

Madam Chair Peggy Clayton
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Harris Township

SINCE 1909



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

Supervisor VC Mike Schack 340-8852
Supervisor
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

**Work Session Re: Supervisor and Clerk
March 15, 2021
5:00 pm Harris Town Hall**

Present: Madam Chair Clayton, Vice Chair Schack, Supervisors Gilbert and Kelley

The purpose of the work session was to discuss how the Board wanted to move forward with the vacant supervisor seat, and the vacant Clerk position.

Supervisor

Madam Chair Clayton provided a brief recap of the March 10th board meeting. During business from floor/public input, the Board heard from two members of the public to appoint Kati Marcotte Pierce. Kati ran for supervisor B seat, lost the election and requested the Board appoint her to the Supervisor A vacancy, based on votes she received.

As with all business from the floor, the board listens to the information provided, and almost always does not make any rash decisions, due to not having an opportunity to review, and research.

During that Board Meeting, Supervisor Kelley made a motion to appoint Kati Marcotte Pierce to the vacant position, but the motion died due to a lack of a second. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to schedule a work session to discuss moving forward with the supervisor seat vacancy, and the clerk vacancy.

Madam Chair reminded those present at the meeting, that there was no public input portion.

Madam Chair Clayton read the statutory language (which the township is governed by) which allows the Board to appoint a person to fill a supervisor vacancy, due to a resignation. The individual appointed to fill the vacancy, shall hold office until the next Township election (November 2022, in which the current term of Supervisor A will expire).

Madam Chair Clayton asked for input from the board regarding moving forward.

A motion was made by Dan Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Schack to move forward with the application process of accepting resumes, interviewing candidates and appointing an individual to the vacant Supervisor A position. Motion carried.

Supervisor Gilbert stated that he supported an application process to fill the vacancy and this should not be an appointment. Dan stated that the board is here to work together and show unity, and allow all constituents within the township to apply for this vacancy. The board has followed the application and interview process in the past. He further added that Katie Marcotte Pierce lost the election, the election was over, and the drama which has been brought forward and directed at the Board due to her appointment request was not necessary.

Supervisor Schack concurred that the process has worked in the past for the board, and felt strongly about continuing it. Madam Chair Clayton and Supervisor Kelley were also in agreement with moving forward with the application/appointment process.

Madam Chair Clayton also stated she had spoken with Steve Fenske, MAT Attorney who said there is no statutory language that states a board appoint an individual who has lost an election.

In 2016 and in 2017 the application/interview process was conducted by the board to fill vacant supervisory positions, it was successful, and it has been a practice of the board.

Discussion held on advertising, and the timeframe to accept resumes. Madam Chair Clayton will place an ad in the Grand Rapids Herald Review, on Facebook, and on the township website. Resumes will be accepted from March 21 through April 11, 2021. Those interested can submit their resumes to the Clerk email: harristownshipclerk@gmail.com

Clerk

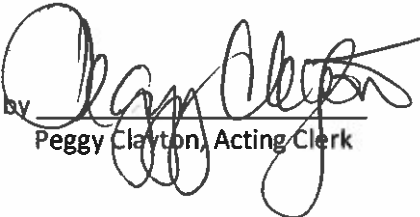
Madam Chair Clayton stated that the Clerk position is an important position for the Township, and is the first point of contact for the Board.

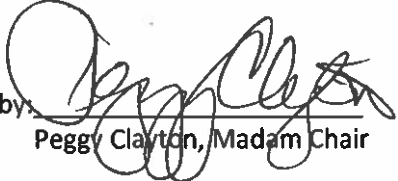
Discussion held on not utilizing Personnel Dynamics for the Clerk application process. The Board would save money hiring the person outright vs going through Personnel Dynamics, where we would be paying overhead above the \$19.00/hour.

Publishing in the Grand Rapids Herald Review, on Facebook, and on the website for the Clerk position, would also be done. Resumes would be accepted from March 21 through April 11, 2021 and can be submitted to the Clerk. Via email at: harristownshipclerk@mail.com

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to post and publish the Supervisor and Clerk vacancies, accept resumes from March 21, 2021 through April 11, 2021, and not go through Personnel Dynamics for the Clerk position. Motion carried.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 pm.

Prepared by 
Peggy Clayton, Acting Clerk

Signed by 
Peggy Clayton, Madam Chair