

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 July 26, 2023 MINUTES

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

Absent: Supervisor Gilbert

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

Approve the Minutes

June 28, 2023, P & D Minutes

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the Minutes of the June 28, 2023 Planning and Development Meeting. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

July 14, 2023, Work Session Minutes Re: Mishawaka Landing, Grant Opportunities, Fight Blight, Crystal Park, Road Signage

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to approve the Minutes of the July 14, 2023 Work Session Re: Mishawaka Landing, Grant Opportunities, Fight Blight, Crystal Park, Road Signage. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

Additions and Corrections

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to approve the P and D Agenda. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

Business from the Floor

There was no business from the floor.

Consent Agenda

Zoning Land Use Permits

SSTS Permits

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

Roads

Roads Update

Supervisor Kelley stated that the roads are in good shape but starting to get bumpy due to the dry conditions.

The final pay request for Sunny Beach Road was received. The quoted cost was \$1,731,486.25 and the actual cost was \$1,603,666.96. There is additional shoulder work needed that will be figured into the final actual cost figure.

Road Signage

Supervisor Kelley reviewed the statutes regarding speed signs in a rural district with the board, stating that the township can lower the speed signs by resolution to 35mph from 40mph on Wendigo Park Rd by Alicia Pl and Sunny Beach Rd corners. Two 30mph signs will be needed for Sunny Beach Rd coming out of the new 35mph section of Wendigo Park Rd.

Two "share the road" signs were added to Wendigo Park Rd and two "share the road" signs were added to Sunny Beach Rd.

Resolution 2023-018 Re: Erect Regulatory Speed Signs

Chair Clayton read the proposed resolution in its entirety.

Madam Chair Clayton called for a Roll Call:

Supervisor Kelley:	Yes
Supervisor Gilbert:	Absent
Supervisor Davies:	Yes
Supervisor Schack:	Yes
Madam Chair Clayton:	Yes

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to adopt Resolution 2023-018, Re: Erect Regulatory Speed Signs. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

2023 Road Projects

Supervisor Kelley stated that the milling is complete on Aspen Dr and Mishawaka Shores. There are two small soft spots on Mishawaka Shores that will be looked at once the sub-soil dries out.

Work is set to begin on Monday, July 31 for Mishawaka Rd. They are expecting to close a portion of the road for 2-4 days. The closure will be shared via radio and social media.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the closure of Mishawaka Rd for construction purposes for up to 4 days starting July 31, 2023. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

The 2023 total for the three road projects is \$666,666.66. The Sunny Beach Rd project had a savings of about \$91,000.00. The plan was to complete the lifts and blacktop on Mishawaka Rd and single lift Aspen Dr and Mishawaka Shores. The savings from Sunny Beach Rd can cover the cost of Mishawaka Shores, leaving about \$90,000.00 short for Aspen Dr. Supervisor Kelley proposed using funds from the road fund to cover the cost of Aspen Dr.

A motion was made by Chair Clayton and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve spending road funds to complete the Aspen Dr improvements. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent- Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

Supervisor Kelley suggested having compaction testing done on the four feet of fill on Mishawaka Rd, if needed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve compaction testing for Mishawaka Rd, if needed. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent- Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

The last pay request for Sunny Beach Rd will be sent directly from Hawkinson, instead of going through SEH.

Progress Report for Sunny Beach Rd

Informational.

Sunny Beach Rd Shouldering/Backslopes

Supervisor Kelley reviewed the two bids received for the shouldering and backslopes on Sunny Beach Rd. TNT Construction bid came in at \$36,800.00. Casper Construction bid came in at \$52,800.00.

A motion was made by Supervisor Davies and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to move forward with TNT Construction at the bid price of \$36,800.00. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

Sunny Beach Braun Concrete Testing

Informational. Supervisor Kelley stated that the concrete testing passed.

Recreation

Park and Cemetery Inspection Reports for June 2023

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

Weed Inspection Report

Supervisor Gilbert was not present to provide a report.

Flowers for Pollinators

Chair Clayton stated that her and Supervisor Schack met with Bonnie Seigford, the Master Gardener, at Crystal Park. The garden is primarily tansy with very few native pollinators present. Moving forward, Bonnie suggested cutting the tansy down with a sickle and chemical spraying or burning. She also suggested contacting Prairie Restoration for further guidance. They also recommended cutting the tansy down followed by chemical spraying, then burn it and let it sit over winter. Further research is needed on the correct method of transporting the cut tansy. Discussion followed.

Firewise

Supervisor Schack discussed the Firewise project, explaining that residents should keep brush and debris 100ft from their house in case of a wildfire. Brush pickup has been halted due to funding but is expected to resume soon. A form is available for residents who participate to fill out to keep track of hours spent cleaning up. The Firewise program will be reimbursed for the hours and costs incurred. Residents can contact Supervisor Schack for the form at supervisorehpt@gmail.com or 218-340-8852.

Mishawaka Landing Update

Supervisor Kelley stated that the landing project is still expected to take place around the end of August. There are no fishing tournaments taking place after August 13 that the project could interfere with.

Weed Spraying at Cemetery

Supervisor Schack shared that the weeds at the cemetery are widespread in the areas where new grass was planted. The landscaper suggested spraying the weeds and starting over.

A motion was made by Chair Clayton and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve Supervisor Schack request quotes for weed spraying at the cemetery. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Danson Canister Site Open

Informational only.

Town Hall

Town Hall Report for June 2023

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the Town Hall Report for June 2023. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

Maintenance

Maintenance Report for June 2023

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

Old Business

Fight Blight

Chair Clayton shared the Fight Blight flyer with the board that will be published, posted, and shared on Facebook and the township website. The dates of the event are September 14-16 from 9am-5pm at the Harris Township Service Center on 20876 Wendigo Park Rd. Volunteers will be needed to assist in the event.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve publishing the Fight Blight event in the Grand Rapids Herald Review on August 26, September 1, and September 8, 2023. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

Wunderlich Easement Agreement

Chair Clayton reviewed the Wunderlich Easement Agreement with the board. The township attorney has reviewed the agreement. The agreement will be signed after the meeting and brought to Abstract Services. The closing will take place at 4pm on July 31, 2023.

Harris/Skoglund Property Sale

Chair Clayton shared that the property sale was completed on July 25, 2023. The property was sold for \$75,900.00.

Harris Township Year Ending Financial Statement

The 2022 Harris Township Year Ending Financial Statement was published on July 23, 2023 in the Grand Rapids Herald Review.

New Business

Joint Powers Agreement to Regulate Utility Rates

Chair Clayton reviewed the Joint Powers Agreement to Regulate Utility Rates with the board. Blackberry Township has also joined the agreement. Meetings will continue on a yearly basis. The agreement will stay in effect until it is terminated.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve Harris Township joining the Joint Powers Agreement to Regulate Utility Rates. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

Couri&Ruppe Township Legal Seminar

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the registration of the Harris Township Supervisors to attend the Couri&Ruppe Township Legal Seminar on October 7, 2023 from 9am-4pm. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

CenturyLink Utility Right-of-Way Permit

Chair Clayton reviewed the CenturyLink Utility Right-of-Way Permit with the board.

A motion was made the Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the CenturyLink Utility Right-of-Way Permit. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

Bills

Payment of Bills

Treasurer Kopacek reviewed the July 26, 2023 Claims List.

A motion was made by Supervisor Davies and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve and pay the bills, claims #21071 through #21085, and EFTs 7262301 through #EFT 7262308 in the amount of \$99,869.45. Claims 21066-21070 were voided. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Chair Clayton and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to approve claim #21065 in the amount of \$675.00 from the July 12, 2023 corrected claims list with a corrected total of \$46,878.11. Ayes-4; Nays-0; absent: Supervisor Gilbert. Motion carried.

Public Input

Chair Clayton shared that the transition to the new website is now taking place. It could take up to a week for all of the information to transfer.


Chair Clayton stated that the board has received several complaints regarding the cars, boats, and RVs parked on MN State property located on US Hwy 169 by Zorbas. The DOT will be contacting the individuals and will be posting "no overnight parking".

UPCOMING Events/Meetings

August 9, 2023	Regular Board Meeting	7:30 p.m. Town Hall
August 14, 2023	Itasca County Township Association Meeting	7:00 p.m. Town Hall
August 23, 2023	P and D Board Meeting	7:30 p.m. Town Hall
September 14-16, 2023	Fight Blight Event	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Service Center

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Prepared by: 
Kelly Derfler, Clerk

Signed by: 
Peggy Clayton, Chair

