



**March 10, 2020  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
Harris Town Hall  
7:00 pm**

**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 10, 2020 by Supervisor Peggy Clayton.

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

Supervisor Clayton welcomed all in attendance to the annual meeting. Board members, Treasurer, and Interim Treasurer were introduced.

**Election of a Moderator:**

Supervisor Clayton called for nominations from the floor. A motion was made by Dennis Kortekaas, and seconded by Cyndy Martin to nominate Mike Ives. Supervisor Clayton called for additional nominations from the floor twice. No additional nominations were made. Motion passed; Mike Ives was nominated as Moderator.

**Review of minutes from the annual town meeting held March 12<sup>th</sup> 2019:**

A motion was made by Cyndy Martin and seconded by Dan Butterfield to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2019 Annual Meeting.. Motion passed.

**Additions or Corrections:**

There were no additions or corrections to the Agenda.

**Receive and approve the Treasurer's Annual Financial report for 2019:**

Discussion held on road work completed in 2019. Mary Ives asked about the overspent fire fund. Interim Treasurer Adams stated that the board sets the budget a year and ½ before they get the fire contract from the City of Grand Rapids. The city sets their budget after the township sets their budget. The amount which the township is billed, is associated with the number of fire calls, property values of the township, and the formula that is being used by the City

A motion was made by Cyndy Martin and seconded by Dennis Kortekaas to approve the Treasurer Financial Statement as of December 31, 2019. Motion passed.

**Review Road Report:**

Moderator Ives asked about the road work proposed for ensuing years 2021 and 2022, which were included in the report. Jim Kelley stated that they are estimates but would be in the ballpark, once work is completed.

A motion was made by Burl Ives and seconded by Cyndy Martin to approve the Road Report. Motion passed.

**Review Levy Comparison for years 2016 adopted through 2021 proposed:**

The levy comparison shows what happened between 2016-2019, what was adopted in 2020, and what is proposed for 2021. What is levied now will be effective for 2021. The comparison lists all the categories.

Treasurer Kopacek stated that if one looks at the 2019 actual, that is driving the proposal or 2021.

Moderator Ives asked the constituents if the group wanted to consider approving the proposed operational levy for 2021 in total or approve the operating levies by fund. The consensus of the group was to look at each fund separately.

**•General**

Treasurer Kopaek stated that the Levy portion is the top number of \$105,000.00. That figure is the proposed levy for 2021. Mary Ives stated that it appeared there are not many changes in the 2020 adopted VS the 2021 proposed, and looked to be decreasing for 2021.

A motion was made by Judy Meyers and seconded by Dan Butterfield to approve the levy of \$105,000.00 for the General Fund. Motion passed.

**•Road & Bridge**

The proposed levy for 2021 is \$560,000.00. Moderator Ives reminded the constituents that this is their meeting and they can request an increase or decrease to all levies. Burl Ives urged the Board to keep their eyes on bonding, and watch oil prices, in relation to roadwork in 2021-2024. As the Board does not conduct their road inspection until spring, the condition of the roads may prompt changes in the 2020 road work schedule.

A motion was made by Jim Kelley and seconded by Cyndy Martin to approve the levy of \$560,000.00 for the Road and Bridge Fund. Motion passed.

**•Equipment**

The proposed levy for 2021 is \$31,000.00. In 2019 the levy was \$25,000.00. Treasurer Kopacek stated that there is a list of what is in the equipment fund, and the beginning balance in that fund is tight, so the board wants to make sure annual disbursements are more stable.

A motion was made by Judy Meyers and seconded by Dan Butterfield to approve the levy of \$31,000.00 for the Equipment Fund. Motion passed.

**•Cemetery**

The proposed levy is \$6,000. Treasurer Kopacek stated that in looking at this fund, you can see where the other incomes come from – lot sales, grave openings, etc. Question was asked if resident and non-resident pay the same amount for lot purchases, and if winter burials are higher than summer burials. The answer was yes, to both. Discussion held on having non-residents pay a higher fee than residents.

A motion was made by Dan Butterfield and seconded by Mary Ives to approve the levy of \$6,000.00 for the Cemetery Fund. Motion passed.

**•Recreation**

•The proposed levy is \$60,000. Burl Ives stated that there is a \$40,000 increase over 2020. Interim Treasurer Adams stated that this fund includes contract labor with regard to our two parks, and the picnic area on Sunny

Beach Road. In reviewing the 2019 actuals, this fund was getting down, so the increase will build the fund back up.

A motion was made by Dan Butterfield and seconded by Cyndy Martin to approve the Levy of \$60,000 for the Recreation Fund. Motion passed.

#### •Buildings and Grounds

The proposed levy is \$60,000.00. Burl Ives stated that this fund is very limited. Burl urged the Board to look at Mishawaka, Casper, and LaPlant landings, as these landings are the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> highest used landings on Pokegama Lake. It was suggested to obtain help from DNR, the County, and IRRRB to secure more room for parking. The Board will be working with CEDA on the landings.

A motion was made by Mary Ives and seconded by Dan Butterfield to approve the \$60,000 levy for the Buildings and Grounds Fund. Motion passed.

#### •Fire

The proposed levy is 125,000.00. This fund shows the board budgeted \$84,000.00 for 2020, but the actual will be \$108,000, due to the increase of \$30,000 from the 2020 Fire Contract. Big jump this year. That is why the board is adjusting for 2020 and assuming it will stay high in 2021.

Discussion held on when the City of Grand Rapids budgets for fire contracts, and that it would be nice if they (City) would give the township a "heads up". Townships need to be able to budget for it properly. Brief discussion held on the township having their own fire department.

A motion was made by Dan Butterfield and seconded by Dennis Kortekaas to approve the levy of \$125,000.00. Motion carried.

#### •Capital Improvement

The proposed levy is \$130,000.00. Discussion held on disbursements and transfers, for other than road improvements. Interim Treasurer Adams stated that road improvements is the biggest transfer that comes out. The non-dedicated funds of \$20,000.00 is for the town hall flooring for 2020. The board has been fortunate to not have had any major equipment failures,

A motion was made by Dennis Kortekaas and seconded by Cyndy Martin to approve the levy of \$130,000.00. Motion passed.

#### Consider requests for Financial Support:

- Itasca County Fair Board: marge Kelly representing the Itasca Fair Board stated that the township has always supported them in the past and was requesting the same donation of \$1,000.00 for 2020. The Fair Board has many improvements and projects lined up for 2020.

A motion was made by Burl Ives and seconded by Cyndy Martin to recommend the Board approve the donation request of \$1,000.00. Motion passed.

- Itasca County Historical Society: Bruce Aiton representing the Itasca County Historical Society stated that the township has supported the Historical Society in the past, and was requesting the same donation of \$3,253.00 from Harris Township. The Historical Society has worked on the Veterans Project in 2019, which raised \$42,000, and these funds were spent all on the project. Staff are spending countless hours working on the obituary files with regard to veterans.

A major project is getting the basement set for a climate controlled area. They have also applied to become a Great River Road Interpretative Center for Itasca County. Every surrounding county has a Center, except for Itasca County. Bruce did leave pamphlets on the table for those interested in learning more about the Center.

A motion was made by Burl Ives and seconded by Cyndy Martin to recommend the Board approve the donation request of \$3,253.00. Motion passed.

- **City of Grand Rapids:** There was no representation from the City. Supervisor Clayton stated that in the past the board has received these requests, but decided to start bringing this donation request before the Annual Meeting. The City is looking for a donation of \$4,125.00, which has not changed from 2019. Discussion followed.

Moderator Ives called for the motion, three times. On the 3rd call, a motion was made by Kati Pierce and seconded by Mike Hendricks to recommend the Board approve the donation request of \$4,125.00 to the City of Grand Rapids. Ayes-11; Nays-10. Motion passed.

- **First Call for Help/211:** There was no representation from First Call for Help. Moderator Ives called for the motion three times. There was no motion entertained by the constituents. No donation recommendation to move forward.
- **Support within Reach:** There was no representation from Support Within Reach. Discussion took place. Mary Ives talked on behalf of Support Within Reach. Mary stated that she does know they provide a very important service for the community, and they also have 24 hour crisis line. The township should be very conscious of the ways SWR helps women and children that are damaged due to sexual violence. SWR does a great job and they are a non –profit agency! Question asked by Dan Butterfield if SWR receives any funding from Itasca County. \*Note: Supervisor Clayton will research and provide information to the Township Board for final approval.

A motion was made by Mary Ives and seconded by Shirley Wicklund to recommend the Board approve a donation request of \$1,000, contingent upon if the township is able to legally donate/if the County does not fund SWR. Motion passed with 1 Nay vote.

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business to report.

#### **New Business:**

There was no new business to report.

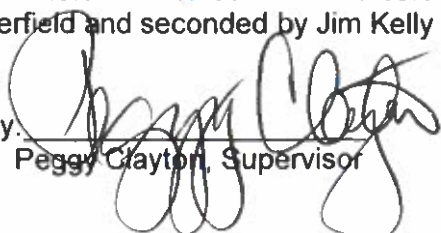
#### **Set time and place for the 2021 Annual Town Meeting**

A motion was made by Jim Kelley and seconded by Burl Ives to set the 2021 Annual Township Meeting for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Motion passed.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Annual Meeting, a motion was made by Dan Butterfield and seconded by Jim Kelly to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. Motion passed.

Submitted by:



Peggy Clayton, Supervisor

Signed by:



Moderator, Mike Ives