

**Minutes from the Work Session
Harris Town Board
Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 7:00pm**

A work session of the Harris Town Board was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at Harris Town Hall, 21998 Airport Road Grand Rapids, MN. The work session was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Rosato. (This work session was open to the public, but was not televised nor recorded by ICTV.)

In attendance were Supervisors Rosato, Key, Kortekaas, Kelley, and Ives, as well as Clerk Smith and Treasurer Adams. *Absent:* None

Also in attendance was Glen Hodgson – SEH Road Engineer for the township, and residents Marge Kelley, Dan Butterfield, Judy Myers, and Cyndy Martin.

The purposes of this meeting, as posted, were:

- Continue the development of a 5-year road plan for paved roads in Harris Township. All town roads will be considered, and what improvements are needed to each will be discussed; and Create a priority list for improving paved roads, and discuss the funding options for said improvements.
- Consider any corrections or changes to draft annual report before printing
- Also, board will discuss annual town meeting protocol, and officer roles

1. Pledge to the flag, followed by the reading of the Harris Township mission statement

2. Continue the development of a 5-year road plan for paved roads in Harris Township

- Glen Hodgson recapped the draft spreadsheet he had put together, which had been shared with the board and discussed at several previous township meetings. A key section of the spreadsheet listed roads he thought should be either overlaid or reclaimed in the next five years, 2015-2019.
- Paved road work in 2015:

Hodgson commented that he felt the board had committed **to overlaying Underwood Road west after the drainage was improved. The board unanimously agreed.** The wetlands issue on this section of Underwood Road had been an issue, but Hodgson was confident the application to restore the original ditch would be approved after Itasca Soil & Water did a site visit in the spring. He'd like to bid the road in early May, and start construction in July as Hodgson thought they'd have an approved application in hand by then. He also anticipated that the ditching and overlay would be done by the same contractor; one bid package would be more economical.

Hodgson's estimate for the overlay was \$144,000 and the estimate for the ditching work was \$40,000, for a **total estimate of \$184,000.** The 2015 major road construction budget amount was \$259,500, so there would be money left over for other projects.
- If another road was added for 2015, the board discussed that doing a road in the same physical area as Underwood Road would save on the mobilization costs. Fieldcrest would be in close proximity – and is in the reclaim group. Alicia Place/Spur would also be in the area.
- Performing preliminary engineering in 2015

The board discussed at length, doing some preliminary engineering on **Sunny Beach Road** in the swampy area, Woodtick landing, and other areas that flood often. They agreed it would be wise to do this prior to any reconstruction. The swampy area near Sutherlands did have borings done in 2014, and found its 27' feet down to good soil. As a result, digging out all the bad soil is not an option. It's deep and it's bad, per Hodgson. He suggested an engineered fill with geotextiles (permeable fabrics which, when used in association with soil, have the ability to separate, filter, reinforce, protect, or drain) and fill on top of that. Another Sunny Beach Road area with drainage concerns was mentioned by Supervisor Ives near Dan Martin's home. Hodgson agreed it should be looked at – as he wasn't familiar with the area. Yet another

area discussed on Sunny Beach Road was that near Oak Island Estates; as this is developed, runoff will likely become an issue. Therefore, future drainage should be considered.

Isleview and Birch Street were also noted as being good candidates for **preliminary engineering** before repaving, as the cul de sac was in bad shape, as was an area that went through a swampy area.

- At the end of the discussions, **the board and Hodgson agreed that for 2015, they would plan to overlay Underwood Road west after ditching, and also do some preliminary engineering on Sunny Beach Road and Isleview/Birch.** Hodgson agreed to bring some estimates for engineering work back to the board at the Regular Meeting next week, March 11th.
- **Crackfilling in 2015** was discussed by the board. A new contractor was in town last year that impressed Hodgson and Supervisor Key; they plan to watch how roads they filled hold up this spring. Key mentioned that he had received Northwest Asphalt inquiry already, and had a list of roads he'd like to see done: Harbor Heights, Lakeview Drive, Mishawaka Shores, Underwood-east, Sunny Beach from Harris to Adair, Tolerick and Crystal Park parking lot. "Bargen Incorporated" is the name of the *new* crack sealing contractor, which Key and Hodgson liked – their work, equipment, and crew. Hodgson agreed to touch base with the cities that used them, and report back to the board. Key will also do some checking.
- **Gravel roads in 2015:** The five year rotation will start over in 2015. The roads scheduled for gravel – if needed – are Hauser, Pinecrest, Sunset Lane/Drive, Root Road, and Carol Street. Hodgson suggested looking at all the gravel roads after the snow is gone. He anticipated *not* having to do all these roads in 2015 as some are low volume and low speed roads, and had good grading. **The board agreed that their plan was to inspect the gravel roads first, and then decide which ones should get additional class V in 2015.**

3. Consider any corrections or changes to draft annual report before printing

The only change noted was to remove the March 2014 Board of Canvass minutes and results resolution from the report, as they had already been approved and were not a part of the annual meeting. Clerk Smith thanked the board for their feedback, and agreed to make the adjustment. She would then add page numbers and update the table of contents and agenda page references, and send to the printer.

4. Discuss annual town meeting protocol and officer roles

The board reviewed that the annual meeting is a meeting of the township residents, and as such, the Supervisors would *not* be acting as a town board that night. Some common question information from the Minnesota Association of Townships was also reviewed.

Glen Hodgson offered to attend the annual town meeting at his own expense, to help field any road questions. The board thanked him volunteering his time.

5. Adjourn

At 8:04 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Key and seconded by Supervisor Kelley. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith – Harris Township Clerk