

**MINUTES from the P&D Meeting
Harris Township Board
Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 7:30pm**

The regularly scheduled P&D Meeting of the Harris Town Board was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Chairman Rosato, at the Harris Town Hall, with the following officers present: Supervisors Gary Rosato, Dennis Kortekaas, and Larry Key, Clerk Michele Smith, and Treasurer Becky Adams. *Absent:* None.

Note: Julie Kennedy - SEH Road Engineer, was *unable* to attend tonight's meeting as planned. The agenda items relating to her were omitted.

1. Pledge to the flag

2. Business from the Floor

None

3. ~~Update on ICC Interns projects (Julie Kennedy)~~

4. Roads

- Updates by Julie Kennedy – SEH:

- Mishawaka Road:

Supervisor Key reported that the Itasca County snow plow hit the speed humps on Mishawaka Road, and a chain came off, damaging the road near the boat landing. Supervisor Key stated that he will call the county (Matzdorf) about the damage.

Key also informed the board that Mishawaka Road has been marked for the "speed humps ahead" signs, one hundred feet from the humps on the south end, the same from north end. The signs will be installed next week by the maintenance crew.

- Bear Creek:

Schwartz will grade Bear Creek soon, to shape the crown, as requested at Regular Meeting of the board on December 7, 2011.

- Icy Roads

Most of the roads in the township and city are icy. Sanding was done this morning by the county in many areas, but there are still lots of slick areas on the roads.

5. Recreation

- Consider approval of the 2011-2012 Express Employment Professionals Rate Agreement

After reviewing the agreement, whereby Harris Township will pay Express Employment Professionals \$10.76/hour for each Rink Attendant work hour, Supervisor Key made a motion to approve rate agreement as presented. Supervisor Kortekaas seconded the motion, and upon roll call, the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

It was clarified by Clerk Smith that the wage that the rink attendants are paid by Express Pros is \$8.00/hour but that the township pays Express Pros is \$10.76/hour.). Also, Supervisor Key noted that he'd been in touch with Express Pros, and they have three rink attendants lined up already. He would like four – two for each rink. Key also noted that the maintenance guys have started preparing the ice at the rinks.

6. Town Hall Report – for October 11, 2011 to November 11, 2011

The board reviewed the Town Hall report as prepared by the Town Hall Caretaker. There were 13 rentals and \$425 collected from Oct 11 to Nov 11, 2011. No injuries or accidents were reported.

7. Maintenance Report – will available for the December Regular Meeting on 12-14-11

The maintenance report for November will be available at the December Regular meeting. Clerk Smith noted that the guys did submit an updated equipment list and insurance information for their review. The clerk noted that one copy of these lists will go to the treasurer, and one copy will be filed at the town hall.

8. Old Business

- Update on G.I.S. system for Harris Cemetery

Michele updated the board on the meeting she had with Mike LeClaire on the GIS database system being purchased for the cemetery. She noted that:

- Implementation of the database will not occur until 2012 – probably during the first quarter
- The master copy of the standalone database system will reside on the maintenance crew's computer, and the Clerk will have a copy on her township computer. LeClaire is looking into an option where the Clerk could log into the maintenance computer's database remotely, at night (when they are not on it) to access the most current cemetery information if needed. A backup of the master database will be needed periodically as well, to update the Clerk's computer and to back up at the city. LeClaire said that large wall maps could be printed every time a backup is done, for the guys to post at the service center.
- Clerk Smith will be asking the maintenance crew various questions in the upcoming months about their computer system and cemetery processes to share with Mike LeClaire as he prepares the database.
- LeClaire said that the spreadsheets created by the crew in Excel, currently used for tracking cemetery sales and burials, will work great to transfer information from the old system to the new system. He would like to get a copy of that data, as of 12/31/11 to upload. A review of the information will still be needed once transferred.

- MAT Attorney's response on MN Stat. 414.06 Detachment of Property from a Municipality

As requested, Clerk Smith emailed MN Assoc. of Twp attorney Kent Sulem, requesting his input on MN Stat. 414.06 – "Detachment of Property from a Municipality" in response to the town board being approached about it from a group of Horseshoe Lake residents. The group, who had previously been residents of Grand Rapids Township, but then recently annexed by the city of Grand Rapids, asked the board if Harris Township would consider "adopting" them, via this statute.

The email that the Clerk sent to Sulem was shared with the board, along with his response. The Board reviewed the email and discussed their options. If they supported the detachment or stayed neutral, it could set precedence for Mornes Road residents to also want to be annexed by Harris Twp to avoid the higher taxes resulting from being in the City of Grand Rapids.

Clerk Smith suggested that she contact the township's local attorney, Andrew Shaw, for his opinion. The board agreed that this was a good idea.

The board recapped that they previously decided to meet with the Horseshoe Lake residents during a comprehensive plan update meeting, when the northern boundary is discussed. It would be at this time that they could discuss the board's thoughts on the "detachment" statute.

- Homestead credit:

The board discussed the removal of the homestead credit presentation by the Itasca County Assessor's office, given at Itasca Co. Twp Association meeting earlier in the week. It was still unclear to them as to how this would affect the residents' taxes, and the township's levy. The financial burden seems to have been shifted to the local government, from the state.

- T&M Marine:

T&M Marine has moved some pontoons to their new storage location, south on Hwy 169. However, Supervisor Kortekaas noticed that there were about 15-20 pontoons in a location they're not supposed to be, according to the sketch received with the conditional use permit. Supervisor Rosato agreed to talk to someone at the Itasca County Environmental Services office, and find out the reason.

9. New Business

A motion was made by Supervisor Rosato to change the name of Crystal Park to "Mike Hendricks-Crystal Springs Park", as Mike is so dedicated to this park, created the design for the park, and taught the board so much about parks. The motion was seconded by Key for discussion. It was then suggested that instead of renaming the park, that the park be dedicated to Mike and have a plaque put up in his honor. A dedication ceremony could be held in the spring, to unveil the plaque. The motion was revised, to dedicate Crystal Park to Mike Hendricks rather than change the name. The second stayed, and upon roll call, the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

10. Adjourn

A motion was made by Supervisor Kortekaas, seconded by Supervisor Key to adjourn the meeting at 8:16pm. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith – Clerk of Harris Twp