

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

The Regular Meeting of the Harris Town Board was held on Wednesday, October 13, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm, at the Harris Town Hall, with the following officers present: Supervisors Larry Key, Dennis Kortekaas, and Gary Rosato, Clerk Michele Smith and Treasurer John Jokela.
Absent: None.

Also in attendance: Julie Kennedy – SEH Road Engineer for the township, and about 22 residents, including Peter Lotti from Verde Lane (to speak about the gravel pit) and Mr. Gunderson (regarding the end of the Underwood Road).

1. **Pledge to the flag** was followed by the reading of the township mission statement.
2. **Approve the minutes** of the Regular Meeting on September 8th and the P&D Meeting on September 22nd, 2010.

A motion was made by Supervisor Key, seconded by Supervisor Rosato, to approve the minutes as presented for September 8th and 22nd, 2010. Upon roll call, motion carried.

3. Business from the floor

- Peter Lotti – and several residents of Verde Lane and Airport Road came to tonight's meeting to discuss their complaints against the manner in which a gravel pit located in the area is being operated.

Lotti presented the town board with a packet containing information, photos, and documentation in support of a petition submitted to the Itasca County Board on May 17th, 2010. Lotti will also be presenting this information along with two "requests for board action" to the Itasca County Board during their TLM meeting on Monday, October 18th. Lotti would like the Town Board's support of the county board action requests.

- The first *Request for (County) Board Action (RBA)* is to revoke the Extractive Use Facility Permit for the parcel where the gravel pit is, and allow Hammerlund Construction to apply for a Conditional Use Permit for this property.
- The second *Request for (County) Board Action (RBA)* is to remove the demolition material from the gravel pit.

The people who signed the petition in support of these two board action requests are 70 in number, and are residents of Airport Road and Verde Lane. They span all types of workers/business owners, all age groups, all family styles, and they are all Harris Township constituents.

Lotti and Daniel Butterfield went over all points in the packet, as well as provided a variety of other photos and information to support their concerns. A key issue was the pollution and environmental concerns, including water quality and damage to a wetland in the area.

Several other residents spoke up in support of the issues brought to the board by Lotti, including Barb and Jerry Mutchler, who also believe that Hammerlunds are trespassing on a corner of their property to access the gravel pit.

The Harris Town Board discussed that they had previously agreed to write a letter of support to Mr. Lotti, for the county to enforce the regulations of the extractive use permit. However, that letter was never finalized, and the request has since been modified. If the Town Board were to agree to write the letter of support now, it would need to support the two requests for board action as listed in the packet presented tonight.

The petitioners meet at the county's LTM work session on Oct 18th (Monday), and will request that the county put their requests for board action on the consent agenda for regular county meeting.

The Harris Town Board recognized that the enforcement of the land use and extractive use regulations within Harris Township fall under the jurisdiction of Itasca county. However, the mission of the Town Board is to enhance the quality of life and protect the environment for their residents. Therefore the Board agreed that they needed to assist their residents in working with the correct individuals at the county to ensure that some resolution is reached with their concerns.

Supervisor Rosato then made a motion to support the two "Requests for (County) Board Action" as presented to the town board by Peter Lotti, Daniel Butterfield, and several other residents of Verde Lane and Airport Road, regarding Hammerlund Construction Inc's use of the Harris Gravel Pit. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Key, and upon roll call, the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

It was the board's intent to have a supervisor at the county meeting on Monday, October 18th, 2010 to answer any questions or concerns. Supervisor Kortekaas thought he could attend the 1:00pm meeting. Supervisor Key could not attend, and Supervisor Rosato needed to check his work schedule, but would try to attend.

6. Treasurer's Reports: September 2010 Financials

Treasurer Jokela recapped the Treasurer's Report, noting the \$1,110,195.02 balance on hand as of September 30, 2010 and that the Wendigo Park Road property purchase was included in the disbursements from the Capital Improvement Fund/Service Center for \$138,855.09.

Supervisor Key made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Rosato, to approve the September 2010 financial report as presented. Upon roll call, motion passed.

7. Roads

- Julie Kennedy – project updates (see SEH memo)

- Underwood Road turnaround project

Nearly all of the work has been completed to date. Final items remaining include final turf establishment and bituminous wear course which will take place next spring. Mail box placement has not yet been agreed upon; residents are being asked for their input.

Julie recommended approval of a partial pay request to Casper Construction for work completed as of September 30, 2010, which included mobilization and paving. The pay request is for \$43,164.20, and will be reviewed/approved during agenda item number 13.

- Dick Gunderson came with a question about the Underwood Road (where his mother lives). He noticed that work was being done to the road near the aviation station. He anticipated water would come off that road, and run onto the newly paved Underwood Road turn around area – which will be icy in the spring due to surface runoff. Julie will be out to the area tomorrow afternoon, and she will talk to Gunderson and the FDA as well about this concern.
- Roadside clean up was done by Supervisor Rosato and Treasurer Jokela, using their four-wheelers. The rest of the board thanked them for their efforts.
- Round table with Staff of Grand Rapids: Julie tried to schedule a meeting in early to mid November, but that did not work out. She suggested the week of Nov 29th and the Board agreed. Julie will try and schedule something with Tom Pagel and Rob Mattei.

8. Recreation

Nothing

9. Correspondence

Board Action items:

- Consider approval of letter of support, for Mr. Peter Lotti, regarding gravel pit compliance by the county

Julie will revise the previously drafted letter to reference the motion made to support Lotti's two requests for County board action. She will then have Chairman Kortekaas review/sign and she then forward on to the county prior to the Oct 18th TLM meeting.

Noteworthy items were read by Chairman Kortekaas:

- Notice of 2011 Fire Contract Amount: \$72,383.00 (2010 contract was \$73,211)
- Minutes from SCICPB/Itasca Round Table Meeting on August 4, 2010
- MN Assoc of Twps declaration pages for the consolidated liability coverage (review for accuracy)
- MN Dept of Health – results of drinking water results for Harris Town Hall
(*nitrate/nitrate nitrogen less than .05 mg/L and no coliform bacteria were detected*)
- Braun Intertec “field notes” of compaction tests on Underwood Road (done 9/15 and 9/21)

10. Consent Agenda

- a.) Consider approval of cemetery site sold to Clifton Thompson: Section 3, Block 22, Lot 2, Site 4
- b.) Consider approval of cemetery sites sold to Howard and Rhonda Chapin: Section 1, Block 2, Lot 1, Sites 3 & 4

Supervisor Rosato made a motion to approve the two items on the consent agenda above, and the motion was seconded by Supervisor Key. Upon roll call, motion carried.

11. Old Business

- Newsletter update (postponed): Clerk Smith explained that she was unable to get the newsletter written over the weekend, due to her busy schedule. Julie was asked to prepare an article on the work the Engineering student interns are doing. It was also suggested that an ad for the grader be put in the newsletter, as it has not yet sold using Craig's list. Smith's hope is to have it to Treasure Bay by early November and in resident's mail boxes by the 15th.
- Closing update on Wendigo Park property: Clerk Smith, Chairman Kortekaas and Attorney Shaw met with the Blaines at Abstract Service Company in Grand Rapids on Sept 29th, 2010 and closed on the Wendigo Park Road property. Everything went smoothly, and the Blaines will continue to reside there for about 4-6 weeks. Christopher or Maisey will contact someone at Township when they have officially moved out.

Treasurer Jokela agreed to contact Habitat for Humanity, to find out about their “deconstruct” services, where they will go into a home and take it apart, to reuse elsewhere. The Board agreed to keep the heat going until that has been completed – which may not be until next year.

- Johnson's corner property (River Road / Harris Town Road): Supervisor Key got the property value of the corner property of Harris Town Road and River Road from the County's website. The Board previously discussed that the owner may be interested in selling, but had no idea what the home and property were worth. The results were that the house, and the land it's on, had an estimated market value of \$85,200. The adjoining 1 acre was valued at \$9,200. Key asked the board if they were in favor of him sharing this information with the landowner. The board agreed, and to relay that if she is interested in selling, to please let them know before listing with a realtor.
- The former “South Central” board, which has disbanded, still has members that meet. The group is an offshoot of the SCICIGPB. The group now has an official title: “The Itasca Area Round Table”. This group is open to anyone in the Itasca area, but is primarily made up of governmental units and schools. At their meeting today, many issues were talked about, and a lot of information was shared. The next meeting will be held at the Forest Lake Restaurant. They will continue to meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month, from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

12. New Business

- Ray Lawrenson – a resident with property across from animal care clinic on Hwy 169 - has put a road in along the edge of his property, in hopes of using the back part of his property to build himself a home. However, he was told by the county that he couldn't subdivide that parcel, as it would create a substandard lot (too small). Mr. Lawrenson came tonight to ask the board what are his options are. The board advised him to go to the court house and talk to someone in the Environmental Services office (aka Zoning), and explain to them what he wants to do with the parcel. He may be able to get a conditional use permit or variance. If he can get one, it would be at that point where the township would be involved to review it for recommendation.
- Health Insurance – Maintenance Crew: Treasurer Jokela asked the board for their approval of continuing the same health insurance plan for the two full time maintenance workers. The premium has gone up, but only \$17/month.

A motion was made by Supervisor Key, seconded by Supervisor Rosato, to approve continuation of the health insurance for the full time maintenance crew, at the new rate. Upon roll call, motion carried by a unanimous vote.

13. Approve payment of bills for October 2010

Treasurer Jokela presented the bill list for the board's review. He commented that it was largely for operational expenses. However, the partial payment for Casper and the Underwood Road turnaround work was included for \$43,164.20 as previously discussed. The audit bill from Eikill & Schilling for \$8,500 was paid (John noted this was higher than normal due to the catch up/redo they had to do for 2008). And, also included was the bill for the grave heater from United Rental for \$13,769.96. The total of all bills was \$92,084.45.

A motion was made by Supervisor Rosato, seconded by Supervisor Key, to approve payment of the bills as outlined on the attached document titled "October 2010 Bill Listing to Board", in the amount of \$92,084.45. Upon roll call, motion carried by a unanimous vote.

14. Adjourn

A motion was made at 9:37 p.m. by Supervisor Rosato, and seconded by Supervisor Key. Thus, the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith, Harris Township Clerk