

**Minutes from the
Annual Harris Town Meeting
March 9, 2010
8:15pm
(DRAFT)**

1. Call Annual Meeting to Order

The annual Harris Town meeting was called to order by Clerk Michele Smith at 8:15pm on March 9, 2010 at the Harris Town Hall. Approximately 13 residents were in attendance, including all board members (Michele Smith, Gary Rosato, Larry Key, Dennis Kortekaas, and John Jokela) as well as Peggy Bishop, Rusty Eichorn, Denise Davis, Etta Jane Flohaug, Rick Pearson, Patty Gould St. Albin, Jim and Shirley Wicklund. Also in attendance were ICTV, Brian Carlson from the Itasca Fair Board and Lilah Crowe from the Itasca County Historical Society.

2. Pledge to the flag

Everyone in attendance joined the Clerk in the pledge to the flag.

3. Election of a moderator

Clerk Smith called for nominations of a moderator for tonight's meeting. Rusty Eichorn was nominated by Larry Key; no other nominations were received.

Upon roll call, the electorate voted unanimously to approve Rusty Eichorn as the Moderator of the Annual Harris Town Meeting. There was no one opposed..

4. Approve minutes of the annual meeting held March 10, 2009

The minutes were provided for everyone's review in the annual report packet handed out at the meeting. Chairman Eichorn dispensed the reading of the minutes.

A motion was made by Larry Key, seconded by Jim Wicklund, to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2009 Annual Town Meeting as written. Upon roll call, motion carried.

5. Receive and approve the Treasurer's Annual Financial report for 2009

The annual report was provided for everyone's review in the annual report packet for the 2009 calendar year. Chairman Eichorn recapped the beginning and ending balances shown in the report, funds, transfers in/out and balances. There were neither questions nor comments from the floor.

Jim Wicklund made a motion, seconded by Larry Key, to approve the Treasurer's Annual 2009 Financial Report as presented. Upon roll call, motion carried.

6. Review Levy Comparison for years 2006 through 2011

A levy comparison, split by fund, from 2006 actual to 2011 proposed, was provided for everyone's review in the annual packet. Chairman Eichorn recapped that the total proposed budget for 2011 was \$845,000. This was the same amount that was adopted in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

7. Consider Approval of the 2011 Operating Levies

There were two options listed under item 7, to either a.) Approve the proposed operating levy for 2011 in total, or to b.) Approve operating levies by fund.

Gary Rosato made a motion to approve the 2011 operating levy in total, in the amount of \$845,000, as shown by fund in detail on pages 13 – 23 of the 2009 Annual Town Meeting Report. The motion was seconded by Larry Key and upon roll call carried by a unanimous vote.

8. Review Resolution #2008-004 Donation or Contribution Request Policy

Chairman Eichorn read aloud Resolution #2008-004, noting it was passed by the Harris Town Board on May 14, 2008. In brief, it stated that the Harris Town Board determined it was not appropriate to donate public township funds to private or non-profit organizations, as it's difficult to ascertain the direct benefit to the township. As a result, it was resolved that all future requests for donations or contributions made at annual meetings would be denied by the Board, with the exception of donating *by levy* to the Itasca Co. Historical Society and Agricultural Fair Board, both of which are specifically allowed by Minnesota statutes.

9. Consider each request for a donation/contribution or an additional levy

- **Itasca County Historical Society**

A letter was received from Lilah Crowe, Executive Director of the Historical Society, asking for special **levy** of \$1.00 per capital for 2011, which totaled \$3,328 annually based on Harris Township's 2000 census figure. This is the same amount that has been requested and awarded the past several years.

Lilah was in attendance and gave a presentation to the people. She spoke about the new genealogy center they have, and the work they did to help with the Harris Township history book. She also talked about technology, and how they are scanning and indexing many documents. In addition, Lilah talked about the "Find a Grave" project, and that Harris Township cemetery is done – the first one in Itasca County. For this project, all tomb stones were digitally photographed and measured, and then the information was put in the computer. Each year, people will come out to take photos of the new headstones. The Historical Society is working on doing all of Itasca county cemeteries (about 40).

A motion was made by Larry Key, seconded by Rick Pearson, to approve a \$1.00 per capital special levy for the Itasca County Historical Society, collectible in 2011, which represents an annual amount of \$3,328.00. Upon a vote, the motion for a special levy passed unanimously.

- **Itasca County Agricultural Society (aka Fair Board)**

Brian Carlson gave a presentation in support of the letter received by Clerk Smith, which asked for a \$1,000.00 donation via a special levy for 2011. Bryan explained that the funds would be used for operational support of the Itasca County Fair, and not capital improvement projects.

Brian shared some of the fair board's past accomplishments. Some of these were improvements to the children's barn with updated electricity, additional lighting, and hand washing stations. They are still working on fencing off the fairgrounds to eliminate the deer/tick population. It would also help control vandalism, and adds admission control. Knowing admission numbers is needed for grant requests.

This year, the Fair Board is looking at moving the pony ride ring towards the horse barn, and moving the beer gardens to where the pony rides are currently. Also, they plan to move the 4 H food building closer to main fair grounds, and add a medical building. 2011 is the bicentennial for county fairs nation-wide.

Larry Key made a motion, seconded by Shirley Wicklund, to approve a 2011 special levy for the Fair Board in the amount of \$1,000.00. Upon a vote by the people, the motion carried unanimously.

- IAASA: No \$ amount requested
There was no one in attendance from IAASA at tonight's meeting to present on this request. There was no action from the floor, and therefore no action was taken on the request.
- Elder Circle
\$150 was requested. However, no one was at tonight's meeting to make a presentation on the request. There was no action from the floor, and therefore no action was taken on the request.
Peggy Bishop commented that representatives from Elder circle stopped by during the election, and she did point out resolution #2008-004 regarding the Board's position on donation requests. As a result, they opted not to come to the annual meeting.
- Home Visitor Program
A representative stopped by during the election, and requested a donation, but no letter was received, nor did anyone show up at the annual meeting to make a presentation.
There was no action from the floor, and therefore no action was taken on the request.

10. Old business

- None

11. New business

- Accomplishments were noted by Chairman Eichorn, including the township centennial celebration held July 5, 2009. Gary Rosato spoke that it was a great day, with good food, good music, games, meeting neighbors, and an ice-cream truck. The Board published a history book and centennial mugs, with a township logo, were sold..
- Rick Pearson asked about the status of Paul Bunyan coming to Harris Township. The Board explained that it is the Board's desire for Paul Bunyan to come into the township. However, negotiations have not been successful and Paul Bunyan has not returned the Township Attorney's request for discussions. However, Gary Rosato suggested that this topic be discussed at tomorrow night's town board meeting, and perhaps they needed to start fresh. Mr. Pearson stated he would not be able to attend, but thanked the Board for whatever they could do.

As a summary, the following levies were approved for 2010:

General Fund Operations	\$150,000
Historical Society	\$ 3,328
Itasca Co. Agricultural Assoc. (Fair Board)	\$ 1,000
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 300,000
Equipment Fund	\$ 40,000
Cemetery Fund	\$ 30,000
Recreation Fund	\$ 30,000
Building & Grounds Fund	\$ 40,000
Fire Fund	\$ 65,000
Capital Improvement Fund	\$190,000
Total levy collectible in 2009	<u>\$849,328</u>

12. Set *time* for next Annual Meeting, in year 2011

Chairman Eichorn noted that the Minnesota State Statutes dictate that the Annual Town Meeting be held the second Tuesday in March, but that the *time* must be set by the people.

Dennis Kortekaas made a motion, seconded by Gary Rosato, to set the time for the 2011 Annual Harris Town Meeting for 8:15pm with the Board of canvass meeting to be held immediately following the Annual Meeting. Upon roll call, the motion carried.

13. Adjourn

Larry Key made a motion to adjourn the Annual Harris Town Meeting. Dennis Kortekaas seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele R. Smith, Clerk of Harris Twp