

Madam Chair Peggy Clayton
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Harris Township

SINCE 1909



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

Supervisor VC Mike Schack 340-8852
Supervisor Ryan Davies 929-0610
Supervisor Dan Gilbert 259-4967
Supervisor Jim Kelley 327-0317
Treasurer Nancy Kopacek 398-3497
Clerk Kelly Derfler 244-1811

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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

Work Session

re: Casper Landing, Wendigo Park, ARPA Funds, Cemetery & Caretaker

April 22, 2024

5:00 pm Harris Town Hall

Minutes

Present: Madam Chair Clayton, Vice Chair Schack, Supervisors Davies, Gilbert, and Kelley; Clerk Derfler

The Work Session was called to order at 5:00 pm by Madam Chair Clayton.

The purpose of the work session was to discuss Casper Landing, Wendigo Park, ARPA Funds, Cemetery and Caretaker.

Casper Landing / Wendigo Park / ARPA Funds

Sarah Carling and CEDA's new hire, Jessica Pellinen attended the Work Session to gather any new information to update Sarah's spreadsheet of estimated costs and sources of funding for Casper Landing and Harris Township projects.

Sarah received the quote for Casper Landing in the amount of \$269,903.33 and was able to plug the figures in prior to the work session. Sarah has earmarked some of the funds from the \$100,000.00 grant from the Blandin Foundation and \$50,000.00 (we received \$75,000.00) from County ARPA funds. This leaves a remaining balance of \$119,860.00 that is not funded at this time.

Approximate costs for each of the projects were identified. Wendigo Park- \$225,000.00, Crystal Park- \$25,000.00, Casper Landing- \$270,000.00. These products total \$520,000.00. There is approximately \$300,000.00 in estimated funding identified. Considerable discussion held on the timelines that the ARPA funds and grants need to be spent by and where the funding from each project is coming from. Some of the funding can be extended, i.e. Blandin Foundation.

Sarah has identified more funding opportunities that can be applied for to fill the gap for Casper Landing. An IRRR Culture and Tourism grant will be opening towards the end of summer with a max of \$30,000.00. This grant can be applied to the project in phases, multiple years in a row. A Resolution will need to be completed by the Board in order to apply for and receive funding from the Culture and Tourism grant when the time comes. Sarah also stated and reminded the board that at some point, the township will need to use township monies towards the project(s).

The monies earmarked from DNR (by Kacie Stanek with DNR) prior to her departure were discussed. Sarah will be following up with the DNR to request whether any funding will be available for Casper Landing and if so, what that amount will be.

Sarah discussed different options for funding, i.e. Harris Township residents in the form of donations and/or sponsoring items or partial items within the parks (benches, picnic tables, bike racks, pavilion, etc).

A resident had contacted the Chair regarding the possibility of placing a plaque or bench at Crystal Park in memory of her grandfather.

Sarah recommended moving forward with the Wendigo Park and Crystal Park projects, as the township does have the funds available, due to the strict funding timelines, and also continue to identify funding for Casper Landing.

Sarah suggested that the Board investigate the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities for legislative lobbying, as their interest is in favor of rural communities.

Motion made by Chair Clayton and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to have Sarah Carling move forward with identifying funding for the Casper Landing project. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to authorize both Supervisor Kelley and Schack to move forward with scheduling contractors to begin the Wendigo Park and Crystal Park projects and acquire updated quotes, if necessary. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Chair Clayton will contact the local Pickleball Association to discuss their proposal of contributing monies to the pickleball courts.

Caretaker

The Caretaker has given her letter of resignation, effective May 31, 2024.

Motion made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Schack to post and publish the vacant position of Caretaker in the Grand Rapids Herald Review, on the Harris Township website, and the Facebook page. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Cemetery

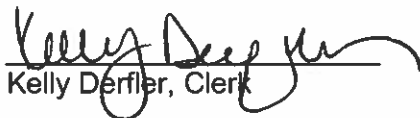
Chair Clayton reviewed the recommended changes to the Cemetery Policy with the Board. These updates were also reviewed with the Sexton. Updates to the policy include clarifications and changes to the sections "Site/Burial Regulation", "Headstone, Foot Stones, Markers", and "Trees, Flowers, and Ornamentations". The Board did not have any questions, etc. regarding the updates made to the policy.

The Board discussed the process for the burial of urns by Maintenance.

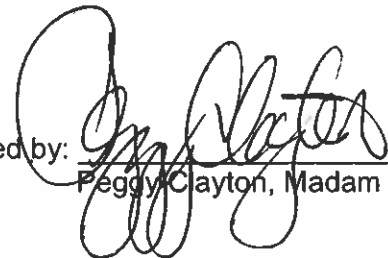
The updated Cemetery Policy will be placed on the next Board meeting agenda for approval.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Davies to adjourn the work session at 6:27 pm.

Prepared by:


Kelly Derfler, Clerk

Signed by:


Peggy Clayton, Madam Chair