



**March 8, 2022
Annual Meeting Minutes
Itasca County Boardroom
7:00 pm**

www.harristownshipmn.org

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.

Call Annual Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 by Clerk Beth Riendeau

Pledge to the flag was conducted, and the mission statement was read.

Clerk Riendeau welcomed all in attendance to the annual meeting. Board members, and Treasurer were introduced.

Election of a Moderator

Clerk Riendeau called for nominations from the floor. A motion was made by Cyndy Martin and seconded by Jim Kelley to nominate Mike Ives. Clerk Riendeau called for additional nominations from the floor twice. No additional nominations were made. Motion passed. Mike Ives was nominated as the Moderator.

Review of Minutes from the Annual Town Meeting held March 9th, 2021

A motion was made by Mike Ives and seconded by Dan Butterfield to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021, Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Additions or Corrections

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Receive and Approve the Treasurer's Annual Financial Report for 2021

Brief discussion held on the Fire Fund. Treasurer Kopacek stated that disbursements were \$108,832.00 for 2020, due to an increase in the Fire Contract, bringing the ending balance to (\$31,435.06) as of December 31, 2020.

A motion was made by Pat Medure and seconded by Cyndy Marin to approve the Treasurer Financial Statement as of December 31, 2021. Motion carried.

Review Township Road Information

The question was raised on Stony Point paving. Supervisor Kelley stated that Stony Point is already paved.

Moderator Ives asked the Chair if anyone on the Board could review the road report information for the constituents.

Jim Kelley reviewed the 5-year road plan for the township. Sunny Beach Road is front and center for 2021, and 2022. The township has applied for a Local Road Improvement Project Grant of up to \$1.25M. If the township receives this funding, Sunny Beach Road will be completed earlier rather than later. If the township does not get the entire \$1.25 funding, the \$550,00 budgeted for 2021, and for 2022 will be used to work on Sunny Beach Road, in segments. Not taken bids yet as it was sent to the state this week and hopefully bidding next month.

Mike Ives asked if board has gone in front of county to see about turn lane into sunny beach road. Board has not.

Jim Kelley reviewed the road projects completed in 2020, and road work slated for 2021. Question asked about gravel/grading expenditures for 2020 vs 2021 adopted, and 2022 budgeted. Not a lot of graveling took place in 2020, therefore, more will be graveled in 2021/2022.

A question was asked about Paul Bunyan going any further into the Township. Peggy Clayton stated that a Utility Permit was approved and signed by the Board with Paul Bunyan. They will be moving forward into the township with connectivity on all roads not yet covered by Paul Bunyan, beginning in June 2021 with work to be completed by August 2021.

A motion was made by Cyndy Martin and seconded by Dan Gilbert to accept the Township Road Report. Motion carried.

Review Levy Comparison for Years 2017 Adopted Through 2023 Proposed

The levy comparisons show what happened between 2017-2020, what was adopted in 2022, and what is proposed for 2023.

Moderator Ives told the constituents that what they vote for today, will be effective for 2023.

The proposed operational levy for each fund was reviewed (General, Road & Bridge, Equipment, Cemetery, Recreation, Buildings & Grounds, Fire, and Capital Improvement). There were no questions or concerns raised on any of the funds.

Moderator Ives asked for a motion to approve the overall operational levies for the following funds: General, Road & Bridge, Equipment, Cemetery, Recreation, Buildings & Grounds, Fire, and Capital Improvement.

A motion was made by Cyndy Martin and seconded by Kati Marotte Pierce to approve the operational levies for the General, Road & Bridge, Equipment, Cemetery, Recreation, Buildings & Grounds, Fire, and Capital Improvement Funds. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Pat Medure and seconded by Ken Haubrich to adopt the levy as 1. Motion carried.

Consider Requests for Financial Support

Elder Circle – No one was present to give a report. Called for motion to fund for elder circle. Ken asked if it was legal being that it is a charity? The amount requested is up to \$10,000. Discussion was held on giving money to non-profits.

Peggy Clayton stated that on page 34 of the "contributions and donations" Elder Circle falls into the category.

A motion was made by Mary Ives and seconded by Pat Medure to fund Elder Circle \$5,000.00 as they provide services. Question asked if this was budgeted, and the response was "no". Motion failed.

- **Itasca County Fair Board**

Marge Kelley, representing the Itasca County Fair Board, stated that due to the pandemic in 2020, the Itasca County Fair was not held. She further reported that during 2020, the cattle barn suffered structural damage, therefore, repair work took place.

In 2021, a priority will be handicap accessibility, along with upgrading the electrical system at the fairgrounds, and the restroom facilities near the Trailhead Building are dire need of repair. Marge stated that they are not sure if there will be a fair in 2021! As in past years, the Itasca County Fair Board is once again asking for a \$1,000.00 donation.

A motion was made by Dan Butterfield and seconded by Bob Ross to recommend the Board approve the donation request of \$1,000.00. Motion carried.

- **Itasca County Historical Society**

Lila Crowe, Executive Director of the Itasca County Historical Society, stated that the Historical Society continues their work on genealogy and history preservation. Work has begun to remodel the museum to make room for the "River Room" and "Itasca County School" exhibits. There is a Veterans exhibit.

They have also worked diligently on the "Escape Room" which has been a hit in 2020, and they will continue to offer this to the public.

As in past years, the Historical Society is once again asking for \$1.00 per person, which for Harris Township, that amount would be a donation request of \$3,253.00.

A motion was made by Peggy Clayton and seconded by Ken Haubrich to recommend the Board approve the donation request of \$3,253.00. Motion carried.

- **City of Grand Rapids**

Dale Anderson, Park and Rec Director, gave a presentation.

The total cost for firework is \$19, 800.00, and will be held on Pokegama. Discussion followed. The city was asking for a donation of \$5,266.00.

A motion was made by Ryan Davies and seconded by Dan Gilbert to approve the donation request of \$5,266.00. Motion carried.

- **First Call for Help/211**

Lori with FCFH made a presentation. They provide crisis stabilization 24/7 to help connect each of the residents of Harris Township to resources they need.

Discussion followed. The question was asked if they are receiving funding from the County, can we donate?

Peggy Clayton reported that Itasca County Health and Human Services does have a contract with First Call for Help, but that they are not receiving any other funding from the County.

Peggy Clayton stated that the "contributions and donation language, by township" does state under Health: the electors may authorize the town board to make a

grant to a private, nonprofit, or public hospital or emergency medical services agency that serves the town.”

A motion was made by Leann Stoll and seconded by Cyndy Martin to recommend the Board approve a donation of \$1,000.00. (This donation is above the “\$100-\$500 donation requested). Motion carried.

- **Support Within Reach**

Katie Carpenter made a presentation. They were founded in 1977 and cover 6 counties. They serve the distinct needs of sexual violence victims. They are available 24/7.

Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Mary Ives and seconded by Mike Schack to donate \$1,000.00. Motion carried.

- **Itasca County Agriculture Association**

Lilah Crowe gave a presentation. They are beginning to plan for the 129th. They are organizing children’s activities.

A motion was made by Dan Butterfield and seconded by Cyndy Martin to donate \$1,000.00. Motion carried.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

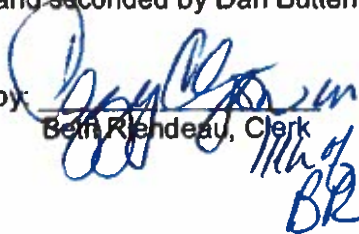
Set time and place for next Annual Town Meeting, to be held the second Tuesday of March 14, 2023.

A motion was made by Cyndy Martin and seconded by Dan Butterfield to set the 2023 Annual Meeting for Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at the Town Hall, contingent on conditions warranting a change in venue. Motion carried. Cindy amended motion to 3/14/23.

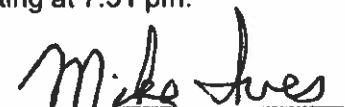
Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the annual meeting, a motion was made by Jim Kelley and seconded by Dan Butterfield to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm.

Submitted by:


Beth Riendeau, Clerk

Signed by:


Mike Ives, Moderator