

**MINUTES from the Regular Meeting  
Harris Township Board  
Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 7:30pm**

The Regular Meeting of the Harris Town Board was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm, 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.

Also in attendance: Julie Kennedy, Township Engineer

1. **Pledge to the flag**, followed by the reading of the township mission statement
2. **Approve minutes** of the Regular Meeting on August 12, and the P&D Meeting on August 26, 2009

***A motion was made by Supervisor Kortekaas, seconded by Supervisor Rosato to approve the minutes as presented. Upon roll call, motion carried.***

### 3. Roads

- Julie Kennedy – SEH Engineer:

- Underwood Road repair options and associated costs

Julie shared an “Engineers opinion of probable cost” for the Underwood Road project:

- To construct just the cul-de-sac, project cost was \$84,096.
- To resurface the ¾ mile section of the Underwood Road, project cost was \$202,501 which included 22’ wide geotextile fabric paving from the cul de sac to Wendigo Park Road. Because of the poor soils and high water table, it was determined that the road bed would not be opened up completely. Instead, they would put down a 1” fabric, plus tight-blade, plus 2” layer of new bituminous, which was estimated to last about 25 years. The resurfaced road would be close to a 7 ton, possibly a 9 ton, road when completed. Ditching was not included in straight stretch of the road – just in cul de sac area. However, but it could be added if requested.
- An alternate to resurfacing the road would be to just fix the potholes and ruts by crack filling, for about \$28,000. This would be using the same method as was used on the Mishawaka Road (Commercial Asphalt Repair). However, because there are pot holes about every 30 feet – plus ruts – the road surface would not be smooth, like an overlay would be. It was estimated that this crack filling method would need to be redone about every 3-4 years, though we don’t have a lot of experience with this product.

Overall, the board felt that Woodland Park Road was probably too far gone for the crack filling option. Yet, to construct the cul de sac and fix the road as proposed was approximately \$287,000. According to our budget, we may be able to do this in 2010, but it would be the only road we could afford to fix under major road repair. Julie offered to prepare a balance sheet to review 2010 projected road costs, in time for the P&D meeting on Sept 23, 2009.

Julie recommended that if the crack-filling option is chosen, it could be done this year. But it should be done by October. However, if the overlay method is chosen, bidding should be done in early spring– not now. The cul de sac, which the board has committed to completing, will be designed this winter and bid in spring (April), with construction during the summer of 2010.

- Discuss concern with drainage on Mishawaka Road, near Hwy 169.

The Board asked Julie to do some research and prepare an estimate for fixing the drainage problem on Mishawaka Road, near Hwy 169, where flooding occurs. This should be taken care of this fall, due to safety issues in the spring. Julie agreed to get ROW verification, and determine ditching needs.

o Discuss Adopt-a-Highway options of a township road by ICC Engineering students

Engineering students are looking for about 5 miles of road to clean up twice a year. They'd asked if the township like them to adopt a township road or two, in exchange for the Township putting up the Adopt-a-Highway sign. Supervisor Key suggested that parts of Sunny Beach Road and Wendigo Park Road be offered for clean up. The board also discussed that they would support putting up signs –one at each end of the road. Students are looking to work this fall. Julie will help board work through the details.

***Supervisor Rosato made a motion to work with students of the ICC Engineering program with regards to cleaning up about 5 miles of Harris Township roads (specific roads not yet determined) for an "Adopt-a-Highway" program, in exchange for the Township purchasing and putting up the special road signs, and assisting with garbage pickup. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas and upon roll call, passed by a unanimous vote.***

o Status of easement for the under-the-road septic system, on Sunny Beach Road (Gem Mills)

Julie met with septic installer, who will get Julie a copy of the septic system plan. A sanitation permit had not yet been submitted. At the last board meeting, a motion was passed giving Chairman Key the authority to sign the permit, once he and Julie had reviewed and approved the septic plan for going under Sunny Beach Road.

o South Central Meeting - Reflectivity

Dave Christy & Jeff Davies spoke at the South Central Meeting today on road signs and the new reflectivity requirements. Signs on their (county) ROW, belongs to them and so they will be responsible for replacing those. Three grades of signs were discussed: Engineer grade – not good. HIP is a medium grade, and "D3" diamond backed is the best. The Itasca County Township Association is looking to work with the County on any cost savings measures possible.

The Maintenance guys are currently working on sign replacement plan regarding new reflectivity requirements and a code to know when signs have been replaced.

#### 4. Treasurer's Reports

- The September Treasurer's report for August 1 – 31, 2009 financials

***Motion by Supervisor Kortekaas, second by Supervisor Rosato, to approve the Treasurer's report for August 2009 financial. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously.***

#### 5. Business from the Floor

None

#### 6. Recreation

o Electricity at the Crystal Park Warming House

Mike Hendricks contacted Supervisor Key with a bid for hooking up electricity at the new Crystal Park warming house. The bid was from Spectrum Electric for \$750. Key noted that there was a problem because the coding changed from the time they started building the warming house, to the time they delivered it and the need for a ground fault breaker. Board previously approved getting electricity hooked up to the warming house, so Mike will inform Spectrum to go ahead with the project. The next thing needed will be to contact Northern Air to get a heater installed.

o Weed control

Herbicide was sprayed at the Town Hall and both parks on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. However, Tee-Shot did not recommend using the liquid herbicide at cemetery, due to potential damage to the head stones. They recommended a granular form of the herbicide be used at cemetery for \$200 more.

***Supervisor Rosato made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve using a granular herbicide at the Harris Cemetery for \$200 more, by Tee-shot. Upon roll call, motion carried.***

## 7. Correspondence

### Board Action items:

- None

### Noteworthy items:

- Mn Assoc of Twps District 11 Meeting Notice: Wed. September 23, 2009 at Northern Lights Casino in Walker

## 8. Consent Agenda

1. Consider approval of cemetery deed for Esther Sanders, Sec 3, Block 24, Lot 2, sites 3 & 4

***A motion was made by Supervisor Rosato to approve the item on the consent agenda as noted above. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas and upon roll call, motion carried.***

## 9. Old Business

- Consider running a reminder ad about removing decorations at the Harris cemetery (see copy from 2008)

Supervisor Key was in favor of running the ad, and commented that many decorations have been taken down already, but a reminder would be good.

***Supervisor Rosato made a motion to approve the Clerk to place an ad in the Herald Review, reminding people about Harris Cemetery's policy that decorations were to be removed by the day after Labor Day. Supervisor Kortekaas seconded the motion, and upon roll call, carried.***

- LTAP – Snow and Ice Material Application training

Supervisor Key asked if the November LTAP training, approved at the last Regular Meeting, was set up for our Maintenance crew; it had not been. Key noted that the registration fee was to be prepaid, so the fee (\$40 each, for the two guys) was added to tonight's bill list. Registration forms were given to Key, for the guys to fill out and send in with the check.

First aid/CPR training for the Maintenance Crew is still being researched by Supervisor Rosato, who agreed to bring information to the next Board meeting.

- Waiver form for cutting fire wood at the Cemetery/Service Center

Key stated that the survey of the cemetery property near the Service Center had been completed. The survey was requested to determine the north/south boundary lines, and be clearly marked for those cutting dead trees.

Julie revised the waiver form, and added an item #6, stating that the person agrees to remove trees only from the designated area, and only between a specified start/end date. Supervisor Rosato suggested adding that cutting may be suspended at any time by Harris Town Board or staff. The board agreed this would be a good idea, and so Julie will modify the form one more time and send to Supervisor Key.

- Seed and hay the new cemetery property

Roy and Bart Johnson have requested to use the 8.8 acres at Harris cemetery for hay stumpage. They would seed it down and then harvest the hay, for 4 years. A waiver would be needed, in case we need use of the field, but everyone thought this was a great idea.

***Supervisor Rosato made a motion to approve Roy and Bart Johnson's request to seed and hay the 8.8 acres of the cemetery for 4 years, with the stipulation that if we need property, we have right to use it. Supervisor Kortekaas seconded the motion, and upon roll call, motion passed.***

Julie offered to check with Andy Shaw about a waiver form – he may have a template. The Johnsons may also have a form already; Julie's meeting with Bart tomorrow and will check with him. Bart stated that he would like to disc the property this fall and prep the soil.

- Variance Hearing for the Paul Bunyan building  
 Supervisor Key attended the site visit and the public hearing for the Paul Bunyan utility building, near the Driftskipper's club on Wagon Wheel. Key state the site visit and the meeting at county went well. Representatives from both Paul Bunyan and the Driftskippers were there. The Variance application was approved.
- Proposed plat by Ron Nelson  
 There was a meeting between the County and Township (Supervisor Key and Julie Kennedy), regarding the proposed plat by Ron Nelson. It will be formally submitted next month for town board review. This will be a minor subdivision. The Board would like to have a neighborhood meeting about this new plat; they decided to invite neighbors to come to the board meeting when this would be discussed.
- Centennial book now with Britta Arendt  
 Clerk Smith announced that the Centennial binder is now with Britta Arendt. If any addition information comes in, it will be given to her.

#### 10. New Business

None

#### 11. Approve payment of bills

***A motion was made by Supervisor Rosato, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve the attached September bill list, plus the addition of \$80 to University of MN for CTAP Snow and Ice Application, for a revised total of \$35,610.79. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously.***

#### 12. Adjourn

***Motion by Supervisor Kortekaas to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm; second by Supervisor Rosato. Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith, Clerk