

**MINUTES from the REGULAR Meeting
Harris Township Board
Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 7:30pm**

The Regular Meeting of the Harris Town Board was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Chairman Rosato, at the Harris Town Hall, with the following officers present: Supervisors Larry Key, Dennis Kortekaas, and Gary Rosato, Clerk Michele Smith and Treasurer Becky Adams. Absent: None.

Also in attendance were Beth George from ICTV / Cable Commission, and Dan Clifton, business owner.

1. **Pledge to the flag**, followed by the reading of the township mission statement
2. **Approve the minutes** of the Regular Meeting on April 13, the P&D Meeting on April 27, the Neighborhood Meeting on Mishawaka Road on April 20, the Public Hearing for Cable PEG fee proposed increase on May 4, the Board of Appeal & Equalization on May 5, and the Work Sessions for 1:1 employee review meetings (closed) on May 6, 2011.

Supervisor Key made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Supervisor Kortekaas seconded the motion, and upon roll call the motion carried.

3. **Consider approval of Resolution #2011-006: A Resolution Authorizing a \$0.25 Increase in PEG Fees**

After reviewing the resolution, and with no questions for Beth George (who was in the audience), a motion was made by Supervisor Kortekaas, seconded by Supervisor Key, to approve resolution #2011-006 | A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING a \$0.25 INCREASE IN THE PUBLIC, EDUCATION, AND GOVERNMENT FEE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012. Upon roll call, motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Clerk Smith will send Beth George a copy of the signed resolution, for her records, as a representative of ICTV and the Grand Rapids Area Cable Commission.

4. **Consider approval of a Liquor License for "Gasoline Alley"**; request from *new owner* of "Savoy Pizza" bldg Dan Clifton was in attendance at tonight's meeting, and came to request support of the township for a liquor license for the new restaurant/bar he plans to open in the former "Savoy Pizza" (old Harbor restaurant) building. His proposed name for the new establishment is "Gasoline Alley", though approval of that name is still pending. [Note: The name later changed to The Harbor Grand – Sports Bar and Grill.]

Clifton explained to the board that he has given a purchase proposal and check to the current owner of the property, and is waiting notice of acceptance of the offer. He had talked to the owner at length prior to presenting his proposal, and so Clifton expects it to go through without any problems.

"Gasoline Alley" would be a family friendly establishment, with affordable, American cuisine (i.e. burger baskets). It will be a sports bar & grill with antique décor, and remembrance given to the heritage of the building as the old Harbor Restaurant. Excellent service will be their number one priority, while serving both the summer and winter populations of the community, especially those using Pokegama Lake. Clifton plans to have entertainment – both bands and a comedy club – and has partnered with bus company to offer a 15 passenger van service, to curb potential DWIs.

There are plans for \$80,000 in renovations, including a computer operated system – for use when ordering drinks/food – and a boardwalk down by the water. The area will also be dredged out, so that boats can more readily access the area.

Insurance for the liquor license is being prepared by Itasca Reliable. Hours of operation will be late morning until normal bar closing hours.

Both on-sale and off-sale liquor licenses are being applied for, but the off-sale will not be a primary goal, as they will need time to determine what the demand is.

After hearing the plans for new "Gasoline Alley" bar & grill, and with no other questions from the board, Supervisor Key made a motion to recommend approval of both the on-sale and off-sale liquor licenses being applied for by Dan Clifton. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas and upon roll call, the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Clifton thanked the board for their support.

5. Roads

- ~~Julie Kennedy – project updates~~ (Julie was unable to attend tonight's meeting as planned.)

- Consider contracting with Dust B Gone – see letter from Larry Hansen

Supervisor Rosato had received a request from a resident for "dust guard", and commented that this is a great service to residents, as a way to cut down on the dust of our gravel roads as well as a good maintenance measure. The other board members agreed.

Supervisor Key then made a motion to approve contracting with Dust B Gone to dust-guard specified Harris Township gravel roads; the motion was seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas. Discussion: The Township has used Dust B Gone for many years, and the board has always been pleased with the results. The list of all gravel roads was reviewed, and the roads designated for application in 2011 were the same as 2010: Bear Creek, Wagon Wheel, Hauser, River View, and River Ridge. Upon roll call, the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Key agreed to contact Larry Hansen of Dust B Gone to get a contract in place. He will work with Larry Hanson regarding the gravel road project to make sure that project roads are not treated until after new gravel is placed.

- Grading contract with Schwartz

The contract to extend the grading contract beyond the one month trial period, through the 2011 grading season, was signed on April 29th, per Supervisor Key. The contract period is now officially from April 1, 2011 until March 31, 2012. Most of Harris Township's gravel roads will be graded on an "on call" basis (with 1 week's notice), except Wagon Wheel and Bear Creek, which will both be graded twice a month. (A copy of contract will be attached to these minutes.) Supervisor Key commented that Schwartz recommended no more gravel be added to Wagon Wheel, but that it just needs to be shaped.

- Striping with the city: Supervisor Rosato sent an email to Jeff Davies of the City of Grand Rapids, asking if they would be doing any striping this summer. And, if so, Harris Township would like to use the same contractor in order to get a better rate on the paint. He had not yet heard back from Mr. Davies.

6. Treasurer's Reports: April 2011 financials

Treasurer Adams reviewed the report of the April 1 – 30, 2011 financials. She noted that on the bill list, SEH's payment is for 4 months as they had not been invoicing us. However, they have agreed to do monthly billings from now on. Also on the bill list was the cost of our 2010 audit, from Eikill & Schilling for \$5,200.

Supervisor Key made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report of April financials. The motion as seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, and duly passed upon roll call.

7. Business from the Floor

None

8. Recreation

Supervisor Key noted that he still needs to get together with the township's recreational advisor, Mike Hendricks, to do their annual inspection of Crystal and Wendigo parks

9. Correspondence

Board Action items:

- Notice from Itasca County of possible trespass of septic system and clearing of vegetation for placement of a houseboat on public access between Pokegama & Hale Lakes off Sunny Beach Rd

The board was not aware of this. The Maintenance Crew did check on it, but Supervisor Key noted that it's hard to tell if they are trespassing. The supervisors had not yet looked at the area, but will try and do that before the May P&D Meeting.

The board was not sure what they needed to do, as a result of the notice. Supervisor Rosato agreed to meeting with Don Dewy and find out more.

Noteworthy items:

- ARDC notice of In-Kind grant program for 2011 – Regional Transportation Advisory Committee projects

Non-action items

- Copies of county approved septic and zoning/land use permits

10. Consent Agenda

1. Consider approval of the RBA regarding compensation for the two full-time maintenance workers and the part time Town Hall Caretaker, as recommended by the board at the April 6, 2011 work session
2. Consider approval of the amended Employee Handbook, notably page 12, reflecting the addition of 1 floating holiday for full-time township employees
3. Consider approval of Resolution 2011-007, *A Resolution Designating the Compensation for Officer of the Harris Town Board*, as discussed at the April 6, 2011 work session.
4. Consider approval of the revised "Employee Compensation Policy", page as recommended at the April 6, 2011 work session.
5. Consider approval of cemetery site sold to Donna Medure, Sec 3, Block 33, Lot 1, site 1
6. Consider approval of cemetery site sold to Kathleen Mroz, Sec 3, Block 13, Lot 4, Site 5

Supervisor Key made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve all items (1-6) on the consent agenda. Upon roll call, the motion carried.

11. Old Business

- Town Hall Report from last month (April 2011)

No comments or questions by the board.

- Newsletter update

Due to the busyness of many board members, Clerk Smith had not yet received some articles needed to complete the newsletter. As a result, it would not be mailed out in time to arrive before Memorial Day as originally planned. However, she will gladly send it out in June, when it has been completed.

- Discuss request for use of town hall for rummage sale(s), and use of the garage at the town hall for large items.

In the current Town Hall Policy, garage sales are specifically disallowed. This was put into place after rummage sales in the past tore up the hall floor with car parts and heavy items. However, the Town Hall Caretaker had asked the board about allowing renters to use the garage at the hall for large and heavy items. She said people are asking often, if they could have a garage sale there, and so it would bring in more rentals if such sales would be allowed.

Supervisor Key commented that once they get rid of the grader (it's been sold, but not picked up yet by the buyer), the equipment currently in the town hall garage could be moved out so that renter could use it.

The board discussed that allowing garage sales would require that the Town Hall Policy be changed as follows: Larger or heavy items would need to be displayed in the garage. The rental rate would be \$100. And a higher deposit fee of \$100 would also be charged, to discourage renters from leaving all the garage sale leftovers.

The board agreed that they would try allowing garage sales for a year, and noting that they could change the policy back if it didn't work out.

Supervisor Kortekaas made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Key, to change the Town Hall Policy to list a rummage/garage sale as an approved activity, with a deposit fee of \$100, a rental rate of \$100 rental (for use of both the town hall and garage), and a condition that large or heavy items (over 30lbs) be displayed in garage. This would be effective as of today. Roll call was taken, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Clerk Smith will notify the Town Hall Caretaker of the revision to the policy, and revise the Town Hall Policy & brochure, and print up for display at the town hall.

- Grader

The buyer still has not picked up the grader, perhaps due to road restrictions. However, Supervisor Rosato agreed to contact him.

- Demolition of Blaine property buildings:

Supervisor Key reported that he thought they were now ready to solicit quotes for the demolition at the Blaine property. They have filled 2 dumpsters, the electricity has been shut off, and Pokegama Electric has disconnected the electrical lines. The demolition would need to include all the buildings on the property, and the basement would need to be dug out, as would the slab driveway. Key added that the pile of dirt from cemetery can be used for fill. Supervisor Key agreed to get 2 quotes for this project, and bring back to the board at the May 25th P&D meeting.

- Qwest wireless intent at town hall:

Treasurer Adams looked into the costs of adding internet to the town hall, as requested by the board. It was noted that there have been requests from renters, and the board would find it very useful during the meetings – especially for GIS maps. The Clerk would find it useful during elections and meetings as well.

The costs, per Adams, would be about \$55/month to have internet access at the town hall. In order to make the addition to the existing Qwest service, Adams needs to be added as a signer for the account as it's currently only allowed by Supervisor Kortekaas and former Treasurer Jokela.

Supervisor Key made a motion to approve continuation of the process to add internet service to the Harris Town Hall, with a wireless modem. Supervisor Kortekaas seconded the motion, and upon roll call, passed by a unanimous vote.

- Summer Intern(s)

Supervisor Key shared that the former student intern they've had help out the maintenance crew the past couple years was not coming back. However, Key had some information on a student who would be attending Bemidji for teaching. He is on the A honor roll, and has mechanical experience from working with his dad. He would be available May 27th but would have to leave the first of August to start football practice. Supervisor Key recommended bringing him on after Memorial day, after getting his application and resume, and reviewing at the May 25th P&D meeting. The board agreed.

The board then discussed the maintenance crew's request for 2 interns, instead of just one. As it is now, the one intern only has time to mow and trim the cemetery – and then repeat. Having a second intern would allow additional help for the crew, especially with road shouldering. The board agreed to consider hiring a second intern at the May P&D meeting as well.

- Weed Meeting

Supervisor Kortekaas, who serves as the Township Weed Inspector, stated he would call about the annual weed meeting. However, Supervisor Rosato found out that a meeting probably won't happen this year, per his discussion with County.

11. New Business

- Discuss Memorial Day plans for 2011

The board agreed to again host a Memorial Day celebration at the Harris Cemetery. Supervisor Rosato may or may not be around, but the rest of the board would be. The board agreed that no tent would be necessary as serving from the service garage worked well. Final plans would be discussed at the May 25th P&D meeting.

- Town Hall Floor

The board discussed that it was time to have the floors at the town hall stripped and waxed. Supervisor Rosato agreed to get some quotes and bring back to the board.

12. Approve payment of bills

Treasurer Adams noted the larger bills on this month's list: Commercial Asphalt repair on Wendigo and Aspen, the 2010 audit bill from Eikill and Schilling, and the work by SEH on Mishawaka Road (which will come out of the Capital Improvement / Road fund).

Supervisor Kortekaas made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Key, to approve payment of the attached bill listed titled "May 2011 Bill Listing to Board" in the amount of \$56,840.13. Upon roll, motion carried by a unanimous vote.

13. Adjourn

Supervisor Key made a motion to adjourn tonight's Regular Meeting at 8:40pm. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas and duly passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Smith, Clerk

