



March 13, 2012
Annual Meeting
Harris Town Hall
8:15pm

MINUTES
(draft)

MISSION STATEMENT:
The Harris Town Board strives to enhance the quality of life, protect the environment, and maintain economic stability for the residents of their community.
www.harristownshipmn.org

1. Call Annual Meeting to Order

The annual Harris Town meeting was called to order by Clerk Michele Smith at 8:15pm on March 13, 2012 at the Harris Town Hall. Approximately 22 residents were in attendance, including all board members (Michele Smith, Gary Rosato, Larry Key, Dennis Kortekaas, and Becky Adams); a copy of the sign-in sheet of attendees will be attached to these minutes. Also in attendance were ICTV, Brian Carlson from the Itasca Fair Board, and Lilah Crowe from the Itasca County Historical Society.

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.

Upon roll call, the electorate voted unanimously to approve Rusty Eichorn as the Moderator of the Annual Harris Town Meeting. There was no one opposed.

4. Approve minutes of the annual meeting held March 8, 2011

The minutes were provided for everyone's review in the annual report packet handed out at tonight's meeting. Chairman Eichorn dispensed the reading of the minutes.

A motion was made by Cecil Bjorge, seconded by Larry Key, to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2011 Annual Town Meeting as written. Upon roll call, motion carried.

5. Receive and approve the Treasurer's Annual Financial report for 2011

The Treasurer's Annual Financial Report for 2011 was included in the annual report, on page 13. The report recapped the beginning and ending township fund balances of 2011 and the revenue/disbursement transactions by fund.

There were no questions from the floor.

Jim Wicklund made a motion, seconded by Shirley Wicklund, to approve the Treasurer's Annual 2011 Financial Report as presented. Upon roll call, motion carried.

6. Review Levy Comparison for years 2007 through 2013

A levy comparison, by fund, from 2007 actual to 2013 proposed, was provided for everyone's review in the annual packet. Chairman Eichorn recapped that the total proposed budget for 2013 was \$845,000. This was the same amount that was adopted in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

7. Consider Approval of the 2013 Operating Levies

There were two options listed under item 7, to either a.) Approve the proposed operating levy for 2011 in total, or to b.) Approve operating levies by fund.

Mike Hendricks made a motion to approve the 2013 operating levy in total since it had not changed since 2008, in the amount of \$845,000, as shown by fund in detail on pages 15 – 25 of the Annual Town Meeting Report. The motion was seconded by Cecil Bjorge and upon roll call, motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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

Chairman Eichorn referenced the Resolution #2008-004, 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 township 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. There were no questions or comment from the audience.

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 2013, which totaled **\$3,253** annually, based on Harris Township's 2010 census figure. This is the same amount per capita that has been requested and awarded the past several years, though in total it decreased due to a decrease in the Harris Township population (the 2000 census was 3,328; the 2012 census was 3,282).

Lilah Crowe was *not* attendance at the time the special levy was reviewed by the townspeople. However, several residents commented on the high value of the Historical Society, including the work done for the Harris Township centennial.

A motion was made by Larry Key, seconded by Cecil Bjorge, to approve a \$1.00 per capital special levy for the Itasca County Historical Society, collectible in 2013, which represents an annual amount of \$3,253.00 based on the 2010 census. Upon a vote, the motion for a special levy passed unanimously.

- ***Itasca County Agricultural Society (aka Fair Board)***

Brian Carlson, a Fair Board representative, 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 2013.

Brian explained that the funds would be used for operational support of the Itasca County Fair, and not for capital improvement projects.

Brian shared some of the fair board's upcoming projects, including fencing to keep deer out of the fairgrounds.

It was noted by an audience member that townships are authorized by Minnesota State Statute to give to the Fair Board / Agricultural Association by way of a special levy; the same is true for giving to the historical society.

Gary Rosato made a motion, seconded by Larry Key, to approve a 2013 special levy for the Agricultural Association (Fair Board) in the amount of \$1,000.00. Upon a vote by the people, the motion carried unanimously

- The following nonprofit agencies submitted letters of request for a township donation, as show in the back of the annual report. However, no one was in attendance to make a presentation for any of the agencies, nor was there any action from the floor when reviewed one by one. Therefore, no action was taken on the requests for donations from the following:
 - Support within Reach
 - Elder Circle
 - Home Visitor Program
 - FFAW
 - Itasca Little League

Clerk Smith will notify these organizations via letter, indicating that their request for a donation was not approved, and include a copy of Resolution #2008-004 *Donation or Contribution Request Policy*.

10. Old business

- None

11. New business

- 2011 Accomplishments were reviewed by Eichorn, and he commended the board and residents on everything that was done in Harris Township this past year. Rusty commented on the mission statement, and how the accomplishments revolved around it. He also commended the Treasurer and Clerk on their hard work on the annual report the detailed financial statements, and another successful outside audit in 2011.

12. Set time for next Annual Meeting, in year 2012

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 Cecil Bjorge, to set the time for the 2013 Annual Harris Town Meeting for 8:15pm with the Board of Canvass meeting held immediately following the Annual Meeting. Upon roll call, the motion carried.

13. Adjourn

With no other business, questions, or concerns voiced by the people of Harris Township, Gary Rosato made a motion, seconded by Becky Adams, to adjourn the Annual Meeting of Harris Township at 8:43pm. The meeting was adjourned.

In summary, the following levies were approved for 2013:

General Fund Operations	\$100,000
Historical Society (\$1/pp of 2010 census)	\$ 3,253
Itasca Co. Agricultural Assoc. (Fair Board)	\$ 1,000
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 430,000
Equipment Fund	\$ -0-
Cemetery Fund	\$ -0-
Recreation Fund	\$ 40,000
Building & Grounds Fund	\$ 50,000
Fire Fund	\$ 85,000
Capital Improvement Fund	\$140,000
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	\$849,253

Note: The Board of Canvass Meeting was held right after adjournment of tonight's Annual Meeting, where election results were announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele R. Smith, Clerk of Harris Twp