

**Minutes from the
Annual Harris Town Meeting
March 10, 2009
8:15pm**

1. Call Annual Meeting to Order

The annual Harris Town meeting was called to order by Clerk Michele Smith at 8:15pm on March 10, 2009 at the Harris Town Hall. Eight residents were in attendance: Michele Smith, Gary Rosato, Larry Key, Dennis Kortekaas, Peggy Bishop, Rusty Eichorn, Mike Hendricks, and John Jokela. Also in attendance were ICTV and Brian Carlson, from the Itasca Fair Board.

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.

Larry Key made a motion to elect Rusty as moderator, seconded by Mike Hendricks. Upon roll call, motion passed and Rusty came to the table to moderate the annual meeting.

4. Approve minutes of the annual meeting held March 11th, 2008

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 Peggy Bishop, seconded by Larry Key, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2008 Annual Town Meeting as written. Upon roll call, motion carried.

5. Receive and approve the Treasurer's Annual Financial report for 2008

The annual report was provided for everyone's review in the annual report packet for the 2008 calendar year. Chairman Eichorn recapped the beginning and ending balances shown in the report. There were neither questions nor comments from the floor.

Larry Key made a motion, seconded by Gary Rosato, to approve the Treasurer's Annual 2008 Financial Report as presented. Upon roll call, motion carried.

6. Review Levy Comparison for years 2005 through 2010

A levy comparison, split by fund, from 2005 actual to 2010 proposed, was provided for everyone's review in the annual packet. Chairman Eichorn recapped that the total proposed budget for 2010 was \$845,000. This was the same amount that was adopted in 2009 and 2008.

7. Consider Approval of the 2010 Operating Levies

There were two options listed under item 7, to either a.) Approve the proposed operating levy for 2010 in total, or to b.) Approve operating levies by fund.

Mike Hendricks made a motion to approve the 2010 operating levy in total, in the amount of \$845,000, as shown by fund in detail on pages 14 – 23 of the 2008 Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Gary Rosato and upon roll call carried by a unanimous vote.

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

At the request of Chairman Eichorn, Resolution #2008-004 was read aloud by Clerk Smith, 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 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 2010, 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.

A motion was made by Gary Rosato, seconded by Larry Key, to approve a \$1.00 per capital special levy for the Itasca County Historical Society, collectible in 2010, 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 2010. Bryan explained that the funds would be used for operational support of the Itasca County Fair, and not capital improvement projects.

Brian did share some of the upcoming improvements to the fair grounds, which included improving the camp ground and putting a fence around the grounds; some of the food booths would be updated, hand sanitizers would be put in the children's barn, the 4H food booth would be relocated, and a run new waterline would be put in to the barn areas.

Dennis Kortekaas made a motion, seconded by Larry Key, to approve a 2010 special levy for the Fair Board in the amount of \$1,000.00. Upon a vote by the people, the motion carried unanimously.

- **Elder Circe / First Call for Help/ Home Visitor Program**

These three organizations submitted a letter requesting a donation from Harris Township. However, Chairman Eichorn said that due to Resolution #2008-004, these would be denied by the Harris Town Board and so dispensed going through each requests. There were no objections voiced.

Clerk Smith was asked to send each organization a denial of request letter, along with a copy of resolution #2008-004 *Donation or Contribution Request Policy*.

10. Old business

- **Update on Harris Township's Centennial Celebration planned for July 5, 2009**

Mike Hendricks explained that two projects are currently underway for the celebration of Harris Township's 100th birthday in 2009:

One project is putting forth a pictorial history of the township. However more pictures are still needed from 1909 forward. The pictures will be scanned and put in a book with a short caption. The original photos will be returned to their owners. The project has grown to be quite large, so anyone wanting to help with it would be greatly appreciated. Mike stated that the history of Harris Township is interesting, noting that the population is larger than that of the City of Cohasset, but with less revenue.

The second project is an old fashioned picnic on Sunday, July 5th Picnic at Crystal Park. There will be a BBQ, music, and games for kids. This is a weekend when many of our snowbird residents are back in the area, so a good turn out is expected. Again, anyone wishing to help would be greatly appreciated.

11. New business

Chairman Eichorn noted that the accomplishments for the township listed in the 2008 annual report are impressive, and thanked everyone that helped make those happen.

Eichorn also thanked those that came out tonight, despite the heavy snow fall. He explained that since the polls were open until 8:00pm, he felt it prudent to proceed with the annual town meeting on the heels of the annual town election, as originally scheduled.

12. Set time for next Annual Meeting, in year 2010

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

Gary Rosato made a motion, seconded by Larry key, to set the time for the 2010 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. Mike Hendricks seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele R. Smith, Clerk of Harris Township