

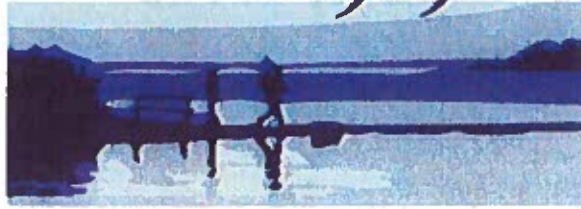
Madam Chair Peggy Clayton  
20356 Wendigo Park Road  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
Phone 218-259-1551

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 Vacant 244-1811

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

# 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)

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 12, 2022 MINUTES

**Present:** Madam Chair Clayton, Vice Chair Schack, Supervisor Gilbert, Supervisor Kelley, and Treasurer Kopacek

**Absent:** Supervisor Davies

**Pledge to the Flag** was conducted, followed by the reading of the township mission statement.

### **Approve the Minutes**

#### **Minutes of September 14, 2022 Regular Board Minutes**

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Kelley to approve the Minutes of the September 14, 2022 Regular Board Minutes. Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent Supervisor Davies. Motion carried.

#### **Minutes of October 7, 2022 Work Session Re: Maintenance, Mowing Contract, and Clerk Position**

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the Minutes of the October 7, 2022 Work Session Re: Maintenance, Mowing Contract, and Clerk Position. Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent Supervisor Davies. Motion carried.

### **Additions and Corrections**

Chair Clayton requested to remove agenda item 4C First Net/AT & T from Business from the Floor, remove agenda item 9A Sharepoint/One Drive Update from Old Business, and add Mediacom, Maintenance, Isleview Road and First Net/AT & T to 10C Schedule Work Session under New Business.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to remove agenda item 4C First Net/AT & T from Business from the Floor, remove agenda item 9A Sharepoint/One Drive Update from Old Business, add Mediacom, Maintenance, Isleview Road and First Net/AT & T to 10C Schedule Work Session under New Business, and approve the rest of the Regular Agenda. Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent Supervisor Davies. Motion carried.

### **Business from the Floor**

#### **Mishawaka Shores Association**

Jerry Troumbly, 20495 Mishawaka Trail, Grand Rapids, spoke on behalf of the Mishawaka Shores Association. As per Jerry, the association was asking when or if the township would be working on Mishawaka Trail as the road is in pretty rough shape (going in and out of Mishawaka trail).

Supervisor Kelley told those in attendance that Mishawaka Trail is on the township five-year road plan and work will be completed in the year 2023. Discussion held on the current potholes that are on Mishawaka Trail,

and if they could be filled in this year. Maintenance will work on getting the potholes filled. Jerry thanked the board.

### **One Percent Sales Tax/Commissioner Ives**

Commissioner Ives gave a presentation on the Justice Center project. This \$75M project includes an expanded and re-designed jail, and new court rooms to improve the efficiency of the county justice system. The improvements will include 80 new beds and a re-designed jail to improve safety and security for inmates and staff. Many constituents have been asking over the course of the last 2+ years why the justice center is being built. Commissioner Ives stated that the current Itasca County jail will lose its license to operate on May 1, 2023, because it no longer meets mandatory standards set by the Minnesota Department of Corrections. State inspections in 2019 found critical operational and safety issues that could not be addressed without a significant remodel or construction of a new facility. The counties 70-year old courtrooms also were deemed to be unsafe and inefficient. The poor state of both the jail and the court rooms ultimately led to the decision to build a justice center to address the needs of the counties criminal justice system.

On the November 8 election ballot, Itasca County voters will need to decide if they want to approve a county-wide 1% sales tax to finance the project. If the sales tax is rejected, the county will implement a property tax increase of approximately 10% to raise the revenue to repay the bonds. \*The referendum is not a vote to approve the project; only how to pay for it.

If the one percent sales tax is approved, non-residents would contribute 40% of the proceeds, which would be approximately \$30M, for the cost of the \$75M Justice Center (according to research by the University of Minnesota Extension Center for community vitality). A property tax would put the cost burden solely on those who own property within the county. The 1% sales and use tax would apply to the sale of the same goods and services within the county as the states general sales tax. The sales tax would cost the average resident \$52.96 per year. In comparison, the alternate property tax increase would cost the average Itasca County homeowner approximately \$90 per year.

By law, revenue from the proposed sales tax can only be used to pay down the bonds for the justice center. The sales tax would remain in place for a 30-year term or until the bonds for the project have been paid off. Based on current projections, the bonds would be repaid in 20 to 25 years.

Commissioner Ives was thanked for his presentation.

### **Consent Agenda**

There were no consent agenda items.

### **Roads**

#### **Sunny Beach Road**

Supervisor Kelley stated that Woodtick Landing is ready to be paved.

With the October 15, 2022 LRIP deadline coming up on the Sunny Beach project, the grading and paving of Sunny Beach will be completed in the next week, but the full project won't be completed until spring of 2023 (topcoat, joints, transitions, full road markings, etc). A road marking of a yellow line will be done (on the roadway), but there will be no fog line.

### **Roads**

Supervisor Kelley stated that grading of Bear Creek, Riverview, Lakeview Trail, etc. will take place the week of October 17, 2022. There is considerable wash boarding on the specific roads. The grading of the roads should hold up until spring 2023.

## **Culvert Purchases**

Supervisor Gilbert discussed the current culvert policy, whereby the township provides a new culvert for those constituents that are putting in a new driveway into their property. Supervisor Gilbert asked if maintenance is keeping track of culvert purchases. Short discussion held.

Chair Clayton stated that currently the treasurer has to go through maintenance reports to determine when culverts have been purchased, in order for her to pay an invoice for a culvert purchase.

Chair Clayton stated that when the township sells cemetery sites, those deeds are placed on our consent agenda. When the Environmental Services Department approves SSTS permits and zoning permits for the township, those permits are placed on our consent agenda. It would make sense that if the township is purchasing culverts for new driveways, that a form be completed by Maintenance and/or the supervisor when the township receives a request from a constituent wanting a culvert. The form could denote who the purchaser is/address, the size of the culvert needed, the cost of the culvert, order date, and the vendor. Furthermore, when the culvert is delivered that could also be noted on the form. This would make life a lot easier for our treasurer when she receive bills for culverts, and also when the board goes through budgets. The board would have actual reports that would show how many culverts were purchased and costs associated (with purchases). A copy of that completed form could then be given to the treasurer and also placed on the consent agenda. Discussion held.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to have Supervisor Schack pull together a form to be used when culvert requests come forward. Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent Supervisor Davies. Motion carried.

## **Recreation Rinks**

Supervisor Kelley recommended the board move forward on obtaining rink attendants for the upcoming season. Chair Clayton would contact Personnel Dynamics to advertise for individuals interested in being a rink attendant. Both Supervisor Kelley and Chair Clayton would then proceed with interviewing, if needed. Short discussion followed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Schack to move forward with the hiring of rink attendants through Personnel Dynamics for the upcoming season. Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent Supervisor Davies. Motion carried.

## **Correspondence Township Association Minutes of September 12, 2022**

Informational.

## **New Business Posting for Hall Election Set-up**

Chair Clayton told the board that she will need to post for a possible quorum to set up for the Tuesday, November 8, 2022 election, on Monday, November 7, 2022 from 10:00 am – 12 Noon.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to post for a possible quorum to set up for the Tuesday, November 8, 2022 election, on Monday, November 7, 2022 from 10:00 am – 12 Noon. Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent Supervisor Davies. Motion carried.

## **Schedule & Post Clerk Interviews**

Chair Clayton suggested the board move forward with Clerk interviews. There are potentially 2 candidates to be interviewed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Chair Clayton to schedule Clerk interviews for Thursday, October 20, 2022 beginning at 5:30 pm at the town hall, and post said notice. Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent Supervisor Davies. Motion carried.

Chair Clayton will contact the two candidates, and post the notice.

### **Schedule & Post Work Session Re: SharePoint Training**

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to schedule a work session Re : Sharepoint training, Isleview Road, Mediacom, Maintenance, and First Net/AT & T, for Monday, October 24, 2022 at 5:30 pm at the town hall. Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent Supervisor Davies. Motion carried.

### **Schedule & Post Board of Canvass**

Chair Clayton stated that as per M.S.205.185, subd. 3, the town board must meet to canvass the returns and declare the election results within 3 to 10 days after the November Township election. The Clerk must prepare a canvass report to accumulate results from the precinct. Day 3 would be November 11th, and day 10 would be November 18, 2022. Discussion followed. Supervisor Kelley will be gone during that time frame, but requested he be able to zoom in whenever the Board of Canvass date is decided. Chair Clayton will follow through to determine what will need to be done in order to have Supervisor Kelley zoom in at the township Board of Canvass.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to schedule the Board of Canvass for Monday, November 14, 2022 at 5:30 pm at the town hall. Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent Supervisor Davies. Motion carried.

The Board of Canvass will need to be posted and will also need to be published.

### **Treasurer's Report Approve September 2022 Treasurers Report**

Treasurer Kopacek reviewed the treasurers report. Treasurer Kopacek asked Chair Clayton if she could follow up on Check #20659 in the amount of \$290.00 as it remains outstanding; the Chair will do so.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve the Treasurers September Report in the amount of \$2,699,406.94. Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent Supervisor Davies. Motion carried.

### **Approve the Payment of Bills**

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve the Claims list #20699 through ##20717, and EFTs #10122201 through #10122208 in the amount of \$13,958.72. Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent Supervisor Davies. Motion carried.

### **Public Input**

Dan Butterfield advised the Board that the Conditional Use Permit for Thomas Krumrei was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission, and thanked the board for always completing the findings of fact, as it's important for the Planning Commission to have that information from Townships.

Commissioner Ives updated the Board that the County Board approved a canister site ( opened M-F, 8:00am-5:00 pm) in the southern part of the County. The site is located in BlackBerry Township/Danson Road. Construction, etc. will begin in 2023.

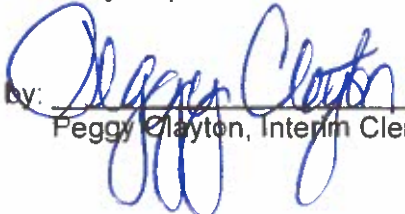
**UPCOMING Events/Meetings**


October 20, 2022	Clerk Interviews	5:30 pm Town Hall
October 24, 2022	Work Session Re: Isleview Road, Maint, Sharepoint, Mediacom, First Net/AT&T	5:30 pm Town Hall
October 26, 2022	P and D Board Meeting	7:30 pm Town Hall
November 7, 2022	Hall Election Set-up	10:00 am -12 Noon T. Hall
November 8, 2022	Elections	7:00 am - 8:00 pm T. Hall
November 9, 2022	Regular Board Meeting	7:30 pm Town Hall
November 14, 2022	Board of Canvass	5:30 pm Town Hall
November 14, 2022	Township Association Meeting	7:00 pm Town Hall
November 22, 2022	P and D Board Meeting	7:30 pm Town Hall

- Special Note: November P and D Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 22, 2022 instead of Wednesday, November 23, 2022, due to Thanksgiving week!

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Schack to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm.

Prepared by:   
Peggy Clayton, Interim Clerk

Signed by:   
Peggy Clayton, Madam Chair



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**October 27, 2022**  
**Emergency Meeting Minutes**  
**5:30pm**  
**Harris Service Center**

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

Chair Clayton called an emergency meeting with the board regarding Mediacom and Paul Bunyan.

Chair Clayton received an email from ICTV regarding the board meeting and live streaming of October 26. ICTV ran a test on the meeting to see if they could improve the township live airing of the township board, and what was determined that the township is in need of a hard connection to the modem. ICTV provided two companies that could make a hard wire connection to the modem as ICTV does not provide that and neither does Mediacom. ICTV can't run the cord every meeting as an insurance rep confirmed it would be considered a trip hazard and they would bear responsibility, so until the connection is made, ICTV can only set up a wide shot for the live meetings as there's not enough bandwidth for panning the room, and close ups without it cutting out.

The township would need to pay for a hard connection the modem, and without knowing the total costs associated with that move, Chair Clayton told the board that she did some checking with Paul Bunyan to get some prices on going through Paul Bunyan versus Mediacom, as the township continues to have issues with Mediacom connections.

The Paul Bunyan rep stated that they could provide Internet at our Town hall, service center, and both parks for \$60 per month, and a \$10 additional fee for Wi-Fi connection, which would be \$70/month for all 4 locations. PB would provide 250 mbps connection on their GigaZone fiber network. (The cost does include the wifi router, supplied by PB). The chair did check with ICTV and they said that 250 Mbps connection would be great.

In order for Paul Bunyan to move forward they need drop permits to be completed for each of our locations as soon as possible.

Discussion followed on Mediacom versus Paul Bunyan, and it was determined that Paul Bunyan would be a better route for us to take with everything that's been going on with Mediacom over the course of the last two years.

Chair Clayton stressed the fact that if the board authorizes Paul Bunyan, the Chair would need to get the drop permits completed and sent to the Paul Bunyan Rep so they can reach out to their engineering department to see if they can get the it completed for this construction season. The Chair also stated that there is no charge or activation fee for the digging at each of the locations.

The board reviewed the current cost associated with Mediacom as it relates to the difference in what Paul Bunyan would charge. Our last bill with Mediacom for all four locations for Internet and Wi-Fi was \$755.85. If the board decided to go with Paul Bunyan the cost would be \$280 per month plus the applicable taxes etc. This would be a huge savings for the township. The current phones in the park warming shacks are \$39.95/month, and even if the township stayed with Mediacom and removed the two phones at the two parks, that would decrease the \$755 bill down to \$475, which is still more than the township would be paying if the board went with Paul Bunyan. Discussion followed on the pros and cons between the two service providers,

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to move forward with Paul Bunyan, and authorize the Chair to complete the four drop permits, and send to Paul Bunyan so the board can get the installations in place. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to adjourn the emergency meeting at 5:58 pm.

Submitted by:



Peggy Clayton, Interim Clerk

Signed by:



Peggy Clayton, Chair