

Madam Chair Peggy Clayton  
20356 Wendigo Park Road  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
Phone 218-259-1551

# 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)

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

[harristownshipclerk@gmail.com](mailto:harristownshipclerk@gmail.com)

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

### August 9, 2023 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 July 12, 2023, Regular Board Minutes

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

#### Additions and Corrections

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve the agenda. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

#### Business from the Floor

There was no business from the floor.

#### Consent Agenda

There were no consent agenda items.

#### Roads

##### 2023 Gravel Road Project Quotes

Supervisor Kelley reviewed two quotes from Casper Construction and Schwartz Excavating to gravel Jane Lane, Vroman Rd, and Hughes Rd. Casper's quoted total was \$62,870.00 and Schwartz's total included installing a cul-de-sac on Stony Point Rd and totaled \$33,790.25.

Supervisor Kelley suggested scheduling a site visit for Hughes Rd prior to moving forward with accepting a bid because a homeowner on Hughes Rd has expressed interest in taking over the road maintenance.

A motion was made by Chair Clayton and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to table the 2023 Gravel Road Project Quotes to the August 23, 2023 P and D Meeting. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

### **Sunny Beach Road Pay App #8**

Supervisor Kelley shared the latest and final pay app with the board. The final bill from the county is expected in the next few weeks.

Supervisor Kelley provided an update on the LRIP committee he sits on, and stated that while at the LRIP meeting, the group moved to approve raising the limit from \$1.25 million to \$1.5 million for grant funding. Applications will be open in September with awards taking place in March-April.

### **2023 Road Projects**

Supervisor Kelley stated that Hammerlund will be shouldering on Sunny Beach Rd on Thursday, August 10. Aspen Drive has been black topped with the first lift. The base correction was completed on Mishawaka Shores. They sub-cut about 120ft, 18in deep on Mishawaka Shores. The sub-cut on Mishawaka Rd is going on now and will be continuing through Friday, August 11.

### **Recreation**

#### **Disc Golf**

Supervisor Schack has been contacted by several constituents who are interested in the township installing a disc golf course at Crystal Park.

Zel Starling, of 19247 Hwy 169 Grand Rapids, provided the board with a brief history of disc golf and explained that it has seen a tremendous growth over the last 3 years in the U.S. There are online platforms that contain disc golf course information. Zel believes that Crystal Park has the space for 9 holes, if carefully planned. He will share a sketch he created with Supervisor Gilbert for Crystal Park planning.

#### **Quotes for Weed Spraying at Cemetery**

Supervisor Schack reviewed the quotes received from TruGreen and Green Again Lawn & Landscape to spray for weeds at the cemetery. TruGreen would do three applications and Green Again would do one application.

Supervisor Gilbert stated there is Kentucky Bluegrass at the cemetery. He suggested that the township buy a bag of fertilizer and have maintenance do the application prior to rain.

Chair Clayton stated that she spoke with Sara Thompson from the Land Department about spraying roads. The county is doing a trial program for spraying. Sara said that they were discussing spraying in Harris Township and LaPlant Rd. The DNR received a complaint about weeds on Southwood Rd. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Gilbert suggested just keeping the ditches mowed and the noxious weeds will be kept at bay instead of spraying.

#### **Quotes for Weed Spraying Pollinator Garden**

Supervisor Gilbert recommended that maintenance burn the weeds in the garden and till it in the Spring. It can be mowed, then burned. Maintenance will be given instructions on how to move forward with removing the weeds.

#### **Wendigo Park Trees**

Supervisor Schack shared a few photos of two trees at Wendigo Park that are dead or dying that should be cut down.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Chair Clayton to approve Supervisor Schack request quotes for the removal of the two dead or dying trees at Wendigo Park. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

### **Mishawaka Landing**

Supervisor Kelley has not received confirmation of the exact start date at Mishawaka Landing from Casper Construction. It is still scheduled for the end of August.

Supervisor Schack asked what the board would like to do with the cement picnic tables at the landing. They are very heavy, and one is cracked. Discussion followed. Maintenance will attempt to move them, hoping to not damage them in the process.

### **Town Hall Lease Agreement**

Chair Clayton reviewed the proposed lease agreement changes with the board. The hall renters have been propping the front doors open, causing flies to come in and potentially damaging the motor in the handicap doors. Renters have also been opening the windows of the hall while the air conditioning is on.

The proposed new lease agreement states that "Renter must not open windows at any time" and "Renter must not prop open doors at any time".

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to add the two lines of "Renter must not open windows at any time" and "Renter must not prop open doors at any time" to the Town Hall Lease Agreement. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

### **Casper Landing Swimming**

Chair Clayton was contacted by several constituents recently who have been asked to leave the landing by the Sheriff's Dept and not swim at the landing. There is a "No swimming" sign at the landing.

Supervisor Gilbert recommended that the board replace the "No swimming" signs with "Swim at own risk" signs at Casper Landing, Mishawaka Landing, and LaPlant Landing.

Supervisor Davies suggested that Chair Clayton create a post on Facebook asking that swimmers park on the grassy hill to not obstruct the vehicles with boats using the landing and expressing that the landing is a shared space for boats and swimmers. Discussion followed.

### **Correspondence**

#### **Itasca County Township Association Minutes of July 10, 2023**

Informational.

#### **Trails Task Force Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2023**

Informational.

#### **Peterson Zoning App**

Informational. The County Board did approve the rezone application on July 18, 2023.

### **Old Business**

#### **Harris/Wunderlich Property Sale**

Chair Clayton shared that the Harris/Wunderlich property sale was completed on July 31, 2023. The property was sold for \$35,000.00.

#### **(Squarespace) New Website**

Chair Clayton reviewed the new website with the board. There is now a Town Hall Calendar on the website that shows the dates that are not available to rent. Discussion held on the "Constant Contact" feature regarding the emailing of newsletters. Newsletters will be able to be sent out via "Constant Contact" for those providing emails, through the website.

### **Cancellation of Catalis/Govoff Website Management**

Chair Clayton reviewed the website Catalis/Govoff cancellation letter with the board which will be sent, once approved by the board.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve sending the website cancellation letter to Catalis/Govoff, which is effective August 3, 2023. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

#### **ICTV 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Chair Clayton shared the ICTV announcement that they will be holding a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party on September 22, 2023 from 4-6:30pm. They requested a gift or gift basket to use in a raffle. The clerk will post for potential quorum.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve Chair Clayton to purchase and prepare a gift basket at a cost up to \$50.00 to donate to the ICTV raffle. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

#### **Newsletter**

Chair Clayton shared the newsletter, prepared by Cyndi Martin, to send to residents of the township.

Supervisor Kelley suggested two changes under "Roads, Roads & Roads". Aspen Drive will be completed in 2023 and Mishawaka Shores will be completed in 2023.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve the newsletter, with the two corrections, and have the treasurer cut a check for postage for mailing. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

#### **District 11 Annual Meeting**

Discussion held on the District 11 annual meeting. Supervisors are not planning to attend the District 11 annual meeting on August 23, 2023, also the date of the Township P and D meeting.

#### **Schedule Site Visit of Wendigo Picnic Park and Casper Landing**

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to schedule a site visit of Wendigo Picnic Park, and Casper Landing on September 18, 2023 at 6pm. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to schedule a site visit for Hughes Rd on August 14, 2023 at 6pm. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### **Treasurer's Report for July 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 Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve the Treasurer's Report for July 2023 with the corrected Schedule 1a Balance of \$3,244,136.92. 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 Supervisor Schack to approve the claims list #21086 through #21106, EFT 892301 through EFT 892307, EFT 7312301, and the adjusted EFT 7122303 in the amount of \$22,167.92. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

**Public Input**

Dan Butterfield, 21810 Verde Lane, expressed his concern of the L&M Distribution Center traffic. The current distribution center averages about 70 trucks a day. He has been told that the truck traffic will either be going west towards Walmart or North and will not be coming south on Airport Rd into Harris Township. His neighborhood association is working to schedule a meeting with the transportation department.


**UPCOMING Events/Meetings**

August 14, 2023	Site Visit – Hughes Rd	6:00 pm Meet at Town Hall
August 14, 2023	Itasca County Township Association Meeting	7:00 pm Town Hall
August 23, 2023	P and D Board Meeting	7:30 pm Town Hall
September 11, 2023	Itasca County Township Association Meeting	7:00 pm Town Hall
September 13, 2023	Regular Board Meeting	7:30 pm Town Hall
September 14-16, 2023	Fight Blight Event	9:00 am – 5pm Service Center
September 18, 2023	Site Visit – Wendigo Picnic Park and Casper Landing	6:00 pm Meet at Town Hall

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert at 8:40 pm.

Prepared by:   
Kelly Derfler, Clerk

Signed by:   
Peggy Clayton, Madam Chair

