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Harris Township SINCE 1909



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

Mission Statement:

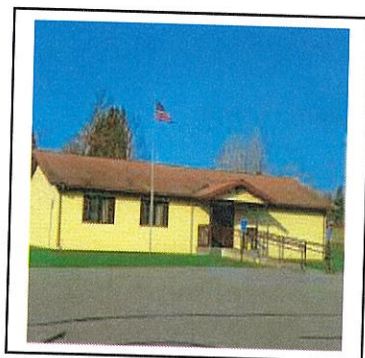
The Harris Town Board strives to enhance the quality of life, protect the environment, and maintain economic stability for the residents of their community.

www.harristownshipmn.org

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Township!



Budget Concerns

Chair Ken Haubrich

As I am writing this newsletter article to Harris Township Constituents, your Township Board is finalizing the budget for 2021. Most people know that paving, crack filling, graveling and grading, maintaining right of ways is a large majority of our budget. I would guess it's in the vicinity of 70% of the budget. The remaining budget is spent on maintaining the Parks, Boat Landings/ Lake Accesses, Cemetery, Township Hall, Service Center, and the cost of employees. The Township doesn't budget money for social causes, zoning, or enforcement of ordinances. The budget is mostly spent on maintaining the Township infrastructure and providing services such as snowplowing and gravel road grading.

However, there are other issues that are not being addressed because of budget constraints. Constituents who do not attend meetings or watch on ICTV as well as those who attend may not know about these issues because they are usually not discussed at regular business meetings.

Following is a list of the budgeting challenges, not necessarily in order of priority.

- Cemetery – The cemetery roads are in terrible condition and need to be reclaimed and paved.
- Wendigo Park – The park tennis courts and basketball court surfaces need to be reconditioned.
- Crystal Park – The park basketball court surface needs to be reconditioned.
- Service Center – The garage at the Service Center doesn't adequately meet what is needed.
- Township Hall – The windows need to be replaced, the siding needs to be replaced, and the parking lot surface is getting nearer to the end of its life as well.

Why are these issues challenges? Because these projects will need to be done sometime in the not too distant future, and they will be in addition to what is normally budgeted work and projects covered by the current Levy. This year our fire protection contract with the Grand Rapids Fire Department increased 21%. Increases like this really have a negative impact on the Township budget because it comes months after the budget is set.

So, where do we go from here? The Board has been averse to increasing levies for additional projects because of the tax burden already put on us by the School District and County. We are waiting to see the effects of the inevitable increased School District and County tax levies before moving forward.

Harris Township Board Meeting Schedule

Harris Town Board is scheduled to meet twice a month, at 7:30pm at the Harris Town Hall:

The Regular Meeting is held the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

The Planning and Development Meeting (aka P&D Mtg) is held the 4th Wednesday of every month. Both meetings are broadcast live on ICTV public access cable television, and can also be viewed online via their website: www.watchictv.org.

Keep in touch!

Hello Harris Township!

Have you wondered how you can keep updated on Harris Township meetings, news, etc? Check out our FB page! Send a friend request today to get the most up-to-date information on Harris Township happenings. It's our gateway to all of you!

Did you know our website has a calendar of meetings, etc for 2020? Did you know the website also has a "Special Events and Celebrations" sidebar? Check out our website: www.harristownshipmn.org

Our annual township meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Copies of the Harris Township's 2019 Annual Report will be available. We hope you can make it as this is "your meeting"! This meeting will also be live on "ICTV".

Nancy Kopacek is our newly appointed Treasurer (since January 13, 2020). Our Clerk position is still vacant. If you are interested in applying and/or obtaining the job description, please send your resume to: supervisorchtp@gmail.com.

Please know that we, as supervisors, are here to serve you to the best of our ability! Don't hesitate to call on me at any time at 218-259-1551!

Peggy Clayton
Vice Chair/Supervisor C

HOW TO FIND US

Nks and Roads



Snow, Signs and Supervisors

Greetings!

It's hard to believe it's 2020 already! I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Snow, snow and more snow. We have had our fair share. Spring cannot come soon enough. It is great for outdoor winter sports, skiing, snowmobiling, skating, etc. But it is NOT good for the shoveling!

The Driftskippers Snowmobile Club has new signage on their trails, partially funded by the Trails Task Force, otherwise known as TTF.

I would like to thank Supervisor Peg Clayton on the great job she did while Chairing Harris Township for the last 2 years. Also, Ken Haubrich who was the Associate Chair, and now is our Chair. It is a pleasure to be elected to this Board, everyone works very hard.

Thank you!

Mike Schack

Always available at 218-340-8852 or supervisorEHTP@gmail.com

United States
Census
2020

Are you looking for a temporary job that pays \$19/hour and \$.575 cents per mile? Apply for one of thousands of temporary 2020 Census jobs! Census results determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as how funds are spent on roads, schools and hospitals. Apply online today at: www.2020census.gov/jobs

Meet your Neighbor! "Dorothy Erholtz"

Dorothy (Cronk) Erholtz was born in March of 1935 to Kenneth & Gertrude Cronk. Bergitte Erickson acted as Midwife, as doctors weren't always available. The Cronk family moved here in 1920, 100 years ago this April, and were very involved with Harris Township.

The Cronk farm was 40 acres of potatoes, rutabagas, and some hay just north of the East Harris Rd. As with most homes of that era, there was no electricity or indoor plumbing. Water was hauled from a mile away by any means possible. They had no car at that time, and a tractor or doodlebug was used for farming, along with a horse that she rode through the woods to her friend's house when she was older.

Living north of the Blackberry road meant attending school in Grand Rapids, south of the Blackberry road meant attending Wendigo school. Dorothy attended Riverview, Central, and the old Bell Tower Jr. High and graduated in 1953 at 18 from Grand Rapids HS.

Dorothy remembers the first tarring of the River Rd. and how exciting it was for the young kids to watch and taste the new tar.

Her uncle Earl took her and some others to the 1940 Golden Jubilee in Grand Rapids, and she got her first airplane ride that day. She bought her first bicycle at 12 and later conned her brother out of his "Whizzer" motor bike before she could legally drive. Dorothy admitted she had been driving tractor and an old car, both with floor shifts, before she started driver's training at 15.

At 17 she worked at the Grand Rapids hospital as a Nurses Aid, but wanted to try something different. She applied for a "MALE ONLY" job at the GR airport, and worked there for 2 years. Graduating in 1953, Dorothy married John Erholtz, and they moved to Blackberry to take care of John's mother's farm for 3 years.

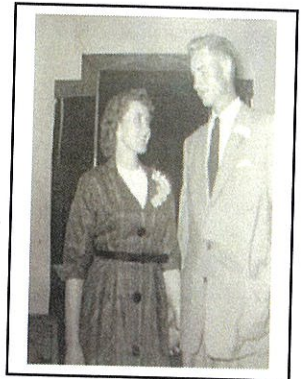
They built a new home on the corner of Harris Rd. and Wendigo Park Rd. in 1956. Her first home with electricity and indoor plumbing with running water!

She was a stay at home mom to their 4 children until 1970, when she went back to the hospital as a Nurses Aid again.

They bought the Clifford Smith Farm in 1968, sold part of it in 1983 to live on Mishawaka Rd., and moved back to the farm back in 1987. It's still the Erholtz home today.

There is so much more to Dorothy's Harris Township history, but I can't fit it into this column. I want to wish Dorothy and the Cronks a Happy 100th Anniversary for their time in Harris Township. You've been wonderful neighbors!

By Dan Butterfield



Annual Township Day

Annual Township Day is held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mark your calendar for democracy in action!

The annual meeting on Township Day is what really sets townships apart from other forms of local government. At this meeting, residents have a direct voice in how the township will be run and will vote on a variety of matters, including the amount they will pay in taxes the following year.

Township Day's annual meeting is a great place to talk about the future of your community and work with other residents in deciding how to meet those needs. Please plan on participating in grassroots government on Tuesday, March 10!

The Minnesota Association of Townships urges every township resident to attend their annual meeting.

Harris Township
c/o Peg Clayton
20876 Wendigo Park Road
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Rinks and Roads

Supervisor Jim Kelley

With winter half way gone the ice rinks have been getting more use this year than in the past. I think part of that is due to the great rink attendants we have this year. Also, for the first time we have volunteers flooding the rink at Wendigo so the ice conditions have been great. I would like to thank the hockey Dads and residents for their help. The rinks will remain open as long as the ice permits. Their hours are 4-8 Monday through Friday, 12-8 on weekends and days with no school.

Township roads are always on the minds of all of us. Once again as winter progresses, the snow is piling up. I have had calls from the County regarding residents pushing snow across the Township Roads. This could become a real issue if the snow continues, as the plows will not be able to get it off the roads far enough. So please, keep this in mind when plowing your driveways.

With March just around the corner, remember that Township Road Bans will be posted at the same time the State posts their bans. The posting and removal date are all weather dependent. All of the Town Roads are posted at 5 ton per axle, this is done to prevent the damage of our roads as the ground thaws.

We will also be looking at the upcoming construction season, as the roads that will be graveled or paved this year. We have a limited budget and this is a slower process than we like. In redoing the Town roads, we are trying to fix any issues with sub base corrections and culvert replace as we go, the hope is to prolong the life of our roads.

If you have questions, feel free to call Jim Kelley 259-0317