

**MINUTES from the P&D Meeting
Harris Township Board
Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 7:30pm**

The regularly scheduled P&D Meeting of the Harris Town Board was held on Wednesday, August 28, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Chairman Kortekaas at the Harris Town Hall, with the following officers present: Supervisors Gary Rosato, Dennis Kortekaas, Treasurer Becky Adams and Clerk Michele Smith. *Absent:* Larry Key (*He was attending the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization training, put on by Itasca County*).

Also in attendance: Glen Hodgson – SEH Road Engineer, Mike Hendricks – Township Recreational Advisor, and residents Rick Libby and Judy Myers.

1. Pledge to the flag, followed by the reading of the Harris Township Mission Statement

2. Business from the Floor

- Rich Libby – Lake Access at Wendigo Picnic Park

Rick Libby, who is a resident on Hale Lake and on the Pokegama Lake Association Board (a former president), came before the board to discuss the lake access at Wendigo Picnic Park. Currently, it's a 12 foot high hill with old railroad tie steps – which are a hazard currently. He'd like to see new steps installed, and a dock for fishing. Libby talked to the DNR, who agreed it might be a good idea. However, the DNR didn't think there'd be any docks available next year so the township would need to provide one. Libby suggested a rolling dock one with a "T" at the end, and benches. Sam Johnson from the DNR said he could get volunteers to put in steps and perhaps supply the materials as well. Overall, Libby stated that the Wendigo Picnic Park property is worth \$189,000 and feels it would be worth installing \$1,000-\$2,000 worth of improvements. Plus, it's a public property that the township will probably always have as it cannot be sold due to the way it was given to the township. (It used to be a community picnic area but when it became a maintenance issue, it was given to the township in hopes that they would maintain it. The conditions stated that the property can only be given back to the owners – nearly impossible now – or the county, and would remain public. It cannot be sold.)

Supervisor Key and Mike Hendricks – Township Recreational Advisor - discussed the lake access at the park. They were aware of the old timber walkway to lake and agreed it was not safe to use any more. They noted that the water in the area is very shallow and so it would require a long dock – apx 150 feet - to get out of the lily pads. The picnic tables there now are cement and one broke so there are only 2 rather than 3. The Wendigo Picnic Park as it is now is *not* very inviting. There's parking for only 5 cars. Hendricks suggested the board take a look at the area, and offered to draw up a few proposals on how to make the park more attractive to the public. For example, get different picnic tables, clean up the bank according to DNR regulations, rebuild the steps, and perhaps add a small pavilion and play area. He also suggested a survey or ballot question to see if people are interested in improving the park, and if so, phase in the improvements over the next several years.

The board agreed to have Hendricks to put together a proposal of possible improvements at Wendigo Picnic Park and access for discussion. One thing that will need to be considered is any ADA requirements – including wheelchair access to a dock if permanent.

A resident in the audience commented that they would rather see township money put into Mishawka Landing parking and/or improving the Troop Town landing they are losing shore (the ground needs to be stabilized) than the picnic park access.

3. Roads

- *Glen Hodgson – SEH Road Engineer:* See memo
 - a. Update on Pre-paving Project – by Schwartz Construction

The prepaving project work by Schwartz is done on Robinson, Southwood, Stony Point roads. Due to the recent rain, however, there is a small amount of repair work to be done on Robinson and Southwood. The cost for the prepaving projects will be approximately \$4,000 *below* the original estimate, even after adding the French drain on Southwood Road.

b. Update on Overlay Project – by Hawkinson Construction

The overlay project work by Hawkinson Construction is complete on Southwood, Robinson, & Stony Point roads as well as the shouldering work, which was completed on Tuesday. Striping on Southwood Road is the only work left to be done. However, there is also some shoulder repair work to do on Westwood and Robinson, due to the heavy rain on Monday. The total cost of the overlay project will be about 4-5,000 *above* the estimated costs.

c. Ruff Shores Road

Glen Hodgson asked if it was the board's intention to have Ruff Shores Road overlaid this year as a part of the Southwood Road overlay project; it was just brought to his attention by Supervisor Key. In reviewing the minutes from April 2013, Ruff Shores Road *was* approved by the board for paving as an afterthought, due to the close proximity when paving Southwood. However, it got missed in the project specs during the transition of the SEH engineers. Unfortunately, it may now be too late as the overlays are done on Southwood and LaPlant roads. Hodgson will talk to the county to see what they had planned in the next few years.

Hodgson also discussed the new 3-way stop at Ruff Shores and Southwood Road. He had been asked if he felt it was warranted. After review, Hodgson said that in his opinion, it was not. However, the board did not take any action at tonight's meeting as Supervisor Key was not in attendance and his opinion was highly valued. Hodgson did note that branches should be trimmed in the area, especially near north bound section, as it's hard to see.

d. Preliminary discussion on possible 2014 road projects (no action)

Because he felt it's never too early to start thinking about next year, Hodgson discussed possible projects for 2014 with the board. He asked if the gravel road project was something they wanted to continue. The board agreed that they like the 5 year rotation for placing new gravel on roads, and would like to continue that in 2014.

Regarding overlay / reclaim projects, the board noted that the portion of the Underwood Road between Wendigo Park Road and Wendigo Road (Co Rd 67) was a high priority for them. However, they asked Hodgson to review the annual road review reports from April '13 to determine other road priorities as well.

• Other road issues / concerns

- Review Harris Township Culvert Policy per Resolution #2008-006

Because Supervisor Key was not in attendance, a motion was made by Supervisor Rosato to table the culvert policy discussion until the Regular meeting in September. Upon a second by Supervisor Kortekaas, the motion passed.

4. Recreation

• Mike Hendricks: Herbicide update

Hendricks solicited two proposals from a firm the township's used previously for herbicide applications, formerly called T Shot but now is PA Jones Company. Hendricks reminded the board that a fall herbicide application was not done last year (2012) due to weather conditions being too dry. However, he felt there should be decent weather this fall '13 to apply.

PA Jones proposals:

1. \$2,500 for a *spread* application where pellets are broadcast, and when it rains the chemicals are released.
2. \$1,762 for a *spray* application, which is effective immediately – but it can't rain for 24 hours after applying for it to be effective.

Both proposals were for applications at Crystal Park, Wendigo Park, the Town Hall and Harris Cemetery

Hendricks noted that the township has used both methods and both have been both successful. However, the spray seems to work better at cemetery and therefore he recommended the spray application to the board,

which was also less expensive. PA Jones would like to schedule for the 15th of September, when school is back in session.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kortekaas to contract with PA Jones for the spray applications of herbicide at the Harris Town Hall, Harris Cemetery, Crystal Park and Wendigo Park in the amount of \$1,762.00. Upon a second by Supervisor Rosato, the motion passed.

- Handicapped accessibility - Crystal Park (pavilion)

The Clerk received a call from a person interested in reserving Crystal Park Pavilion, but after checking out the entrance to the park, called the Clerk back to say that the turning radius of the pass through gate was not large enough for her motorized wheelchair / scooter. In addition, there was sand in the gate area, which caused her wheels to spin. The Clerk apologized to the resident, and then asked Mike and Supervisor Key to please look at this entrance during their park inspections.

Hendricks & Key looked at the entrance and agreed to put reclaim material near the gate instead of sand. They also measured all the walk-through gates and found one – that most likely used to get to the pavilion - was 2 ½" narrower than it should be. This would cause scooters to have a problem getting through it. Hendricks called Keller Fence and asked them to move the post, which was in the wrong spot. Since it's their responsibility to move, Hendricks felt it should be one at no cost to the township.

Hendricks commented that they did work with Wheel Chairs Plus when designing the pass through gates, and the computerized wheelchairs will go through it – he's see them do it. However, the new 4-wheel scooters have a different turning radius and may not be able to get through the gates. However, if the pass-through gates were removed totally, it would open up the potential for trail bikes and motorcycles to get in and tear up the park. This did happen in the past, and was the reason the fence was put up in the first place. Hendricks advised that there is a *walk-through* gate that is locked except during skating season and if contacted, the Clerk could arrange to have this gate opened up for someone with a large wheel chair or scooter.

5. Town Hall Report

- No town hall report was received.

6. Maintenance Report for July 2013

The board reviewed the maintenance report as prepared by the Maintenance Crew. There were no concerns or questions from the board.

7. Old Business

- None

8. New Business

- Leaning tree concern - Sunny Beach Road

Supervisor Rosato reported that a resident contacted him, as an oak tree on Sunny Beach Road is leaning towards her house, and she is worried the limbs will come down on her house. The address is 29053 Sunny Beach Road, and the resident believes the tree is in the township right of way. The maintenance crew has agreed to check into the matter.

- Round-table meeting with City Staff

The Clerk asked the board if they would like her to find a meeting time in September or October 2013 for a Round Table meeting with the City of Grand Rapids Staff as they had not met since December 2013. The board agreed that would be a good idea.

9. Public Input

- None

10. Adjourn

A motion was made by Supervisor Rosato to adjourn tonight's meeting at 8:35pm. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith, Harris Township Clerk