

**MINUTES from the Regular Meeting
Harris Township Board
Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 7:30pm**

The Regular Meeting of the Harris Town Board was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Chairman Key, at the Harris Town Hall, with the following officers present: Supervisors Gary Rosato, Larry Key and Dennis Kortekaas, Treasurer John Jokela, and Clerk Michele Smith. Absent: none.

Guests: Josh Hafar – Express Employment Professionals
Note: Julie Kennedy was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

1. **Pledge to the flag**, followed by the reading of the township mission statement
2. **Approve minutes** of the Regular Meeting on September 9, and the P&D Meeting on September 23, 2009

A motion was made by Supervisor Kortekaas, seconded by Supervisor Rosato, to approve the minutes of the meetings from September 9th and 23rd, 2009 as submitted; upon roll call, motion carried.

3. Recreation

- Josh Hafar – from “Express Pros” employment agency: Discuss using their services for hiring rink attendants
Josh, the Regional Manager for Express Employment Professionals, presented a proposal to the board, for the cost of them doing the hiring of the township's seasonal rink attendants. He noted that the following is included with their services: advertising, recruiting, interviewing, reference checks, back ground checks, and payroll. This proposal will be reviewed in detail by the Board at the October 28th P&D meeting, along with the financial impact on the 2009 and 2010 budgets.
Hafar explained that during the selection process, Express Pros would interview from a large pool of candidates and the have the selected candidates meet the board. The township would not collect any paperwork, or run any ads. If the Board has someone in mind, or someone has been recommended to them, that person would simply have to sign up with Express Pros, and they'd take it from there – doing a screening interview and background check (they have their own system for this).
Supervisor Key stated that it works best if 4 rink attendants are hired – one for each rink, and a back up for each rink. Key also mentioned some of the problems they have include inclement weather, and no-shows.
The clerk will put the review of the Express Pros proposal on the agenda for the October P&D meeting.
- Crystal Park warming house update
Supervisor Key ordered an electric heater through Northern Air for the new Crystal Park Warming House. Summit Electric has agreed to hook up the heater when it arrives. Dan is in the process of putting on window guards, and mats have been purchased. It's almost ready for the winter season.

4. Business from the floor

None

5. Roads

- Review **Road Vacation Petition** from Ernie Jacobson, of the “Unnamed Road/Alley” of the Sunset Park Plat, located at the end of Isleview Road, at the junction of Birch Street. Consider approving Resolution #2009-008 to set public hearing date.

The petition and accompanying plat diagram were reviewed by the Board. It was unclear if the road ROW goes all the way to the lake, as the shoreline is very rough, and swampy. However, to be safe, the Clerk will notify the DNR as per the vacation regulations, just to be safe. The DNR requires 30 days notice of the Vacation Hearing.

Resolution #2009-008, a Resolution Setting Hearing Date in Response to Road Vacation Petition was introduced by Supervisor Rosato. Supervisor Rosato then made a motion to approve the resolution, setting the hearing date for Wednesday, December 9th, 2009 at 7:45pm at the Harris Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas and upon roll call, passed by a unanimous vote.

Clerk Smith will contact the township's attorney, Andy Shaw, to inform him of the hearing, and verify the next steps in the vacation process.

- Discuss Lake Country Power's request for an easement along Bear Creek, to redo their power line (Larry)

Supervisor Key received call from Lake Country Power (LCP), requesting an easement along Bear Creek Road, in order to replace their existing power line. Currently, the line comes in from County Road 455, through the swamp which is causing the cable to deteriorate. The new power line will come in from the Hwy 169 side.

It will be a reconstruction similar to what was recently done along Wendigo Park Road, though LCP wants to use the township's ROW for most of the power line placement. Julie Kennedy (SEH) has been notified, per Key, and has agreed to check into the easement.

Because this may affect the edge of resident's properties, Key suggested holding a public information meeting for the residents of Bear Creek, if the easement is granted.

The Board decided to hold off on making a decision on granting the easement until information is received from Julie. Construction will not begin until the spring 2010, so there is time to check into it.

- Consider approval of Qwest buried cable permit, job 92M23Z4, on Wendigo Park Road

Supervisor Rosato made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve the buried cable permit for job #92M23Z4, for underground boring by Qwest, near Wendigo Pines on Wendigo Park Road. Upon roll call, motion carried.

- Sunny Beach Addition Road

Supervisor Key received a call that a contractor was damaging Sunny Beach Addition Road, as they were building a new cabin and driving big cement trucks in there. It's only a 12 foot wide roadway. Key contacted the contractor and they agreed to build the road back up when they are done.

- Dumping in Wetland along Sunny Beach Addition

Another concern noted along Sunny Beach Addition was that people are dumping leaves & brush into the lake. Supervisor Key got the impression from a speaker at the recent Twp Association Meeting that this is not allowed as it damages the drainage, in addition to filling in a wetland.

The board will try to verify if this is the case, and put an article about it in the next news letter.

- Mishawaka drainage:

Julie Kennedy was not able to be at tonight's meeting, but the Board did inquire on the status of the fix for the Mishawaka drainage problem, as they'd like to correct yet this year.

6. Treasurer's Reports

- Consider for approval, the Treasurer's report for September 1 – 30, 2009 financials

A motion was made by Supervisor Kortekaas, seconded by Supervisor Rosato, to approve the Treasurer's Report of September 1-30, 2009 financials. Upon roll call, motion carried.

7. Cemetery

- Discuss cremain disinterment/re-interment request from Walt Erickson, and proposed pricing to do so. Discuss any necessary changes to the cemetery policy, to allow for the board's discretion on unique situations.

A former resident wants to move three cremains to open sites within the eight sites that he owns. According to our recently revised cemetery fee schedule (9/25/09), the cost for each disinterment is \$100 and each burial \$50. This would total \$450, which seemed like an unfairly high price, given the disinterments/reinterments would all be done on the same day, and were not being moved very far (10 feet). In addition, Supervisor Key stated that the locations of the cremains are marked well, so he didn't see this as a huge problem.

Erickson wants the cremains moved is to create open sites for his immediate family – of which he predicted he'll need to use soon.

It was noted that our current Cemetery policy, under the "Disclosure" statement, states "The Harris Town Board of Supervisors reserves the right to change, amend, make exceptions to, revise or discontinue any policy, practice, rule or regulations set forth in this policy at any time in its sole and absolute discretion". In accordance with that statement, the following motion was made:

Supervisor Kortekaas made a motion to charge \$250.00 (two hundred and fifty dollars) for the 3 disinterments and reinterments as requested by Walt Erickson: Move two cremains from Section 1, Block 13, Lot 4, site 2 to site 6, and one cremains from site 3 to site 7. Supervisor Rosato seconded the motion, and upon roll call, motion carried unanimously.

- Grave heater is bad

Supervisor Key stated that the grave heater which the maintenance crew currently uses is bad. They are looking into building one (which uses a boiler and a generator) rather than buying one in order to save money. New ones cost about \$19,000 and used ones cost about \$9,000. Key said he hopes to make it through this winter with the current heater, but will need something different before next winter.

- The new cemetery addition area has been worked up by Johnsons a couple times; it looks good.
- There are currently 3 people cutting dead trees out of the cemetery for firewood.

8. Correspondence

Board Action items:

- None

Noteworthy items:

- Memo from Itasca County / Don Dewey regarding zoning of parcel owned by D. Bischoff
- Memo & brochure from Anderson Passe & Associates – Rural Sign Management System
- Reports from Mn Dept of Health on water at town hall: Samples collected are in compliance with safe water standards

9. Consent Agenda

1. Consider approval of cemetery deed for Darlene Figgins, Sec 3, Block 17, Lot 4, sites 7 & 8

A motion was made by Supervisor Rosato to approve the consent agenda item as listed above; the motion was seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas and upon roll call, motion passed.

10. Old Business

- Discuss next newsletter: Due early November (last one went out first of July for centennial)

Clerk Smith requested articles from all Officers, and the follow topics were suggested:

Key- cemetery

Rosato – wetlands

Kortekaas – portable bathrooms

Jokela – TBD

Smith – Centennial book update; Paul Bunyan update

Julie Kennedy will be asked to write an article on the new sign reflectivity and breakaway post requirements.

Supervisor Key mentioned that the maintenance crew now has a list of all signs in the township, and it's in the computer by road; Key did not know the total number of signs we have, but said it was a lot....and they all need new breakaway posts. Rosato reminded the board that the 2010 deadline is just to have a replacement plan developed and that signs did not need to be replaced until 2015.

Clerk Smith asked that articles be given to her at the October 28, 2009 P&D meeting.

- Roadside clean up

Despite the wet and cold weather, Supervisor Rosato and Treasurer Jokela cleaned the portion of the River Road, adopted by the Board, on October 8th, 2009. Supervisor Key thanked and commended them both for doing the cleaning all by themselves. Rosato commented that he and Jokela used their four wheelers, which made the job much nicer.

- Culvert bands

Supervisor Key stated they are running short on bands for 15" culverts and would like to order some. The Board agreed that the maintenance crew could order these themselves, rather than asking the treasurer as was done in the past. Treasurer Jokela will email the culvert's company address/ phone number to the maintenance crew.

- New tractor

Key reported that after several phone calls, and negotiations, he was able to get the correct mower head attached to the new John Deer tractor. The guys tried it out today and it works great for roadside mowing.

11. New Business

Nothing

12. Approve payment of bills

A motion was made by Supervisor Rosato/Kortekaas, seconded by Supervisor Rosato/Kortekaas, to approve the attached October bill list, in the amount of \$97,938.00. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously. (Note: Check will NOT be held for Diamond Mowers, as shown on the report. The board approved that it be paid, after verifying that the right mower head had been successfully attached).

13. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Kortekaas to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm; second by Supervisor Rosato. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Smith, Clerk