

Madam Chair Peggy Clayton
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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

Regular Board Meeting April 14, 2021 Minutes

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

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

Approve Minutes

Minutes of March 10, 2021 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2021 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Additions and Corrections

Madam Chair Clayton requested to add: MAT District 11 Virtual Township Lobby Day under New Business as 10F; Respect Minnesota under Business from the Floor; Hauser Road under Roads as 6E; and Northland Flooring and Ceiling under Public Input.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to add MAT District 11 Virtual Township Lobby Day under New Business as 10F; Respect Minnesota under Business from the Floor; Hauser Road under Roads as 6E; and Northland Flooring and Ceiling under Public Input and approve the rest of the Regular Agenda. Motion carried.

Business from the Floor

Kathy Ross, 21681 Mishawaka Road, Grand Rapids, MN, representing Respect Minnesota, spoke on the Respect Minnesota initiative. Kathy composed a slide show presentation for the board, denoting that this initiative was created in 2019. The slideshow provided information on the Respect Minnesota Pledge. Kathy further talked about the Resolution which will also be making its way to the County Board, along with other cities and townships within Itasca County.

The Resolution presented by Kathy, authorizes the abidance of the Respect Minnesota Pledge to include individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and organizations that reside in the boundaries of Harris Township.

Brief discussion, with questions and answers, took place.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to accept and sign the Resolution authorizing the abidance of the Respect Minnesota Pledge by Harris Township. Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda
Dumke Cemetery Deed
Zoning/Land Use Itasca County Land Use Permits**

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the Consent Agenda, as delineated above. Motion carried.

**Roads
Vacation of Platted Road/Schedule Public Hearing**

Township Attorney Andy Shaw provided the Petition for Vacation of Platted Road Pursuant to MS 164.07, regarding the road vacate request made by Nancy Miller (the entirety of Hudson Avenue where the same lies westerly of Birch Avenue, Plat of East Wendigo Park). Attorney Shaw explained to the Board that this road vacate would be an extension of the Taydyk Road Vacate from a few months back. For this particular road vacate, the DNR will need to be contacted/.involved as the road vacate extends down to the Pokegama Lake waters.

In normal road vacates, a public hearing must be scheduled within 60 days of the April 14th request, but because the DNR will need to be involved, a public hearing will need to be scheduled within 75 days of the April 14th request.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to schedule the public hearing for road vacate on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 5:00 pm at the Town Hall. Motion carried.

Schedule Board Viewing of Road Vacation

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to schedule the board viewing of the road vacation for Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 5:00 pm. Motion carried.

Lake Country Power/Gunderson Utility Permit

Supervisor Kelley discussed the Application for Utility Permit on Township Right of Way submitted by Gary Gunderson, on behalf of Lake Country Power. The application was made for permission to place, construct, and thereafter maintain a UG Power Line along/across Sunny Beach Road from the north side of the road to the south side of the road, and 20 feet from the center line.

A motion was made by Chair Clayton and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve and sign the Application for Utility Permit on Township Right of Way submitted by Gary Gunderson, on behalf of Lake Country Power, with the Board. The application was made for permission to place, construct, and thereafter maintain a UG Power Line along/across Sunny Beach Road from the north side of the road to the south side of the road, and 20 feet from the center line. Motion carried.

Road Inspection Report of April 4, 2021

Brief discussion took place on the Road Inspection Report of April 4, 2021, and the condition of the gravel roads. Supervisor Kelley stated that grading of the roads was completed, but due to the changes in the weather/precipitation, grading will once again need to be completed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve the Road Inspection Report dated April 4, 2021. Motion carried.

Hauser Road (add on):

Supervisor Kelley requested board authorization to obtain 4-5 loads of Class 5 for Hauser Road with said road work to be completed the week of April 19, 2021.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve the purchase of 4-5 loads of Class 5 for Hauser Road. Motion carried.

Recreation

Town Hall (tabled from March 24, 2021)

Chair Clayton provided additional information regarding opening the town hall for rentals. Chair Clayton attended a zoom session regarding the guidelines for hall rentals and spoke with both MAT Attorneys Karl and Steve. Halls can now open for rentals at 50% capacity. Guidelines for opening would be maintaining social distancing of 6 ft, with masks to be worn.

Harris Town Hall has a maximum capacity of 120 (seated), and 50% would be 60. The 60 would encompass the meeting area, without board tables, etc.

Hall rental (event) maximum capacity would be 77, with 50% being roughly 40, which would include tables and chairs. Those seated would need to adhere to the guidelines of social distancing of 6 ft and masks when not eating, etc.

The hall has one graduation party scheduled for the end of May, while June has 6 graduation parties on the books. Under normal circumstances, the renter is in charge of cleaning the hall, tables, chairs, kitchen, etc. If the hall opens for rentals, tables and chairs would need to be left out, and the caretaker would need to clean above and beyond what was being done prior to the pandemic.

Chair Clayton spoke with two townships. One township has already opened, and renters are adhering to the guidelines. The other township is scheduled to open in June.

Chair Clayton has discussed the hall rentals with Caretaker Friesen and they both agreed that an increase in the current hall rental fee would need to take place. Discussion held on the additional time which would be needed to clean, etc., as that would dictate how much the rental fee would increase. Currently residents pay \$50 and non-residents pay \$150. Both pay the \$50 damage deposit.

Discussion held on tabling this item to the April 28, 2021 P and D Meeting so Chair Clayton can further discuss with Caretaker Friesen the additional time which will be needed to clean the hall, in its entirety.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to table the town hall to the Wednesday, April 28, 2021 P and D Meeting. Motion carried.

Chair Clayton also stated that with the Governors orders: "if a town board chooses to meet in-person they must require all who are attending to wear a face mask or face shield and can remove it if they are addressing the board." A sign denoting masks must be worn at the town hall will be put up on the entrance door, which will be effective April 15, 2021.

Pickle Ball

Supervisor Kelley stated he received a call regarding the use of the Wendigo Park Tennis Court to play Pickle Ball. If the Board approved the request, the party would also like to paint a white line closer to the net, on both sides. Brief discussion took place. The Board did not have any concerns regarding the request, and it was also suggested that the maintenance staff paint the lines. Supervisor Kelley has not heard back from the constituent, as of the April 14th meeting, but will relay this information to the constituent in any future conversation(s).

Correspondence
Itasca County Historical Society Thank You
MDH Report of Analytical Results (Informational)
Network Opportunities Meeting of March 24, 2021

Chair Clayton stated that the Itasca County Historical Society Thank You; MDH Report of Analytical Results; and Network Opportunities Meeting of March 24, 2021 are informational only.

Old Business
First Call for Help Donation

Treasurer Kopacek reviewed past budget and levy requests of the Board in relation to the First Call for Help Donation. (This donation request was discussed at the March 24th P and D Meeting, and there was discussion that this donation should come out of the 2022 budget.)

Treasurer Kopacek stated that in 2020 the constituents at the annual meeting recommended approval of \$4,250 to the City of Grand Rapids for fireworks, and those funds came out of the 2020 budget. Furthermore, when the constituents review donation requests at the annual meeting, it has always been the intent to have those requests of funds to come out of the same year budget. Unless the constituents are told differently, it would be hard pressed for the board to change those recommendations, coming forward.

Treasurer Kopacek recommended that during the yearly board budget meetings a new account could be set up and titled "donation requests" which could then be used for annual donation requests for each specific budget year. The Board could determine how much to place in the budget year to year, which would then become a consistent practice in dealing with annual donation requests. Brief discussion held. The board was in agreement with this process moving forward during the next budget session .

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the recommendation of a \$1,000 donation to First Call for Help (made at the March 9, 2021 Annual Meeting, and sign said contract). Motion carried.

Mishawaka Fence

Supervisor Schack stated that he has continued his talks with the neighbor at the Mishawaka Landing. The neighbor wants to move forward with a privacy fence and stated that if Harris Township was in agreement he would be willing to share the cost of constructing this privacy fence. Discussion held on the pros and cons of the fence.

The board decided that the township would replace 80ft of the existing (township owned) chain link fence, and let the neighbor construct his own privacy fence. Supervisor Schack will contact the property owner.

Dust Control

Supervisor Kelley recommended the board move forward with a contract with Dust B Gone for dust control. Supervisor Kelley will contact them to obtain a contract/invoice to bring forward to a future board meeting for approval.

Annual Snowplow Contract

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Chair Clayton to approve and sign the 2021-2022 Annual Grading/Snowplow Contract which shall commence on the first day of May 2021 and shall continue for a 12-month period. Motion carried.

New Business

Schedule Supervisor Interviews

Chair Clayton Stated that 4 resumes have been received for the Supervisor A vacancy.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Schack to schedule and post Supervisor A interviews to take place on Monday, April 19, 2021 beginning at 6:00 pm at the town hall. Motion carried. These interviews are open to the public.

Schedule Clerk Interviews

Chair Clayton stated that 4 resumes were received for the Clerk vacancy.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Schack to schedule and post Clerk interviews to take place on Thursday, April 22, 2021 beginning at 6:00 pm. Motion carried.

Schedule Spring Road Tour

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to schedule and post the Spring Road Inspection Tour for Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 9:00 am. Motion carried.

Supervisors will meet at 9:00 am at the Town Hall. The public is invited to follow/drive along.

Schedule Spring Road Clean-Up

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to schedule and post the "Adopt a Highway" Spring Road Clean-up for Monday, May 3, 2021 at 5:00 pm. Motion carried.

Supervisors will meet at the Cemetery and disperse from that location.

Country House

Supervisor Gilbert updated the board on a call from the new owner of the (old) Country House located in the township, who was looking for some guidance/direction from the Board on remodeling, etc. Brief discussion took place. Supervisor Gilbert will contact Sarah Carling with IEDC.

MAT District 11 Virtual Township Lobby Day (add on)

Chair Clayton discussed the upcoming MAT District 11 Township Lobby Day which will take place on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. State legislators who were invited to participate will be from Aitkin, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca and Koochiching Counties.

Chair Clayton would like to attend the virtual session and asked supervisors if they were interested in attending, as she will need to post this session, if the board has a quorum.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Clayton to authorize supervisors to attend this virtual session on April 21, 2021. Motion carried. This session will be posted!

Treasurer's Report

Approve Treasurers Report

Treasurer Kopacek reviewed the Cash Control Statement for March 2021. Treasurer Kopacek stated she is still holding the Wells Fargo checking account open, as there are outstanding checks that have not Cleared the bank. Treasurer Kopacek also discussed keeping funds in that account to cover the checks totaling \$4,328.90.

Discussion held on maintaining the Wells Fargo Credit Card or moving over to a Grand Rapids State Bank card. It was the consensus of the Board to cancel the Wells Fargo Credit Card and move over to a Grand Rapids State Bank card.

A motion was made by Chair Clayton and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to approve the Treasurer Report for March 2021 in the amount of \$1,510,113.70, and keep \$5,000.00 in the Wells Fargo Checking Account. Motion carried.

Approve the Payment of Bills

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve Claims #20037 thru #20056 and EFTs #04142101 thru #04142109, and EFTs #033121 and #0331212 in the amount of \$16,748.16. Motion carried.

Public Input

Chair Clayton reviewed an email received from Sarah Carling, IEDC regarding Northland Flooring and Ceiling who will be relocating to the (old) Pit Stop/Pizza Palace on Hwy 169/Harris Township. IRRRB funding is being explored which would help with renovations, etc, with this business.

UPCOMING Events/Meetings

April 19, 2021	Supervisor A Interviews	6:00 pm Town Hall
April 22, 2021	Clerk Interviews	6:00 pm Town Hall
April 28, 2021	P & D Meeting	7:30 pm Town Hall
April 29, 2021	Local Board of Appeal	9:00 am Town Hall
May 1, 2021	Spring Road Inspections	9:00 am Town Hall
May 3, 2021	Annual Road Clean-up	9:00 am Harris Cemetery
May 12, 2021	Regular Board Meeting	7:30 pm Town Hall
May 26, 2021	P and D Board Meeting	7:30 pm Town Hall
July 14, 2021	Road Vacate Public Hearing and Board Viewing	5:00 pm Town Hall

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 pm.

Prepared by:


Peggy Clayton Acting Clerk

Signed by:


Peggy Clayton, Madam Chair