

**MINUTES from the REGULAR Meeting  
Harris Township Board  
Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 7:30pm**

The Regular Meeting of the Harris Town Board was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011. 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.

No one else was in attendance at this meeting.

1. **Pledge to the flag**, followed by the reading of the township mission statement
2. **Approve the minutes** of the Regular Meeting on February 9, the P&D meeting on February 23, the Budget Work Sessions on February 10 and February 17, 2011.

***A motion was made by Supervisor Rosato, seconded by Supervisor Key, to approve the minutes as presented for meetings on the dates above. Upon roll call, the motion carried.***

### 3. Business from the floor

None

### 4. Treasurer's Reports:

- Treasurer's reports for December 2010, January 2011, and February 2011

Treasurer Jokela explained that we are caught up, now that 2010 was reconciled. December 2010, January 2011 and February 2011 reports were shared with the board and recapped by Treasurer Jokela.

Jokela also told the board that the financials for 2010 will be dropped off at the township auditor's office (Eikill & Schilling – in Duluth) tomorrow, and that Deborah Medlin hopes to have the audit done by the end of March.

***A motion was made by Supervisor Rosato, seconded by Supervisor Key, to approve the December 2010, January 2011 and February 2011 Treasurer Reports as presented. Upon roll call, motion carried.***

### 6. Roads

- Julie Kennedy / SEH – project updates: N/A (Julie was unable to attend, as she was out of town.)
- Update on Road Signs, from the Maintenance crew:

Supervisor Key presented a list of county signs that need to be replaced; the list was turned it over to the clerk. A copy of that list will be attached to these minutes, and one will be turned in with the road contract with the county.

There was also a list of "questionable" township signs presented by Key – such as 'stop ahead' signs, and a question of if they are really needed, since the stop sign is actually visible. Also, 'dangerous intersection ahead' and 'dead end' signs in certain locations are also under question. The board decided to review these during road inspections in April or May. A copy will be attached to these minutes.

### 7. Recreation

- Skating Rinks

Both township park rinks are closed, though some rinks in town are still open. Supervisor Key has been questioned by a few residents as to why Crystal and Wendigo rinks are closed, now that the weather is cold again. Key explained it was necessary to close them, as it would have taken a lot of maintenance and taxpayer dollars to get the ice back to a good quality after the warm up.

### 8. Correspondence

#### Board Action items:

- Owner's Policy of Title Insurance received from Abstract Service Company for the Blaine property.

Clerk Smith received the Title Insurance for the Blaine property in the mail, and was wondering what should be done with it. Treasurer Jokela recommended it be kept in the town hall office with the property abstract, in the fireproof file cabinet. The Board agreed.

#### Noteworthy items:

- Notice from Itasca County Highway Department: Open House for 5-year Plan – Mon. March 14, the at 3:30pm
- MAT Short course information, for March 31, 2011 at the Sawmill Inn. Registration on site, starting at 8:00am.

## Non-action items

- Grand Rapids Fire Department 2010 Year End Report
- Copy of Itasca County Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment "Facts of Findings" report regarding the appeal filed by Lotti, et.al. on the Extractive Use Permit and Hammerlund Construction Co.
- Copy of letter from Twp attorney Andy Shaw to Grand Rapids city attorney Chad Sterle, regarding resolutions for execution by the city (already executed by the township).

## 9. Consent Agenda

None

## 10. Old Business

- Discuss when to have Beth George come and talk about the public hearing needed for PEG fees (see email)  
The board agreed they would like Beth George to come to the ICTV broadcast meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>. It would be good for the residents who watch ICTV to see it. Clerk Smith will advise Beth accordingly. It was clarified that this was not the actual hearing, but rather just Beth explaining why one will need to be held.
- Power at Blaines  
When power was requested to be shut down at the Blaine Property, Lake Country Power (LCP) told Treasurer Jokela that the load end (from Harris Town line, to the transformer / meter) needs to be removed by an electrician at the township's expense. Supervisor Key will contact LCP to clarify exactly what needs to be done.
- Lake Country Power (LCP) neighborhood meetings for ROW work  
Supervisor Rosato suggested to LCP that neighborhood meetings be held for those residents of roads where LCP would soon be doing ROW work to replace cables/lines. He explained that Town Board would be willing host the meetings at the town hall, as well as attend, so that residents could be informed by LCP of what was would be happening along their roadside, and how it might impact them/their property. LCP thought this was a good idea; they agreed to discuss it, and get back to the board.

## 11. New Business

- Township Election results:  
Supervisor Kortekaas was reelected for a 3 year term, and Becky Adams won the Treasurer position on a write-in campaign, for a 2 year term. It was noted that Treasurer John Jokela was on the ballot as the incumbent, but he found out a week prior to the election that he'd been accepted for a position in Oregon, and will be moving there at the end of March. He was pleased that Adams was elected to his position. The Board thanked Jokela for all his hard work, and wished him well in his new job. .

## 12. Approve payment of bills for March 2011

The board reviewed the attached list of claims and bills, titled "March 2011 Bill Listing to Board", totaling \$26,382.40. Jokela noted that included in the list were payments for the township election judges, quarterly medical insurance premiums, and the last payment for rink attendants via Express Employment. Clerk Smith noted that payment for township ballots and equipment was also included, in the amount of \$338.00. This, plus the costs of election judges totaled a little over \$600. She commented that this was a small price to pay to continue to have the township election in March rather than November. The board agreed.

***Supervisor Key made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Rosato, to approve the bill list as per attached "March 2011 Bill Listing to Board", in the amount of \$26,382.40 as presented. Upon roll call, motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

## 13. Adjourn

***A motion was made at 7:54 p.m. by Supervisor Key to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Key and the meeting was adjourned.***

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith, Clerk of Harris Twp