

**MINUTES from the REGULAR Meeting
Harris Township Board
Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 7:30pm**

The Regular Meeting of the Harris Town Board was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm, at the Harris Town Hall, with the following officers present: Supervisors Larry Key and Gary Rosato, and Clerk Michele Smith and Treasurer John Jokela. Absent: Dennis Kortekaas

Also in attendance: Julie Kennedy, SEH Engineer,

1. **Pledge to the flag**, followed by the reading of the township mission statement
2. **Approve minutes** of the Regular Meeting December 9, (no December P&D Meeting) and the Work Session for Audit results on December 9, 2009.

A motion was made by Supervisor Rosato, seconded by Key, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. Roads

- Updates by Julie Kennedy – SEH Engineer
 - The Mishawaka Road drainage project has been finished; they will relook at it in the spring.
 - Julie is working on finishing the Underwood abandonment. She is working with Attorney Shaw to make sure that everyone still has access after the abandonment, and that the easement is acceptable to Gunderson. Julie is starting to look at the Underwood Road cul de sac design. She will have an estimate to the board by the January P&D meeting, for budgeting purposes.
 - Grand Rapids City is talking about resurfacing Horseshoe Lake Road, Isleview Road and maybe Mishawaka Road. Key would like to set up a meeting with city engineers to discuss doing our portions at the same time, to save money. Setting up a meeting will be reviewed during “New Business” section of the agenda.

4. Treasurer’s Reports

- There was no treasurer’s report for December 1 – 31, 2008 due to year end balancing that is in progress.

5. Business from the Floor

- Kevin Geislinger – Grand Rapids Area Baseball Association (GRABA)
 - Permit request for raffle at 10th annual Bottom of 9th Fishing tournament off of LaPlant landing on Feb. 28, 2010

Kevin did not show up for tonight’s meeting as expected, nor did anyone else from GRABA. However, since this fund raiser has been an annual event in Harris Township, ***Supervisor Rosato made a motion to approve the gambling permit for the GRABA Bottom of the 9th Fishing Tournament and fundraiser, to be held February 28, 2010. Supervisor Key seconded the motion, and it was thus duly passed.***

6. Recreation

- Running the skating rinks is going well this year, per Supervisor Key. The employment service (Express Pros), used to do the hiring of rink attendants this year, is doing a great service. They have found good people to work at the rinks, despite the turnover we’ve had this year. The only draw back to using the service is Supervisor Key has to go to the rinks to sign timecards every Sunday, Two people are taking care of Wendigo rink and 2 people are working at Crystal. .
- It was mentioned that we could use a Zamboni as we may be losing business because the ice at the rinks in town is better. The Board wondered if we could contract with someone to bring one out to Crystal and Wendigo. Julie and Supervisor Key will keep their ears open.
- The new heater, with 17,500 btus, in the new Crystal warming house is working great;

7. Correspondence

Board Action items:

- LCP substation & Great River Energy transmission line project; Open House meeting: Jan 21
The Board thought that Harris Township should have representation at this meeting. Supervisor Key would like to go to this meeting, but can't. Supervisor Rosato agreed to attend. Dennis may also be attending (he was absent tonight). Clerk Smith will post a quorum meeting notice for this event.

Noteworthy item:

- In addition to the items in the Board's agenda packets, the Clerk received another item of interest: A copy of a *letter from Attorney Shaw to Mr. Keith Hunt of Paul Bunyan Telephone*. The letter was a reminder of a former request sent by Shaw, asking Paul Bunyan to outline concerns and desires regarding the provision of such service in Harris Township. (A copy of Shaw's letter will be attached to these minutes.)

8. Consent Agenda

No items

9. Old Business

- Update on Glorvigan's audit reports for 2007 and 2008 (John)

Hardcopies of the 2007 and 2008 report were given to board, as prepared by Jennifer Goulet at Glorvigans. There were no problems reported. The only financial adjustment made was for a very small amount, of ~ \$1.35. Jennifer will send off her "opinion" to the state auditor for 2008 year.

- Security light on Sunny Beach Road

Key contacted Lake County Power (LCP) regarding a security light on Sunny Beach Road that has been flickering. This is a light that LCP has a problem identifying when we call about it. Key finally got a reference number, which he shared with treasurer Jokela, for use when calling in about that light.

10. New Business

- Driftskipper's request for a letter of support, to include with their grant request for a trail groomer

The Board reviewed an email submitted by a member of the Driftskippers snowmobile club, requesting a letter of support for a grant to attain a new trail groomer.

Supervisor Key made a motion to approve the request and give board support for the Driftskipper's grant request for a trail groomer, via letter. Supervisor Rosato seconded the motion, for discussion. Rosato wanted to add that he had recently been on the local snowmobile trails, and was very impressed with how well they were groomed. Upon roll call, motion passed.

Clerk Smith will prepare the letter of support for the Driftskippers.

- Mileage reimbursement rate reduction effective 1-1-2010; Township will pay \$0.495 (1/2 cent below Federal rate)

Clerk Smith wanted to alert the Board to this reduction in the mileage reimbursement rate. No board action was needed, as any polices we have state that our mileage rate will be ½ cent below the Federal rate and do not list an actual rate.

- Consider setting a date for a 2011 budget meeting, and board of audit

A meeting date of Wednesday, **January 20th, 2010** was set, to discuss upcoming projects for each fund, except Roads. The meeting will be held at the Town Hall, if available, beginning at **7:30p.m.** The clerk will post this meeting accordingly.

A another meeting will be set at the P&D meeting for the road fund, when Julie can attend to discuss projects and estimated costs.

- Discuss South Central Itasca County Intergovernmental Planning Board and annual dues

At this week's South Central meeting, Supervisor Rosato was informed that the ISD#318 has dropped out of the board. Cohasset dropped out previously as well. As a result, it was expected that the remaining members would have to make up the lost dues. There was also discussion that the board may or may not continue, with the declining enrollment. This topic of "The future of the South Central Intergovernmental Planning Board" will be discussed at their meeting in February.

Supervisor Rosato made a motion to table the South Central membership dues discussion until after their February meeting. The 2010 annual membership invoice for \$1,299 would likewise be held until more information is known. Supervisor Key seconded motion, and it was thus passed.

- Roundtable meeting with the City of Grand Rapids engineers

Supervisor Rosato met with Grand Rapids City Engineer, Tom Pagel. Tom gave Rosato a list of dates that would work for him to meet with the Board in February, along with the City Planner.

Wednesday, February 3rd, 2010 at 7:15p.m. at the Blandin Foundation was suggested. Supervisor Rosato agreed to see if this date works with the Grand Rapids folks.

11. Approve payment of bills

Supervisor Rosato made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Key, to approve the attached “January 2010 Listing to the Board” in the amount of \$23,591.30, with special approval to pay Express Pros when the bill is picked up by Jokela. (It was mailed to the town hall, which has no mail box). Motion carried.

Jokela added that PERA rates went up for the non-elected officials (Maintenance work and Town Hall Caretaker), from 5.75% to 6%.

Also, the rates at American Bank, where we have CDs, have dropped to 1%, from 2 – 2 ¾ %. Jokela will look into other options for these funds.

12. Adjourn

Supervisor Rosato made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:21pm; Key seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk, Michele Smith