

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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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](http://www.harristownshipmn.org)

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING May 10, 2023 at 7:30pm Minutes

Present: Madam Chair Clayton, Supervisor Schack, Supervisor Davis, Supervisor Gilbert, Supervisor Kelley, Treasurer Kopacek, Clerk Derfler

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

### **Oath of Office**

Madam Chair Clayton administered the Oath of Office for the newly Appointed Town Clerk, Kelly Derfler.

### **Approve the Minutes**

#### **Minutes of April 12, 2023, Regular Board Minutes**

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023 Board Meeting. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

#### **Minutes of April 26, 2023 Audit Work Session Minutes**

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2023 Audit Work Session. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

#### **Minutes of April 27, 2023 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Minutes**

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2023 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Minutes with the correction of removing Dan Gilbert as a second motion under grievance number 10. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

### **Additions and Corrections**

Madam Chair Clayton invited any additions and corrections to the Agenda. Madam Chair Clayton suggested adding "Road Update" under 7C provided by Supervisor Kelley.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to add Road Update under 7C provided by Supervisor Kelley. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

### **Business from the Floor**

#### **Snowmobile Trail Access**

Jim Heitzman, (33876 Crystal Springs Rd.), member of the Itasca County Driftskippers, approached the board to request a letter of support for the realignment of State Corridor Trail #33 to approach the public access from Pokegama Lake on Sunny Beach Rd (Bathing Beach Avenue) to the properties of Edwards (Parcel 19-016-2102) to Cease (Parcel 19-009-3401) to Myers (Parcel 19-009-3100) to Hawkinson (Parcel 19-009-4400), avoiding the problematic, Wood Tick Lake.

Kory Cease (31956 Sunny Beach Rd.), from the Itasca County Land Department, further explained that there are some encroachment issues with the platted right-of-way. The county wanted the blessing of the township to take the lead on addressing the encroachment issues prior to the snowmobile club moving forward with the new trail.

A motion was made by Supervisor Davies and seconded by Supervisor Dan Gilbert to approve having the Chair send a letter of support to take the lead on addressing any encroachment issues on the Pokegama Lake, Bathing Beach Avenue access. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

#### **Golf Crest Drive**

Mary Elizabeth Roy, (30014 Natureview Ln.), approached the board regarding possibly taking over the ownership of Golf Crest Drive and Natureview Ln. The Natureview Development is in the process of seeking funding to bring Golf Crest Drive and Natureview Lane up to County/Township standards and would ultimately pursue the Township take ownership of the roads. Mary included bids from Hawkinson Construction and will be speaking with the county engineer to ensure that the roads will be constructed properly. Madam Chair Clayton stated that when the Development's Supervisor's approached the board several years ago, the board told the development that the township would consider taking ownership of the road. Supervisor Kelley stated that the previous bid from two years prior also included sub-cutting the road. The current bid does not include sub-cutting. He also stated that Natureview Ln does not have the space to allow the county snowplow to turn around. It would likely require the township to snowplow Natureview Ln. and the county snowplow Golf Crest Drive.

The board did not make a decision on taking ownership of the roads at this time.

#### **Skoglund Purchase Agreement, and Resolutions 2023-015**

Dan Skoglund (17 Horseshoe Dr.), of Skoglund Electric. The purchase agreement of vacant land between Dan Skoglund and Harris Township was presented to the board for approval for the sum of \$74,900.00. \$1,000.00 in earnest was received on May 7, 2023, leaving the balance owed at closing to \$73,900.00. Date of closing will be on or before July 1, 2023. Real estate tax and closing costs will be covered by the buyer.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to approve the purchase agreement, the closing costs addendum and the "as is" addendum as presented to the board. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to approve Resolution No. 2023-015, directing the Board Chair and Clerk to execute and deliver to the purchasers the necessary documents to convey the above described property pursuant to the terms of the purchase agreement between the parties. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Shack to allow Dan Skoglund access to the property prior to the closing of the transaction at his own risk. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

#### **Consent Agenda**

There were no consent agenda items.

#### **Roads**

##### **Construction Progress Reporting Survey for May 2023**

A construction progress reporting survey for May was provided by Supervisor Kelley.

##### **Culvert Order**

Supervisor Schack provided the board with a culvert order for a new construction by Ben Larson of Melody Rd. The culvert will be ordered through Dakota Supply at a cost of \$1130.37.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Ryan Davies to purchase the culvert, to be paid for by the township. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

### **Roads Update**

Supervisor Kelley provided a report on the roads. When road restrictions are lifted, the Sunny Beach project will commence. The two areas of road that were to be sub-cut have been recommended to leave as-is and just put the topcoat on. The area could have some delays when construction begins. This will be posted on Facebook.

There are some gravel roads that will need gravel added this year. Roads that were not too soft have been graded. As the roads firm up, more grading will be done.

### **Recreation**

#### **Schedule Spring Road Clean-up**

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Madam Chair Clayton to approve the scheduling of the road cleanup for May 23, 2023 at 5pm.

#### **Schedule Spring Road Tour**

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the scheduling of the Road Tour for May 18 at 5pm.

### **Flowers for Pollinators Update**

Dan Gilbert stated that Chair Clayton, and Master Gardener Bonny Siegford visited Crystal Springs Park to look at the space for the flowers for pollinators garden. Supervisor Gilbert explained that they are looking at different plants for the flowers for pollinators garden to provide a space for pollinators. Maintenance will save wood chips for the project. They are also looking at putting in a solar powered water fountain in the garden.

Discussion followed on a walking path in the park with exercise stations. Chair Clayton and Supervisor Gilbert will search for available grants for the projects.

### **Correspondence**

#### **Itasca County Township Association Minutes of March 13, 2023**

Informational.

#### **Trails Task Force Minutes of April 13, 2023**

Informational. Tioga biking trails are open.

#### **Intergovernmental Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2023**

Informational.

### **Old Business**

#### **Blinds at the Hall Quote-**

Madam Chair Clayton provided the board with two quotes from Floor to Ceiling for the purchase and installation of new blinds for the hall. The first quote is two-toned, not opaque, and does include a valance. The second quote is a solid, opaque color with valance. Discussion followed. Floor to Ceiling does not provide privacy tinting to windows.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Davies to purchase the second option of solid opaque blinds with valance from Floor to Ceiling Store at a cost of \$1,497.70. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to have the Chair move forward with getting a quote for tinting the front door windows for privacy and security. Ayes-5; Nays-0.

**New Business**

**Grand Rapids Fire Safety Education Program**

Chair Clayton received discussed the letter received from the Fire Department seeking funding for the Fire Safety Education Program.

**ASV Tracks**

Supervisor Kelley explained that the ASV tracks are in need of replacement. Supervisor Kelley reviewed the quote of \$2,885.00 for the track replacement without any problems that may arise during the installment.

A motion was made by Supervisor Davies and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the replacement of the ASV tracks at a cost of \$2,885.00 and any other component that is found to be in need of repair or replacement. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report**

**Treasurer’s Report for April 2023**

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 Madam Chair Clayton and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the Treasurer’s Report for April 2023 in the amount of \$2,930,466.22. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

**Payment of Claims**

Treasurer Kopacek presented the Claims list for approval.

A motion was made by Supervisor Davies and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the claims list #20960 through #20981, EFT 5102301 through EFT 5102310, and EFT 4302301 in the amount of \$84,215.19. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

**Public Input**

Supervisor Schack wanted to share that there are two public landings that the township cannot put docks in yet due to high waters. LaPlant is operational, but Casper and Mishawaka landings are not. Casper landing is barricaded at this time. A Facebook notice will be posted.

Supervisor Gilbert reminded everyone about “No-mow May” for the pollinators.

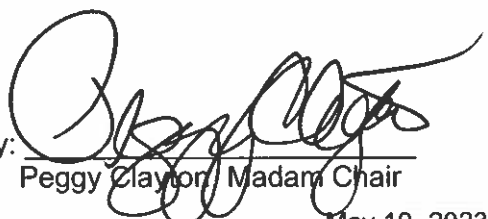
**UPCOMING Events/Meetings**

|               |  |                          |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|
| May 11, 2023  | Work Session Re: Lawn Contract and Website | 6:00 pm Town Hall        |
| May 18, 2023  | Road Tour                                  | 5:00 pm Town Hall        |
| May 23, 2023  | Road Clean-up                              | 5:00 pm Meet at Cemetery |
| May 24, 2023  | P and D Board Meeting                      | 7:30 pm Town Hall        |
| May 29, 2023  | Memorial Day Event                         | 10:00 am Cemetery        |
| June 12, 2023 | Itasca County Township Association Meeting | 7:00 pm Town Hall        |
| June 14, 2023 | Regular Board Meeting                      | 7:30 pm Town Hall        |
| June 28, 2023 | P and D Board Meeting                      | 7:30 pm Town Hall        |

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Supervisor Shack and seconded by Supervisor Davies at 8:32 PM.

Prepared by:   
Kelly Derfler, Clerk

Signed by:   
Peggy Clayton, Madam Chair