

Madam Chair Peggy Clayton
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Supervisor/VC Mike Schack 340-8852
Supervisor Ryan Davies 929-0610
Supervisor Dan Gilbert 259-4967
Supervisor Jim Kelley 327-0317
Treasurer Nancy Kopacek 398-3497
Clerk Kelly Derfler 244-1811

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Harris Township

SINCE 1909



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

Mission Statement:

The Harris Town Board strives to enhance the quality of life, protect the environment and maintain economic stability for the residents of their community.

www.harristownshipmn.org

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEETING October 25, 2023 MINUTES

Present: Madam Chair Clayton, Vice Chair Schack, Supervisors Davis and Gilbert; Treasurer Kopacek, Clerk Derfler

Absent: Supervisor Kelley

Pledge to the Flag was conducted; followed by the reading of the township mission statement.

Approve the Minutes

Minutes of September 27, 2023, P & D Meeting

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2023 P & D Meeting. Ayes-4; Nays-0. Absent- Supervisor Kelley. Motion carried.

Minutes of October 12, 2023 Closed Work Session re: Employee Under Board Direction

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2023 Closed Work Session re: Employee Under Board Direction. Ayes-4; Nays-0. Absent- Supervisor Kelley. Motion carried.

Minutes of October 12, 2023 Work Session re: Insurance and Casper Landing

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2023 Work Session re: Insurance and Casper Landing. Ayes-4; Nays-0. Absent- Supervisor Kelley. Motion carried.

Additions and Corrections

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the agenda. Ayes-4; Nays-0. Absent- Supervisor Kelley. Motion carried.

Business from the Floor

There was no business from the floor.

**Consent Agenda
Zoning Land Use Permit**

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the Consent Agenda as delineated above. Ayes-4; Nays-0. Absent- Supervisor Kelley. Motion carried.

Roads

2024 Certification of Township Roads (Tabled from October 11, 2023 Board Meeting)

Chair Clayton stated that the County Transportation Department corrected each of the discrepancies noted in the 2024 Certification of Township Roads that was tabled from the October 11, 2023 Board Meeting.

Question arose as to who is responsible for snow plowing Casper Landing (Badger Rd). The homeowner who lives on Badger Rd has been snowplowing the road. The board agreed that Harris Township Maintenance will be snowplowing Casper Landing (Badger Rd) in the future.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the 2024 Certification of Township Roads with the correction of Casper Landing (Badger Rd) being township plowed (by Harris Township Maintenance). Ayes-4; Nays-0. Absent- Supervisor Kelley. Motion carried.

Wetland Delineation Sunny Beach Addition Road Report

Chair Clayton provided the Wetland Delineation Sunny Beach Addition Road Report provided by the Army Corps of Engineers for the board to review. This was informational.

Letter from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Chair Clayton provided the board with a letter from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding Sunny Beach Addition Road. This was informational.

Recreation

Park and Cemetery Inspection Reports for September 2023

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the Park And Cemetery Inspection Reports for September 2023. Ayes-4; Nays-0. Absent- Supervisor Kelley. Motion carried.

Mishawaka Landing

Chair Clayton shared that Mishawaka Landing was paved on October 16, 2023.

After the completion of the paving, it was found that the green space that was intended to be left unpaved was covered up. Supervisor Kelley spoke with Hawkinson Construction and they will be removing the pavement from the intended green space at no cost to the township.

Cemetery

Chair Clayton reviewed the township's cemetery policy, after the board received several complaints from constituents. The policy states that flowers and decorations in the cemetery must be removed by October 1st. This includes shepherd's hooks. Any items not removed will be removed by the maintenance staff and will be placed on trailers by the cemetery garage for a few weeks. The policy also states that there shall be no planting of shrubs or trees on cemetery grounds. Any shrub or tree that was planted will be removed by maintenance staff.

There have been many occurrences of shrubs encroaching on others' burial sites as well as flowers and trinkets left beyond the October 1st deadline. Maintenance staff picked up the items left at gravesites on October 11th and placed them on trailers for pickup. Of importance, is that the mowing contractor found live rounds of ammunition on the cemetery grounds!

Chair Clayton stated that articles regarding the removal of flowers, etc appeared in the Grand Rapids Herald Review, on Facebook, and discussed at our board meetings. The cemetery policy can also be found on the Harris Township website.

Correspondence

Trails Task Force Minutes of September 14, 2023

Informational.

Town Hall

Town Hall Report for September 2023

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the Town Hall Report for September 2023. Ayes-4; Nays-0. Absent- Supervisor Kelley. Motion carried.

Maintenance

Maintenance Report for September 2023

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the Maintenance Report for September 2023. Ayes-4; Nays-0. Absent- Supervisor Kelley. Motion carried.

Old Business

No items.

New Business

Schedule Work Session re: Casper Landing, Township Collections, Cemetery

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to add Casper Landing, Township Collections, and Cemetery to the previously scheduled Work Session that is scheduled to start immediately following the Closed Work Session re: Security at 5:30pm on November 2, 2023. Ayes-4; Nays-0. Absent- Supervisor Kelley. Motion carried.

Year-to-Date Fund Actuals vs Budget

Treasurer Kopacek shared a report of Year-to-Date Fund Actuals vs Budget for the first three quarters of 2023. The township is currently at 69% of income for 2023 and 68% of budgeted disbursements for 2023. The county apportionments are expected in December.

Bills

Payment of Bills

Treasurer Kopacek reviewed the October 25, 2023 Claims List.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Chair Clayton to approve and pay the bills, claims #21192 through #21201, and EFTs 10252301 through EFT 10252306 and EFT 10112307 in the amount of \$526,991.87. Ayes-4; Nays-0. Absent- Supervisor Kelley. Motion carried.

Public Input

Doug Pelleymounter, of 29439 Sunny Beach Addition Road, stated he heard the Sunny Beach Addition Road project was canceled and that the township was going to be putting in a public access. Discussion followed.

Doug was also provided the wetland delineation report, which does detail what was included in the report. No road work will be taking place until 2024.

UPCOMING Events/Meetings

November 2, 2023	Closed Work Session re: Security	5:30pm Town Hall
November 2, 2023	Work Session re: Insurance, Casper Landing, Township Collections, Cemetery	Immediately following Closed Work Session
November 8, 2023	Regular Meeting	7:30pm Town Hall
November 13, 2023	Itasca County Township Association Meeting	7:00pm Town Hall
November 21, 2023	P & D Meeting	7:30pm Town Hall

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Davies to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm.

Prepared by: Kelly Derfler
Kelly Derfler, Clerk

Signed by: Peggy Clayton
Peggy Clayton, Chair