

**MINUTES from the REGULAR Meeting
Harris Township Board
Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 7:30pm**

The Regular Meeting of the Harris Town Board was held on Wednesday, December 14, 2011. 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, Clerk Michele Smith, and Treasurer Becky Adams. Absent: None.

Also in attendance: Julie Kennedy – Twp Road Engineer from SEH, Dan Butterfield and Cecil Borge – township residents.

1. **Pledge to the flag**, followed by the reading of the township mission statement
2. **Approve the minutes** of the Regular Meeting on November 9, and P&D Meeting on November 16, and the Work Session for the Comprehensive Plan Update on November 30, 2011.

Supervisor Kortekaas made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Supervisor Key seconded the motion and upon roll call, motion carried.

3. Business from the Floor

None

4. Roads

- Julie Kennedy – updates on current projects
 - Mishawaka Road: The “Speed humps ahead” signs have been installed, but comments have been received that the sign on the north end is obscured by a tree; the board agreed to prune it accordingly.
 - Comprehensive Plan: Julie and John Powers will be meeting with Itasca County regarding the township comprehensive plan, as discussed at the November 30th work session.
 - ICC interns start break tomorrow, but will soon begin working on right-of-way maps and the valuation of township roads. They will also gather information on the “community complex”, and prepare for the Comprehensive Plan meeting in January, which will also be a community input session on the proposed complex. Allie Jervalin – a third intern - will be starting shortly; she will also do the data entry for GIS cemetery system.
 - Bear Creek: Schwartz agreed to fix a grading issue near the mailbox of T. Johnson, and it should be completed by now. Julie will follow up with Schwartz to verify that the work was done.
 - Lakeview Drive: An “Icy conditions” sign has been ordered for Lakeview Drive, as requested by the residents during a previous work session held to discuss the condition of this road. While local residents may be aware of how icy the road gets due to drainage issues, others drivers need to be warned.

5. Treasurer’s Report: November 2011 financials

Treasurer Adams gave a recap of the beginning and ending balances of all funds, as of the last check run in November.

Supervisor Key made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report as presented, of the November 2011 financials. Supervisor Kortekaas seconded the motion, and upon roll call, motion carried by a unanimous vote.

6. Recreation

- Discuss request to reserve Wendigo ball field (see email from Ryan Zubke)

Ryan emailed the board, and posed some questions regarding Wendigo ball field and reserving it for a new “Wendigo Black Squirrels” baseball team that he was forming; Wendigo would be designated as their home field. He also asked if there was a cost to reserve the field, and if the dugouts would be replaced.

Both Clerk Smith and Supervisor Rosato replied to his email, basically stating that his request to reserve the field would need to be reviewed by the board, but if allowed, there would be no charge for this. Supervisor Rosato asked how often Ryan wanted to reserve the field, but had not heard back from him yet. And, regarding the dugouts, Ryan was informed that they would *not* be replaced, but that benches would be installed, with fencing in front of them.

The board discussed that the township recreation areas and parks are open to the public, but that we do reserve the Crystal Park pavilion on a regular basis, and the tennis courts on occasion as well. And that while Itasca Little League used to use Wendigo on a regular basis, it was believed that they no longer do so.

In reviewing the website for the “Wendigo Black Squirrels”, it stated that admission to the watch the baseball games is planned – with different rates for those sitting in the bleachers, those sitting near it, and those standing. And that 50% of the profits would be given to Harris Township. However, the board did not like the idea of charging admission to a public area, and that accepting any type of donation would not be legal. As for the team selling concessions, that was approved, as long as there were no alcoholic beverages sold in keeping with the township ordinance #1 “...prohibiting the consumption of intoxicating beverages and non-intoxicating malt liquor on the properties owned and maintained by the Town of Harris”.

The website also stated that the Black Squirrels games would be 1-2x week, with half of them being held at Wendigo. The board wondered if practices would also be at Wendigo, and if so, how often.

Supervisor Rosato posed Ryan’s question back the board, asking “Can a group reserve the Wendigo Ball Field”? **The board agreed it *could be reserved*, but within reason** – so to allow for other groups to use the field. They agreed to allow Ryan to reserve it, **on a trial basis, and under the following conditions:**

- No admission can be charged
- Selling concessions would be fine, but no donation is to be given to the township
- No alcohol can be sold or consumed on township property
- Once a usage schedule is determined, if the team needs to reserve the park more than 2x a week, the request will need to come back to the board for further review

The clerk will convey the board’s decision and condition to Ryan via email.

- Rink update:

The skating rinks are wet. Wendigo’s rink is okay except for one end. Crystal’s rink is terrible. Opening will depend on the weather – it’s been so warm, that making and keeping ice has been a real challenge.

7. Correspondence

Board Action items:

- None

Noteworthy items:

- Updated cab cards received from MAT insurance; given to Supervisor Key; copy to Treasurer Adams
- Copy of approval letter for final site plan by Myers for new resort/season campground received.

8. Consent Agenda

N/A

9. Old Business

- Maintenance Report for October 2011 (It was not available at the November 16 P&D meeting)

The board reviewed the maintenance report from October, with no questions or concerns.

- Response received from Attorney Andrew Shaw, on MN Stat. 414.06 – Detachment of property from a municipality (see email)

The board reviewed Shaw's response to the request by the residents from Horseshoe Lake Road to have Harris Twp annex them. The residents did not want to be a part of the City of Grand Rapids, who recently annexed them (formerly Grand Rapids Township). The statute noted to do such, MN Stat. 414.06, allows residents to make a request to the city that they be detached from them, and annexed by the township.

Shaw's response was that he agreed with the response received from MN Assoc. of Twp attorney, Kent Sulem, in that the town has little to no part in the 'detachment' process. In reviewing the statute, the town is not even entitled to notice of the proceeding and the entire matter is between the landowners and the city – unless the town was to object to the land being detached from the city and added to the township.

Supervisor Key received a call from Tom Chandler, one of the residents who'd come to the board to request consideration of annexing them; Key responded by sharing the responses of the attorneys.

- Discuss officially adopting a policy, for a sign reflectivity plan, as federally mandated for Jan 1, 2012

The clerk noted in the MN Assoc. of Twp (MAT) newspaper that township boards need to adopt a policy for sign reflectivity in January 2012. A sample policy was provided by MAT, and shared with the board. Supervisor Key explained that the maintenance crew does have a very detailed recordkeeping system for signs in place, but that it has never been presented to the board for review and adopted as an official policy to meet the federal mandates. Supervisor Key agreed to bring a printout to a January board meeting for review and adoption.

10. New Business

- Consider officially adopting an official logo for Harris Township

As discussed at a previous comprehensive plan work session, Clerk Smith checked into the cost of revising the centennial township logo, for use on the Comprehensive Plan, website, ICTV, the annual reports, newsletters, township trucks, etc. A marked up logo was presented for review, along with the cost to redesign it for \$75 by White Ivy. She also presented another logo option, as gotten from the MN Assoc. of Townships and used by several other townships.

Supervisor Key made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve the proposed logo option 1 (the centennial logo, minus the word centennial and date), and proceed with having White Ivy officially change it. The clerk clarified that they would like it in blue. Upon roll call, motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The clerk was also asked to check into the cost of having door magnets or decals made for the township truck doors.

- The filing period for township offices (1 supervisor for a 3 year term, and 1 clerk for a 2 year term) will be January 3 – 17, 2011; cost is \$2.

The Clerk noted that interested residents should contact her for an appointment to file.

- Consider approval of the “Harris Township 2012 Meeting Schedule” for publication

The board reviewed the meeting date schedule for 2012 as presented for publication, against a 2012 calendar. No errors or problems were found.

Supervisor Key made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve the 2012 town board meeting scheduled for publication. Upon roll call, motion carried.

- Cable Commission Meeting

Treasurer Becky Adams reported on the recent Cable Commission meeting that she attended. Points of interests were:

- There have been some changes to bylaws to help clarify what the board is doing
- The Cable Commission board approved the ICTV upgrades for new lighting and some remodeling. Part of the cost for these improvements will come from the cable commission.
- All of the Cable Commission meetings are now available on the ICTV website for viewing.

11. Approve payment of bills

Treasurer Adams noted that the workers comp insurance payment for 2012 was in the list of bills, as was the second half of fire contract for 2011, and payment to Blue Cross/Blue Shield for the maintenance crew’s health insurance for the first quarter of 2012.

Supervisor Key made a motion to approve payment of the bills per the attached list titled “Dec 2011 Bill Listing to Board” in the amount of \$66,121.61; Supervisor Kortekaas seconded the motion, and upon roll call, motion carried by a unanimous vote.

12. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:30pm by Supervisor Key, and seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith, Clerk of Harris Twp