

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

Harris Township

SINCE 1909



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

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 244-1811

harristownshipclerk@gmail.com

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

August 31, 2022

Work Session Re: Boat Landings, Cemetery Equipment, Isleview Rd, Town Hall, and Maintenance 6:00 pm Harris Town Hall

Present: Madam Chair Peggy Clayton, Supervisor Schack, Davies, Gilbert & Kelley

Pledge to the Flag was conducted.

The purpose of the work session was to continue discussions regarding Boat Landings, and also to discuss Cemetery equipment, Isleview Rd, Town Hall, and Maintenance position.

Boat Landings

Woodtick-

Supervisor Kelley provided an updated quote for work at Woodtick landing, from Hawkinson at a price of \$18,884.00. This will include mobilization, shaping, wearing/non wearing mixture, traffic control and parking lot striping. Also provided was an updated quote from Casper for Class 5, strip and export excess topsoil, and furnish and install gel textile fabric for a total of \$10,740.00. Discussion followed.

Mishawaka –

Supervisor Kelley provided an updated quote from Hawkinson for the mobilization, shaping, wearing/non wearing mixture, traffic control and parking lot striping at Mishawaka, for total of \$65,175.00. Also provided was an updated quote from Casper Construction for removing the existing culvert, grub and haul stumps, silt fence, storm drain protection for a total of \$60,986.00. A quote from KGM Construction for mobilization, sawcut bit, lot striping, and asphalt in the amount of \$22,637.50

Supervisor Davies provided a quote from TNT for the Mishawaka Landing Improvements in the amount of \$114,800.00.

After considerable discussion, the board decided to move forward with Woodtick landing improvements, and leave Mishawaka landing improvements for 2023 when Mishawaka Shores work is slated to be completed. There will not be major changes in the current Mishawaka quotes for Mishawaka from Hawkinson and Casper Construction, if work is not completed until 2023.

A motion was made by Supervisor Davies and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the quote from Hawkinson Construction for Woodtick Landing in the amount of \$18,884.00, and the quote from Casper Construction for Woodtick Landing in the amount of \$10,740.00. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried

Cemetery Equipment-

Supervisor Gilbert provided information on a new rubber-track excavator for a total of \$80,000 which would include a two year warranty. A used excavator would not have a warranty. If the excavator was purchased, maintenance would keep the skidsteer, but could sell the backhoe attachment.

After discussion, it was decided that Supervisor Gilbert will continue to look for used/consignment excavators for purchase. It is important to be proactive in keeping up on our equipment usage, shape, and condition vs waiting until a piece of equipment breaks down and maintenance is unable to perform work.

Maintenance –

Chair Clayton provided information on medical, dental, and vision benefits. Example: For a single, 40 year old employee, the costs for medical, dental, and vision (paid by the township) would be \$527.36. If a 40 year old, married with 2 children, was hired, and the township paid the \$527.36 (for single), the employee would still be responsible for \$1,261.86.

Discussion held on offering just medical, and not dental or vision, and also coming up with a percentage (ie 50-50; 80-20, etc) to offer when an employee is hired, The board would try and not go over budget amounts for coverages for the employee.

Chair Clayton will do further research to see if MAT has any programs for medical, etc.

Discussion took place on the need for a F/T employee during the winter months. It was decided that the board would wait until after the first of the year to see how the winter goes with regard to quantity of work, as winters are usually slow for maintenance, other than plowing snow. The board currently has two temporary workers. One is interested in the position while the other is still maintaining a part-time work schedule.

Supervisors were reminded to provide areas of outside work for the temps, as inside work could be performed during the winter months.

Isleview Road –

Chair Clayton stated that she is not opposed conducting the door to door petition for the detachment of Isleview Road from the City. A suggestion was made for sending out a letter to those constituents and have them come to the town hall on a specific date/time to sign the petition (for or against) the detachment. For those who do not come in and sign the petition, those constituents would then be visited to get their signatures. Chair Clayton will contact Andy Shaw to move forward with pulling the petition paperwork together, etc.

Town Hall –

Chair Clayton provided a brief background on what has been happening with rentals at the Town hall. There seems to be more people wanting 2 to 3 day rentals, and there appears to be more non-resident then resident wanting to rent. Some are asking to come in the night before to set up, when they have not, in fact, even reserved a second date. Many of the rentals are back to back, and some are rented for later hours, making it difficult for the caretaker to come in and clean, and get the hall ready for the next day renter. Chair Clayton reminded the board that the hall is not a banquet hall, and not a hotel. More and more people are wanting to reserve the hall because it is cheaper than a hotel banquet room. With that said, appliances, utility costs increase, demands of renters is getting greater, and placing the Caretaker in an "on call" position. The hall is for constituents, and the taxpayers should not have to pay above and beyond the costs incurred.

Discussion held on increasing the rental rate for for resident and non-resident, asking for proof of residency, not allowing more than a "one day" rental, placing a closing time for the hall, etc.

After further discussion, a motion was made Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Davies to:

- change the resident rental rate/damage deposit rate from \$50.00/\$50.00 to \$100.00/\$100.00;
- change the non-resident rental rate/damage deposit com \$100.00/\$50.00 to \$200.00/\$200.00;
- not allowing 2 or more day rentals;
- closing the hall at 9:00 pm for hall rentals;
- asking for proof of residency for all hall rentals.
- All changes effective October 1, 2022. Those who are already in the books will pay the current rental rates.

Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Chair Clayton will advise the Caretaker of the changes, and October 1, 2022 effective date, and the hall policy and lease agreement will be changed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Davies to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Submitted by: 
Peggy Clayton, Interim Clerk

Signed by: 
Peggy Clayton, Chair