

Madam Chair Peggy Clayton
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Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone 218-259-1551

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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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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING February 14, 2024 at 7:30pm MINUTES

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

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

Approve the Minutes

Minutes of January 10, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Minutes of January 22, 2024, Budget Session

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024 Budget Session. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Minutes of January 23, 2024, Budget Session

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024 Budget Session. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Minutes of January 29, 2024, Work Session re: Casper Landing and Wendigo Park

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the minutes of January 29, 2024 Work Session re: Casper Landing and Wendigo Park. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Minutes of January 29, 2024, Budget Session

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2024 Budget Session. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Minutes of January 30, 2024, Work Session re: Insurance and 5-Year Road Plan

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2024 Work Session re: Insurance and 5-Year Road Plan. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Minutes of February 1, 2024, Budget Session

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2024 Budget Session. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Minutes of February 1, 2024, Board of Audit

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2024 Board of Audit. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Additions and Corrections

Chair Clayton proposed to remove item 8F L&M Distribution Center and place it under Business from the Floor as item 4B.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to remove item 8F L&M Distribution Center and place it under Business from the Floor as item 4B and approve the Regular Agenda. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Business from the Floor

Wendigo Golf Course/Patricia R.

Patricia R. was not present for the meeting.

L&M Distribution Center/Dan B.

Dan Butterfield (21810 Verde Lane, Grand Rapids) provided the board with a summary of the presentation given by L&M of their new proposed Distribution Center to be built on Airport Rd in Grand Rapids. The distribution center will be 210,000 square feet of warehouse space, twice the size of Target. They discussed traffic, semi-truck loads in and out, dirt work, and more. Truck traffic in and out of the distribution center will be going North on Airport Rd or using 29th St to Hwy 169. There will be about 30-40 trucks going in and out of the distribution center daily. There will be a 4-way stop light installed at the intersection of 29th St and Airport Rd, with the entrance to the distribution center on the East end of the intersection. The center is hoping to be in operation by March of 2025.

Consent Agenda

Zoning Land Use Permits

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve the Consent Agenda as delineated above. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Roads

Roads Update

Supervisor Kelley stated that some gravel roads are rough with potholes due to thawing and refreezing. Wagon Wheel Rd may need more gravel added prior to grading.

5-Year Road Plan

Supervisor Kelley shared the finalized Harris Township 5-Year Road Plan, explaining that the order could change depending on priorities. Crack sealing will likely have to be done in the near future on Birch St and more.

Chair Clayton shared that she would like to see the Town Hall Parking Lot get moved up due to the condition and usage. Supervisor Kelley stated that most of the bad roads (reclaiming) should be done in the next few years, allowing more overlay projects to be completed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the Harris Township 5-Year Road Plan. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Recreation

Rinks

Supervisor Kelley stated that Crystal Park Rink is not open due to the warm weather. Wendigo Park Rink is open. The rink will be reflooded prior to the weekend.

2023 Annual Weed Inspection Report

Supervisor Gilbert stated that the Annual Weed Inspection Report is completed and returned to the state every year. He stated that there were 12 weed inspection tours completed in 2023 and 8 landowner contacts completed. Weeds of concern that were found in this area were Common Tansy and Canadian Thistle.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the 2023 Annual Weed Inspection Report. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Itasca County Township Association Minutes of January 8, 2024

Informational.

Grand Rapids Area Cable Commission Minutes of November 13, 2023

Informational.

Itasca County Land Classification Committee Meeting

Informational. There are two parcels that are tax forfeit in Harris Township. All tax forfeited land sales are suspended due to the Hennepin County vs. Tyler court ruling. The county is seeking clarification and direction from the state before moving forward.

RAMS Meeting Report of January 25, 2024

Informational. Supervisor Davies stated that Mesabi Metallica attended the meeting to discuss plans for the old Essar site. Newly elected directors of RAMS were introduced. Supervisor Gilbert will be the backup for Supervisor Davies if he is not able to attend. The next meeting will be on February 22, 2024.

Itasca County 5-Year Road Plan

Informational. Supervisor Kelley was present for the meeting and shared that Airport Rd is set to be completed in 2027. Discussion followed.

Old Business

City of Grand Rapids/Harris Fire Contract

Chair Clayton shared the City of Grand Rapids/Harris Township Fire Contract with the board. The proposed contract came before the board at the November 8, 2023 Regular Board Meeting. The contract that is before the board remains unchanged from the proposed contract previously reviewed. The total contracted amount is \$118,691.00

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to approve the City of Grand Rapids/Harris Township Fire Contract in the amount of \$118,691.00. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

New Business

Town Hall Lease Agreement

Chair Clayton reviewed the proposed changes to the Town Hall Lease Agreement. There are initial lines next to each responsibility on the first page added to ensure the renter reads and agrees to each line item. Also added was "The renter (leasee) must be on the property at all times during the rental time period.", "Failure to follow all requirements of lease will result in the forfeiture of your deposit and your inability to rent the hall in the future.", and "By execution of this agreement, the Renter hereby agrees to comply with the terms and conditions hereof."

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the proposed changes to the Town Hall Lease Agreement. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Posting/Publishing for PNP Elections

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the posting and publishing of Notice for Presidential Nomination Primary Elections to be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from 7:00am – 8:00pm at Harris Town Hall. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Posting for Hall Set-up

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the posting of Notice of Possible Quorum of Harris Township Supervisors to participate in setting up the Town Hall on Monday, March 4, 2024 in preparation for the Presidential Nomination Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Posting/Publishing for March Annual Meeting

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the posting and publishing of the Notice for the Annual Town Meeting for Harris Township on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Harris Town Hall. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

MAT Spring Short Course

Chair Clayton shared the MAT Spring Short Course flyer with the board. There is an option to attend in Grand Rapids at the Sugar Lake Lodge on April 4, 2024. The Clerk will be attending through Spang Township and the Treasurer has the option to attend if she chooses so.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the attendance and posting of the Notice of Possible Quorum of Harris Township Supervisors to participate in the MAT Spring Short Course on April 4, 2024 from 8am-3pm at the Sugar Lake Lodge. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Chainsaw Purchase

Supervisor Schack stated that the maintenance chainsaw needed to be replaced. He provided the board with two identical quotes received, one from Burggraf's Ace Hardware and one from L&M Supply. The cost of the Stihl MS261 Chainsaw is \$689.99.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the purchase of the Stihl MS261 Chainsaw at a cost of \$689.99 from L&M Supply. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Generator

Supervisor Schack stated that the diesel generator broke down. It was previously repaired at a cost of \$400 last year and the quote to repair now is \$300.00. Supervisor Schack began to research purchasing a new generator. The generator is used for the heater at the cemetery as well as occasionally pumping water. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Chair Clayton and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to table the generator to the February 28, 2024 P and D Meeting to allow Supervisor Schack to gather additional quotes. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

American Eagle Contract

Chair Clayton shared the American Eagle Contract with the board. The monthly rate is \$29.95, billed annually. The service covers monitoring and burglary at the Service Center. The contract is for one year and will renew annually unless cancellation request is received by certified mail.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the American Eagle Security System Contract dated January 30, 2024. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer’s Report for January 2024

Treasurer Kopacek presented the Treasurer’s Report/Cash Control Statement, Outstanding Checks and Deposits Report, and Schedule 1a (statement of receipts, accrued, interest, disbursements, and balances).

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the Treasurer’s Report for January 2024 in the amount of \$2,576,228.16. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Payment of Claims

Treasurer Kopacek presented the Claims List for approval.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Chair Clayton to approve the claims list #21312 through #21339, EFT 2142401 through EFT 2142409, and EFT 1312401 through EFT 1312403 in the amount of \$28,993.83. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Public Input

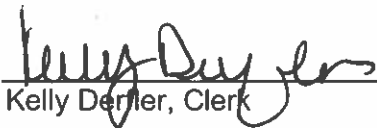
There was no public input.


UPCOMING Events/Meetings

February 28, 2024	P&D Board Meeting	7:30 pm Town Hall
March 5, 2024	PNP Election	7:00 am – 8:00 pm Town Hall
March 11, 2024	Itasca County Township Association Meeting	7:00 pm Town Hall
March 12, 2024	Harris Township Annual Meeting	7:00 pm Town Hall
March 13, 2024	Regular Board Meeting	7:30 pm 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 at 8:23 pm.

Prepared by: 
Kelly Derfler, Clerk

Signed by: 
Peggy Clayton, Madam Chair

