the veteran flags every year, a possible cemetery millage, and a volunteer sign-up form on the Township website for those interested in being on a cemetery advisory committee.

In regards to the revised ordinance, the Board agreed to refrain from enforcing it for the next few months so that we can revisit the ordinance. We’ve asked for volunteers to be on an advisory committee to help us in making decisions regarding cemetery issues and see if we can come up with a compromise. Our next meeting is Monday, July 12th @ 7:30pm at the township hall.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to accept the treasurer’s report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month in the amounts of: \$30,204.68 for General Fund, \$1,704.15 for Sewer Maintenance, \$3,113.33, and \$14,299.09 for Road Fund. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Hardman moved to enter into a three (3) year contract with Invoice Cloud for a monthly access fee of \$125 for the first year and \$100 per month for years 2 & 3 of the contract. Invoice Cloud will be used on our website to allow for on-line payments for Sewer and Tax payments by our residents. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- John Hardman made a motion to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
July 12, 2021

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present except Brett Fidler and Nicole Whitmore. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Thirteen (13) guests were in attendance. Cemetery issues were discussed as well as some drainage issues in the Village.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to accept the treasurer's report. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$2,831.28 for General Fund, \$396.02 for Sewer Maintenance, \$2,762.75 for Cemetery General, \$61,769.76 for Road Fund and \$14,720.25 for Fire Fund. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.

There will be a July Board of Review on July 20th @ 10:30AM.
Residents need to contact the Assessor for an appointment.

- Heidi Drowley moved to adjourn. Second by John Hardman. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
August 9, 2021

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 7:30pm at the township hall. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Brett Fidler moved to approve the agenda. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- ✓ Commissioner George Bailey encouraged the board to apply for the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds allocated to North Star Township. (\$87,608)
- ✓ L Quinn Lincoln-Keon & Dawn Parker, representing Habitat for Humanity, informed the board of a project they would like to do in North Star Township on Columbus Day weekend. They would like to do small jobs such as raking leaves, small repairs & painting for residents in the village of North Star. They are looking for volunteers to help them with the jobs as well as provide food for the workers. Habitat for Humanity will be sending out postcards to village residents to see what kind of jobs are needed.
- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the July meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$7,715.80 for General Fund, \$1,631.70 for Sewer Maintenance, \$1,651.03 for Cemetery General and \$110,428.13 for the Road Fund. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

John Hardman met with the Drain Commission regarding drainage issues discussed last month. As a result, it was discovered that #360 Extension Drain & #485 Drain require necessary maintenance and repair. The Gratiot County Drain Commission has the authority to expend up to \$5,000 in one year for the maintenance and repair of said drains but North Star Township would like to pass Resolutions to allow them to expend further funds if necessary for the repairs.

- Heidi Drowley moved to adopt Resolution 2021-08-09-#360 and Resolution 2021-08-09-#485. Second by Bill Smith. Upon a roll call vote, both Resolutions passed unanimously.

Prior to the board meeting, the board met with the Cemetery Advisory Committee at the Cemetery @ 6:30pm to continue discussions regarding cemetery rules.

No decisions were made regarding any changes to current rules. We anticipate discussions to continue for several months.

NEW BUSINESS

- Heidi Drowley moved to transfer \$150,000 from General Fund into a CD for one year. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to adopt a Resolution to accept payments by financial transaction (through our website for tax payments via credit card or EFT). Second by Nicole Whitmore. Upon a roll call vote, the resolution passed unanimously.
- John Hardman moved to approve the Budget Amendments as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion regarding the ARPA Covid relief funds. Once our application has been accepted, the funds will be split into two payments. Half this summer and half next summer. We have until 2024 to allocate the funds and year end of 2026 to expend the funds.

- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Clerk Heidi Drowley

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
September 13, 2021

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dawn Parker updated the Board on the Habitat for Humanity project, “Rock the Block” in North Star, coming up October 9th, 10th, & 11th. Postcards have been sent out and residents from seven homes have responded with needed projects. Volunteers and food are still needed.

- Brett Fidler moved to approve the minutes from the August meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to accept the treasurer’s report. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$17,052.59 for General Fund, \$384.07 for Sewer Maintenance, \$2,992.19 for Cemetery General, \$14,299.09 for Road Fund. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Main-Tech Services will become part of the firm F&V Companies, Inc. Al Evink, who does Operation Maintenance on our Sewer System, will be joining FVCI as a Senior Project Manager. To be eligible for continued service, Heidi Drowley made a motion to approve a Professional Service Agreement between North Star & F&V Companies, Inc. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
October 11, 2021

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 11, 2021 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present except Brett Fidler. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the September meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$4,210.38 for General Fund, \$330.50 for Sewer Maintenance, \$2,221.27 for Cemetery General and \$14,720.25 for Fire & Rescue. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heidi Drowley offered Resolution #2021-10-11 to authorize use of ACH arrangements and EFT payments as required by Public Act 738 of 2002; and utilize use of said payments according to the Township's ACH policy presented to the Township Board by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by John Hardman. Upon a roll call vote, the Resolution passed unanimously.

NOTES:

"Rock the Block" in North Star was a success. Several residents took advantage of the help offered by various volunteers representing Habitat for Humanity on October 9, 10, & 11. Projects included painting, tree trimming, weed trimming, fence & door installation, and a porch repair. Volunteers totaled well over 100 with several businesses and organizations donating materials and food.

- Nicole Whitmore moved to adjourn. Second by John Hardman. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
November 8, 2021

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lorna Lamey came to our meeting to ask some questions regarding her Lending Library that she had made and placed in front of the former party store/gas station. Permission was given by the owner of the party store at the time the library was made but about three months ago, it was taken from that location.

The Cemetery Advisory Committee was also present at our meeting to update us on discussions they have had so far at their meetings. No decisions were made at this time, only discussion.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the October meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$6,945.12 for General Fund, \$422.36 for Sewer Maintenance, \$1,513.67 for Cemetery General and \$879.04 for Roads. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
December 13, 2021

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the November meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$14,111.56 for General Fund, \$4,653.71 for Sewer Maintenance and \$2,464.09 for Cemetery General. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Hardman offered a resolution to approve the 2021 Poverty Exemption Guidelines set by the State of Michigan. Second by Brett Fidler. Upon a roll call vote, the resolution passed unanimously.
- Heidi Drowley moved to keep John Hardman on the Fire Authority Board representing North Star Township for the next two years. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to adjourn. Second by Brett Fidler. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*