

**MINUTES from the Regular Meeting
Harris Township Board
Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 7:30pm**

The Regular Meeting of the Harris Town Board was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm, at the Harris Town Hall, with the following officers present: Supervisors Gary Rosato, Dennis Kortekaas, and Larry Key, Treasurer John Jokela, and Clerk Michele Smith. Absent: none.

Also in attendance: Julie Kennedy, Township Engineer, resident Richard Gunderson, speakers Bill Brink and Julie Metke

1. **Pledge to the flag**, followed by the reading of the township mission statement
2. **Approve minutes** of the Regular Meeting and Annual Road Review on May 13, the P&D Meeting on May 27, the Board of Appeal and Equalization on May 18, the Public Hearing Continuation on May 20, the Centennial Work Session on May 26th, and the Road Work Session on June 3, 2009,

A motion was made by Supervisor Kortekaas, seconded by Supervisor Rosato, to approve the minutes as presented. Upon roll call, motion carried.

3. Firewise presentation – Bill Brink

Bill Brink - a Deer River Fire Fighter, and Julie Metke gave a PowerPoint presentation about the "Firewise" program,

Firewise addresses the risk of homes in the rural areas to wild land fire. As more homes are built in the woods and fields of Minnesota, the existing firefighting resources are less able to protect everyone's property while trying to control a wildfire. Homes close to evergreens and the tall grasses of prairies or marshes are most at risk. Making your home able to survive an approaching wildfire is the goal of the Firewise program.

As a homeowner a person must realize that the threat of wildfire is real. Minnesota alone has more than 2,000 fires a year. Fire is an inherent danger to having a home in the woods, but that doesn't mean you can't do something about it. Firewise promotes 3 steps in creating a Firewise safe home:

- Step 1 – Assess your property:
 - Do you border wild land?
 - Is there a substantial amount of tall vegetation crowded in around your home?
 - Do tree limbs extend over your home?
 - Do you have a woodpile in close proximity to your home?
 - Do you have any fuel tanks nearby?
 - Have you used native vegetation in your landscaping?
 - Does your property's driveway provide access to your home for firefighters?

Step 2 - Create defensible space by dividing your property into three zones:

1. Intensive Zone is the area of maximum modification and treatment. It consists of a 30 foot radius around all structures in which a majority of the flammable vegetation is reduced.
2. Extensive Zone is an area of fuel reduction. This zone is 70 to 100 feet or more from the structure.
3. General Management Zone is an area of traditional forest management and is of no particular size. It extends from the edge of your defensible space to your property boundaries.

Step 3 - Maintain your defensible spaces otherwise risk losing the benefits of the Firewise protection.

The Minnesota Firewise Project is working with local communities by passing federal Fire Plan funds through to local communities as grants for various "on-the-ground" activities including home owner, mitigation education, home site assessment, access improvement, and dry hydrants. It involves community groups including fire and emergency services, local schools, city staff (i.e. foresters, planners), and local interest groups. Need 4-6 homeowners to start a group in a community and Bill coordinates the inspection of the home and the tracking of the hours. Deer River Hired Hands will come and pick up the brush piles, and remove them from a resident's home. If assistance is needed to cut

the brush/trees, specialized volunteers trained by Firewise are available. Also, their Firewise services can use for township roads that needs brushing or downed trees/brush – but a community group would first need to be established.

Bill left information with the Board on the Firewise program, and getting one started in Harris Township.

4. Roads

Julie Kennedy – (see memo)

- Wendigo Park Road – Lake County Power (LCP) easements:

Dennis Warner, SEH Surveyor, has reviewed and approved the right of way easement to LCP across the Harris Township property along Wendigo Park Road. The easement is 20' wide along the west property line of the Service Center property. (A copy of the easement will be attached to these minutes.)

- Wagon Wheel Court Class 5 Project

On Monday, June 8th, Hammerlund Construction placed 904 tons of class 5 of Wagon Wheel Court. The final grading was finished this morning. Braun Intertec performed penetration index testing this afternoon and confirmed that the compaction is satisfactory. Julie recommended that the Board authorize payment to Hammerlund Construction in the contract amount of \$7,250.00.

- Class 5 project cost update (River Ridge, River View, Root, Norway, Wendigo Heights and Bear Creek – 6 roads)

Quotes were received on Wednesday, June 10 for the 2009 Class 5 project that includes 4360 tons to be placed on the above list of roads. Seven contractors were offered the quote request and two submitted quotes: Casper in the amount of \$39,899 & Hammerlund in the amount of \$53,930. Total length of road for this project: 1.75 miles.

The board discussed that both amounts are over our 2009 budgeted line item of \$15,000 for gravel projects, but there's \$20,000 in brushing that will not be used.

A motion was made by Supervisor Rosato to approve the low bid from Casper Construction for the 2009 Class 5 project of \$39,899 for River Ridge, River View, Root, Norway, Wendigo Hgts and Bear Creek roads. Supervisor Kortekaas seconded the motion and upon roll call, motion carried unanimously.

- Revised road prioritization sheets

Julie gave the board revised gravel road prioritization based on the regular application of Class 5 material. She recommended that each year, the Board plan to award a project to apply class 5 on about 1.4 miles of selected roads. This would result in all the roads getting new Class 5 placed about once every 5 years. The roads for each year will be determined on a rotational basis from the prioritization list, which considers the last application as well as the location of the roads – to reduce mobilization costs. Doing this will also help when determining the budget for the gravel line item. **The Board agreed with Julie's recommendation.**

- Underwood Road Cost estimates

A revised design of the cul de sac on the Underwood Road was presented for the Board, based on the input of the residents during the site visit held May 20, 2009. Richard Gunderson was in attendance, and was also given a copy of design map.

Cost estimates were also shared with the Board for two options:

- a.) Full reconstruction west of Wendigo Park Road ¾ mile and construction of a cul de sac
- b.) Bituminous leveling and overlay coursed, and construction of a cul de sac

On Friday, Braun Intertec will drill eight, 5' soil borings along Underwood Road. They will provide the Township with a report of the existing bituminous thickness, base and subgrade material and whether or not groundwater was encountered. The cost of the work is \$2,275 and the contract was attached to the memo from Julie. The results of the report will provide further clarification on the most feasible method of rehabilitating the pavement on the road.

The costs were reported as follows:

- Construction of the Underwood Road cul de sac: \$94,000

- Full reconstruction west of Wendigo Park Road to the end of Underwood Road: \$514,289 (this does not include the cost of building the cul de sac)
- Bituminous leveling and overlay: \$187,700 (plus the cost of the cul de sac construction)

At the June P&D Meeting, Julie will know results of soil borings. No decision made tonight, as recommended.

The Board agreed to have Julie stake out the cul de sac location as revised, and hold another neighborhood site meeting. Attorney Andy Shaw will be invited since this involves the abandonment of the ROW area as specified.

Julie will touch up drawing to show the 15' easement, and abandonment area, and then send it to the adjoining landowners and Tom Osborn along with notification of the site meeting. The date/time was set by the board as follows: June 24th, 2009 / 6:30pm / End of the Underwood Road. This is just prior to the P&D meeting, at 7:30pm at the Harris Town Hall.

- Sunny Beach Road / Oak Island Estates Drainage

On Tuesday, June 9th, Supervisor Key and Julie met with County representatives (Don Dewy, Karen Grandi, and Nadine), Jeff and Cindy Kaiser, and John Persons regarding the drainage concerns resulting from the improvements made within the recently platted oak Island Estates. Additional information is being obtained and a second meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2009. No action was recommended. No action was taken.

- Woodland Park Road – plugged culvert

Supervisor Key received a call from a resident at the end of Woodland Park Road, regarding his culvert being plugged up. He stated that the end home is being rented to pipeliners, and so heavy trucks are driving over the road, and may ruin the road. Julie checked the roadway on Monday, when it was raining, and it was fine. Julie reminded the board that the road was reconstructed as agreed to by residents with regards to leaving a tree, and how ditching would be done. Also, it was noted that Woodland Park Road is a 5 or 7 ton road, so truck traffic should be fine. Julie and Larry will take a look at the culvert and the road.

- Norway Road – concern about new turnaround not holding up

Julie hasn't had a chance to look at yet, but will soon and report back to the Board.

- Melody Road – concern about the road edge

Julie checked out the concern of the edge of the road breaking away, brought to her attention at the road meeting on June 3, 2009, after road inspections had been completed. However, the road edge damage was not as bad as she'd thought it would be. She will keep an eye on it, however.

5. Treasurer's Reports

- The Treasurer's report for May 1 – 30, 2009 financials

Supervisor Kortekaas made a motion, seconded by Supervisor /Rosato, to pass the Treasurer's Report as presented. Upon roll call, motion carried.

6. Business from the Floor

None

7. Recreation

- Consider bid from Green Again for herbicide at parks, cemetery, and town hall

Mike Hendricks had been sent an estimate worksheet by "Green Again" for 1 application of weed control at Crystal and Wendigo Park, the town hall, and the cemetery. The estimate was for \$3,242.70. Mike thought this amount was high. The board agreed, and discussed that the estimate was for only 1 application of dandelion control, and 3 are needed for adequate control.

Last year, organic herbicide was used, as requested from a resident who lives near one of the parks. However, it did not do a good job. The chemical that would be used this year is stronger; the park would need to be closed down for 6-8 hours after application. Supervisor Key agreed to have Mike get a quote from Tee Shot, who we've used for the past several years.

Supervisor Kortekaas made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Rosato, to table a decision on the Green Again bid until the Tee Shot bid was also received. Upon roll call, motion carried.

- Consider bid for a cement slab at Crystal Park for new warming house:
Hince Enterprises submitted an estimate to pour a cement slab for the new Crystal Park warming house. Materials were estimated for \$798 and labor was \$800 for a total of \$1,598.00. If approved, they could pour the slab this week.

Supervisor Rosato made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve the estimate from Hince Ent. to pour the cement slab at Crystal Park for \$1,598.00. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Rosato then made a motion to authorize any other work needed for the warming house be carried out at the discretion of Supervisor Key. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, and upon roll call, passed.

- Rapids Rental will move the warming house from the Grand Rapids High School to Crystal Park, in exchange for the old flag pole from the cemetery (which is no longer used). Board approved.
- A bill was received for electrical work at Crystal park - \$375 (no action needed / it is on the bill list)
- A bill was received for building and material costs of the siding for new warming shack in the amount of \$1,200; the school agreed that payment would go to the Carpentry Class, rather than the school's general fund as originally stated.

8. Correspondence

Board Action items:

- Request for use of Crystal Park courts on July 7 & 8, from 9am – 5pm, for the Greenway Mary Sandstrom Tennis Tournament (request from ISD #316 Greenway Community Ed.)

Supervisor Rosato made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to allow the reservation of Crystal Tennis courts on July 7 & 8, 2009 from 9am – 5pm for the Mary Sandstrom Tennis Tournament. Upon roll call, motion carried.

The maintenance guys will put up a sign at Crystal Park noting the reservation of the courts. .

9. Consent Agenda

1. Consider approval of cemetery sites sold to Linda Olson: Sec 3, Block 9, lot 3, Sites 3 & 4
2. Consider approval of cemetery site sold to Linda Griffith: Sec 2, Block 34, Lot 1, Site 2
3. Consider approval of cemetery site sold to Janice Nichols: Sec 1, Block 2, Lot 4, Site 5
4. Consider approval of hiring Wicklund Photography and Design to take photos at the Twp Centennial picnic
5. Consider waiving the town hall rental fee for the Cancer Society benefit spaghetti dinner held May 17, 2009

Supervisor Rosato made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve all five items on the consent agenda. Upon roll call, motion carried.

10. Old Business

- Newspaper ad for the Centennial

Clerk Smith brought information on the price to run an ad for the Centennial Picnic in the Herald Review. Basically, it was \$100 to run it the first time, and about \$85 for subsequent runs. The Board agreed that running an ad the next three Sundays would be a good idea.

Supervisor Kortekaas made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Rosato to approve an ad be run three times for the July 5th, 2009 Centennial Celebration Picnic. Upon roll, motion carried.

• **Roadside Mower –**

Supervisor Key has been talking to Tom Doyle of Diamond Mower in the twin cities about a new roadside mower. There is a one time government discount on equipment that would allow us to buy a new mower for just a little more than a used one.

We can trade-in our current mower toward the purchase of a new 2009 John Deer #7130, 6 cylinder tractor with a 20' boom and a 50" flail mower for brush. The cost would be \$73,000 after trade in, with the government discount. Normally, this equipment would cost \$110,000. The tractor could be delivered.

According to our equipment replacement chart, we'd estimated \$90,000 to replace the mower.

Supervisor Rosato made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas to approve the purchase of the John Deer mower with boom for \$73,000 with trade from Diamond Mowers. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously.

11. New Business

None

12. Approve payment of bills

It was noted that included in the bills was a request for \$100 payable to USPS, for the cost of anticipated returned newsletters. Also, added to the list, per approval of the board: \$7,250 payable to Hammerlund Construction for the Wagon Wheel gravel project.

A motion was made by Supervisor Rosato, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve the June 2009 bill list in the amount of _____. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjourn

Supervisor Rosato made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to adjourn the meeting at 9:17pm. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith, Clerk