

**MINUTES from the P&D Meeting
Harris Township Board
Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 7:30pm**

The P&D Meeting of the Harris Town Board was held on January 27, 2010. 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.

Guest at tonight's meeting: Julie Kennedy – township road engineer,

1. Pledge to the flag

2. Business from the Floor

None

3. Roads

• Updates by Julie Kennedy – SEH:

- Julie is gearing up for the budget meeting on February 18, 2010, and preparing the estimates for the Underwood Road cul de sac project
- Julie confirmed that she will be at the township round table work session on Feb 3rd with City of Grand Rapids engineers; a likely topic will be improvements to Horseshoe Lake Road, Islevew Road, and possibly Mishawaka Road. The Board would like to discuss improving the township portions of those roads at the same time as the city of Grand Rapids improves their portions.

• Davis Road plowing:

Supervisor Key received a call from a resident of Davis Road, stating that the county has not plowed Davis Road all year. This is on our road contract with the County for .10 miles (apx 600 feet). However, the area adjacent to the road was recently taken over by the City of Grand Rapids. It's likely that it got forgotten by the County. Either Rosato or Key will get a hold of Bill Matzdorf at the county, to discuss this issue. Supervisor Key did have the maintenance guys plow Davis Road yesterday.

• Tolerick Road

The gravel fill on Tolerick Road is holding up well.

4. Recreation

Both ice rinks are closed today, due to the cold (wind-chill). They were also closed this past Monday due to condition of the rink (the warm weather caused melting and puddles). Both rinks have been re-flooded and are now in good condition.

One rink attendant quit, and so we now have three. They are working out well, and so a fourth will not be hired.

5. Town Hall Report

None submitted

6. Maintenance Reports

- Maintenance reports from November and December 2009 were reviewed by the board.
- It was noted that the maintenance guys also submitted a very thorough equipment list to the Clerk and Treasurer.
- Key commented that the guys are creating a sign inventory

7. Old Business

- Update on LCP/Great River Energy (GRE) Meeting from 1/21/10 (Gary)

An open house was attended by Supervisor Rosato. The LCP/GRE project will provide Harris Township with a stronger flow of power on the south end of township (including Bear Creek). This area has had a lot of power drops. 9 mile residents were concerned about having the substation in their area. Spang was also upset as it's going into their township but they were not notified of the meeting. Others in attendance appeared to be support of the project, which will start in the spring of 2010.

- Confirm date of next budget work meeting: Thursday, February 18, 2010, 7:30pm at the Town Hall

The date was confirmed as the Board of Audit, and a budget meeting to discuss roads, as well as review all other funds. The board discussed if this would be a fifty dollar "meeting" or an hourly "work session". Although the Board of Audit is no longer a legally required meeting, the Clerk reminded the Board that they will be making a decision about the Clerk and Treasurer's books balancing, and signing off on them. Therefore, a "meeting" seemed more appropriate.

It was also agreed that since we have an outside audit done, the "Board of Audit" does not need to be published – just posted. Jokela suggested posting that "2007 and 2008 audit results are available on request" on the township website.

- South Central Itasca County Intergovernmental Planning Board

Supervisor Rosato read the bylaws of the South Central Board, and found that we, as a member, would need to give 90 days notice prior to end of December to drop out, per bylaws. Thus, we are committee to remain a member in 2010. However, at the next South Central meeting, on February 3, 2010, the future of the board, and 2010 dues, will be discussed in light of recent membership decline.

- Update on Paul Bunyan (PB) Telephone

Supervisor Rosato attended a joint meeting with PB, Mediacom, Grand Rapids, Coleraine and the Greater Grand Rapids Area Cable Commission. They discussed how to handle franchise fees with multiple providers, and if Coleraine was going to join the cable commission agreement. PB stated they are not planning any major new construction due to the economy.

- Boundary maps from Census Bureau

A while back, the board reviewed boundary maps of the township that were sent by the Census bureau. If there were no changes to the lines, the Board understood they were to do nothing. However, Supervisor Rosato received notice from the Census Bureau that they had not yet received our boundary information. Rosato will dig out the information, and see what we were supposed to do.

- Abstract for original cemetery

Supervisor Key attempted to get an abstract for cemetery, but found out from the abstract company that there never was one for the original part of the cemetery. Furthermore, the company said that they are done away with abstracts; if we have the deed, which we do, that is all we need.

8. New Business

- Consider approval of the 2010 – 2015 Fire Contract with the City of Grand Rapids

There is some wording in the fire contract that Supervisor Key didn't agree with, notably as in item #1 where it talks about the Grand Rapids Fire Department having an obligation to serve city of Grand Rapids *first*, then other municipalities. However, Key added that the fire service received from the city has been good.

The proposed contract period runs from March 31 2010 through March 31 2015. Our 2010 premium will be \$73,211 as compared to \$75,474 in 2009 was \$75,474, so it dropped a little.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kortekaas to approve the 2010-2015 fire contract with the City of Grand Rapids. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Rosato and upon roll call, motion carried.

- Update on purpose of the non-dedicated portion of the Capital Improvement fund

An email was received from former Treasurer, Peggy Bishop, about the purpose of the non-dedicated portion of the Capital improvement Fund. Clerk Smith had made an inquiry after the budget work session on January 20, and read her response to the Board.

In general, the non-dedicated funds are for capital improvements to the cemetery or parks, as we do not have a dedicated portion of the Capital Improvement Fund for the cemetery or recreation funds. However, the non-dedicated funds could also be used to purchase a new piece of equipment or a new roof for the town hall. It serves as an emergency or slush fund for any capital improvement – but is not to be used for operating costs.

The Board commented that this email was good information, and should be kept on file for review each year.

9. Adjourn

A motion was made at 8:48pm by Supervisor Kortekaas to adjourn the meeting. Upon a second by Supervisor Rosato, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith, Clerk

REMINDERS:

Round Table Meeting with City of Grand Rapids Engineers:	Wed. Feb 3	7:15pm	Blandin Foundation
Regular Meeting	Wed, Feb 10	7:30pm	Town Hall
Budget Mtg and Board of Audit	Wed. Feb 18	7:30pm	Town Hall