

**March 10, 2015  
Annual Meeting  
Harris Town Hall  
8:15pm**

# MINUTES

**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](http://www.harristownshipmn.org)

## **1. Call Annual Meeting to Order**

The annual Harris Town meeting was called to order by Clerk Michele Smith at 8:15pm on March 10, 2015 at the Harris Town Hall. Approximately 35 residents were in attendance, including all board members (Michele Smith, Becky Adams, Gary Rosato, Larry Key, Dennis Kortekaas, Jim Kelley and Burl Ives); a copy of the sign-in sheet of attendees who signed in will be attached to these minutes. Also in attendance were ICTV, Brian Carlson from the Itasca Fair Board, Rusty Eichorn – Itasca County Commissioner/District 4, and Glen Hodgson – Township Road Engineer from SEH.

## **2. Pledge to the flag**

Everyone in attendance joined the Clerk in the pledge to the flag.

## **3. Election of a moderator**

Clerk Smith called for nominations from the floor for a moderator for tonight's meeting. Rusty Eichorn was nominated by Larry Key, and seconded by Dan Butterfield. There were no other nominations for moderator.

***Upon a voice vote, the electorate voted unanimously to approve Rusty Eichorn as the Moderator of the Annual Harris Town Meeting. There was no one opposed.***

## **4. Approve minutes of the annual meeting held March 11, 2014**

The minutes were provided for everyone's review in the annual report packet handed out at tonight's meeting. Chairman Eichorn dispensed the reading of the minutes. There were no questions or comments from the residents in attendance.

***A motion was made by Pat Medure, seconded by Cyndy Martin, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2014 Annual Town Meeting as written. Upon roll call, motion carried.***

## **5. Receive and approve the Treasurer's Annual Financial report for 2014**

The Treasurer's Annual Financial Report for 2014 was included in the annual report, on page 11. The report recapped there was a beginning balance on Jan 1, 2014 of \$1,273,869.00. There were no audit adjustments in 2014. Receipts for the year were \$1,002,877.26 and disbursements were <\$1,071,908.63>. The ending balance as of 12/31/14 was \$1,204,837.63. The breakout by fund was also shown on the report.

There were no questions or comments from the floor.

***Leanne Stoll made a motion, seconded by Tom Stanley, to approve the Treasurer's Annual 2014 Financial Report as presented. Upon voice vote, motion carried.***

## **6. Review Road Report**

A written road report was included in the annual meeting agenda packet, and included Road & Bridge fund levy information from 2014, road work completed in 2014 with associated expenses, and proposed road work and estimated costs for years 2015 and 2016.

The Clerk explained that this was a report, as required by MN statute 164.03 subd. 4, and was included to provide information for discussion only; there was no need to formally approve said report.

Comments from the audience:

- Pat Medure asked if the dollar amount for 2016 proposed road work was known; Supervisor Rosato and SEH Road Engineer agreed that was not yet known, and was still to be determined (TBD).

With no other comments or discussion, the moderator moved on with the agenda.

## **7. Review Levy Comparison for years 2011 through 2016**

A levy comparison, by fund, from 2011 actual to 2016 proposed, was provided for everyone's review in the annual packet on page 16. Moderator Eichorn recapped that the total proposed levy for 2016 was \$930,000, which was the same overall levy amount as adopted in 2015, but with a few fund amount changes:

- General Fund decreased by (\$10,000)
- Road & Bridge Fund increased by \$30,000
- Equipment Fund decreased by (\$15,000)
- Recreation decreased by (\$15,000)
- Buildings and Grounds increased by \$10,000

Net change: - \$0-

## **8. Consider Approval of the 2016 Operating Levies**

There were two options listed under item 8, to either a.) Approve the proposed operating levy for 2016 in total, or to b.) Approve operating levies by fund.

***Pat Medure made a motion to approve the 2016 proposed operating levy in total, in the amount of \$930,000 as shown by fund in the detail on pages 16-24 of the Annual Town Meeting Report dated 3-10-2015. The motion was seconded by Dan Butterfield, and upon roll call, motion carried by a unanimous vote***

## **9. Review Resolution #2008-004 Donation or Contribution Request Policy**

Chairman Eichorn referenced the Resolution #2008-004, noting it was passed by the Harris Town Board on May 14, 2008. Clerk Smith read the resolution aloud, which stated that the Harris Town Board determined it was not appropriate to donate public township funds to private or non-profit organizations, as it's difficult to ascertain the direct benefit to the township. As a result, it was resolved that all future requests for donations or contributions made at annual meetings would be denied by the Board, with the exception of donating *by levy* to the Itasca County Historical Society and Agricultural Fair Board, both of which are specifically allowed by Minnesota statutes. There were no questions or comment from the audience.

## **10. Consider each request for a donation/contribution or an additional levy**

- *Itasca County Historical Society*

A letter was received from Lilah Crowe, Executive Director of the Historical Society, asking for special **levy** of \$1.00 per capita for 2016, which totaled **\$3,253** annually, based on Harris Township's 2010 census figure. This is the same amount per capita that has been requested and awarded the past several years. A letter of support was also received from Trish Kelien – Itasca County Administrator, encouraging the township to vote in favor of a contribution to the Itasca County Historical Society.

No one was in attendance from the Historical Society to do a presentation about the Historical Society.

***A motion was made by Dan Butterfield, seconded by Larry Key, to approve a \$1.00 per capita special levy for the Itasca County Historical Society, collectible in 2016, which represents an annual amount of \$3,253.00 based on the township's 2010 census. Upon the call for a vote, the motion for a special levy passed unanimously.***

- Itasca County Agricultural Society (aka Fair Board)

Brian Carlson, a Fair Board representative, gave a presentation in support of the letter received by Clerk Smith, which asked for a **\$1,000.00** donation via a special levy for 2016. Brian explained that the funds would be used for operational support of the Itasca County Fair, and not for capital improvement projects.

Regarding the fair admission fee, the City of Grand Rapids will again cover the cost so that people could walk in the gate for free again in 2015, as they did in 2014. The round-about and traffic control was completed in 2014, and the annual car show and swap meet were held in August as planned. Improving the new food booths so they are ADA approved and meet OSHA requirements will be done in 2015.

***Burl Ives made a motion, seconded by Dan Butterfield, to approve a 2016 special levy for the Agricultural Association (Fair Board) in the amount of \$1,000.00. Upon a vote by the people, the motion passed unanimously.***

- The following nonprofit agencies submitted letters of request for a township donation, as shown in the back pages of the annual report. However, no one was in attendance to make a presentation for any of the agencies, nor was there any action from the floor when reviewed one by one. Therefore, no action was taken on the requests for donations from the following:
  - Support Within Reach
  - Home Visitor program
  - First Call

- Other: Grand Rapids Little League

A presentation was given by representatives from Itasca Little League, Andy Klaus and Dave Kushel (a Harris township resident), and asked for a donation from the township. They commented that Little League serves approximately 40 kids from Harris Township, which represents 20% of all kids in Little League. A donation was requested to help with equipment costs. When asked what dollar amount Little League was requesting, \$250 was suggested by Klaus. The cost for the kids is \$95 for ages 9-12, and \$80 for kids 7-9. They play approximately 24 games a year.

The Little League representatives were asked if they still uses the Harris Township ball fields at Crystal and Wendigo Parks for practices, free of charge. They replied that yes they do, but it's the coach who decides where to hold practices based on the location of the kids.

The Donation Policy resolution was referenced by Moderator Eichorn, and noted that Little League baseball was not specifically called out in the statutes as was the Historical Society and Fair Board. However, Klaus and Kushel expressed that Little League does provide a benefit to the township and therefore would be authorized by statute.

When asked if other townships donate to Itasca Little League, the answer was that Arbo Township does donate every year, but they were the only one known. It was clarified that Arbo *contracts* for services – which is permissible as it's not a true donation.

Supervisor Burl Ives suggested that perhaps the Harris Town Board could consider contracting with Itasca Little League in the future.

## **11. Old business**

There was no old business from the residents in attendance, but Eichorn reviewed Harris Township's *2014 Accomplishments* page as listed in the Annual Meeting Report packet; he applauded the board and residents on everything that was done in Harris Township the past year, and on their strategic planning and collaboration. The township website and newsletter were also commended by Eichorn.

**12. New business**

None

**13. Set time for next Annual Meeting, in year 2016**

Eichorn noted that the Minnesota State Statutes dictate that the Annual Town Meeting be held the second Tuesday in March, but that the *time and place* must be set by the people.

***Gary Rosato made a motion, seconded by Jim Kelley, to set the time for the 2016 Annual Harris Town Meeting for 8:15pm at the Harris Town Hall, with the Board of Canvass meeting to held immediately following the Annual Meeting. Upon roll call, the motion carried.***

**14. Adjourn**

With no other business, questions, or concerns voiced by the people of Harris Township, Moderator Rusty Eichorn adjourned the Annual Meeting of Harris Township at 8:56 pm.

**In summary, the following levies were approved, collectible in 2016:**

General Fund Operations	\$140,000
Historical Society (\$1/pp of 2010 census)	\$ 3,253
Itasca Co. Agricultural Assoc. (Fair Board)	\$ 1,000
Road and Bridge Fund	\$490,000
Equipment Fund	\$ -0-
Cemetery Fund	\$ -0-
Recreation Fund	\$ 25,000
Building & Grounds Fund	\$ 60,000
Fire Fund	\$ 75,000
Capital Improvement Fund	\$140,000
	<hr/>
	\$934,253

Note: The Board of Canvass Meeting was held right after adjournment of tonight's Annual Meeting, where election results were announced. (See those minutes for results.)

Respectfully submitted,

Michele R. Smith, Clerk of Harris Twp

# March 10, 2015 Annual Town Meeting

- 1 Shirley Wicklund
- 2 Jim Wicklund
- 3 Audrey
- 4 Hank
- 5 DEBRA CARLSON - Vis. Top - Fir
- 6 Marge Kelley
- 7 Billy Adams
- 8 Pat McNeil
- 9
- 10 Kimberly
- 11 Andy Klaus
- 12 Dave Kischer
- 13 Ken Haubrich
- 14 Karl Haubrich
- 15 Mark Kutala
- 16 Cindy Kutala
- 17 Gerald Stejskal
- 18 Terene Stejskal
- 19 Dan Battiford
- 20 Dennis Kottchaas
- 21 Larry Kuy
- 22 Rusty Euhorn
- 23 Bob Jones
- 24 Judy Jones
- 25 Bruce K. D. D. D.
- 26 Glen Hodgson
- 27 Janette Siquerra
- 28 Robert Kimmel
- 29 Kenneth Hodgson
- 30 Julia Lamm
- 31 Cottage Hill Flohauz
- 32 James D. D.
- 33 Tomp Day
- 34 Michele Smith