

Chairman Peggy Clayton  
20356 Wendigo Park Road  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
Phone 218-326-1551

Supervisor Dennis Kortekaas 326-1882  
Supervisor Mike Schack 340-8852  
Supervisor Ken Haubrich 327-1351  
Supervisor Jim Kelley 327-0317  
Treasurer Becky Adams 259-1192  
Clerk Cari Ann Alleman 244-5070  
Deputy Clerk Kati Pierce 256-7411

[harristownshipclerk@gmail.com](mailto:harristownshipclerk@gmail.com)

# Harris Township

SINCE 1909



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

**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.

## A Memo from the Chair...

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Memo from the Chair    | 1 |
| Coffee & Commissioners | 1 |
| FIREWISE               | 2 |
| General Election       | 2 |
| Meeting Schedule       | 2 |
| Appointed vs Elected   | 3 |
| Right of Ways          | 3 |
| Recipe!                | 4 |

Greetings Harris Township! It has been awhile since our last newsletter, and there is much that is new in the township.

Due to having only one maintenance staff person, the Board decided to contract out our mowing of the cemetery, and the two parks (Wendigo and Crystal). This has allowed our staff person to concentrate on ditch mowing/ROW, and those tasks that have been pushed to the wayside. We also have temporary summer maintenance help who spend their time keeping up with cutting grass at our boat landings, the Town Hall, and the Service Center.

The Board has once again conducted their 2018 road inspections, and the list of gravel, and paved road report can be found in its entirety, on our website. Harris Town roads are a #1 priority for the Board, and we strive to keep our roads safe and in shape. Of course, I would love to say that money is plentiful, but we know otherwise!

We have scheduled "Coffee with Commissioners" on Wednesday, July 18th at 7:00 pm at the Harris Town Hall. Please mark your calendar! Bring your questions, concerns, and enjoy a fresh cup of coffee and some cookies!

Harris township does own 16+ acres of land. The township has held this property for quite a while. We believe that it is good practice to give public notice that we desire to sell the land. At our Wednesday, July 11th 7:30 pm Regular Meeting, the board scheduled a Public Hearing for August 8 at 7:45 pm at the Harris Town Hall for the purpose of giving the general public notice that the town desires, to sell the parcels, set the sale value based on the appraisals and determine who may be interested. The sale of the town lands are authorized by statute 365.02 (2).

For those of you who may be new to Harris Township, we have two beautiful, well maintained parks – Wendigo Park, located on 30037 Wendigo Park Road, of which people can play tennis, basketball, baseball, skating (winter months), and children can enjoy the swings, and slides in the playground area. Wendigo also has a "Picnic Park" located right around the corner at 28543 Sunnybeach Road. Picnic Park has two full picnic tables, 3 grills, a view of Pokegama Lake, and ample room to enjoy a family picnic! Crystal Park, located at 20057 Little Crystal Lane Road, boasts a tennis court, baseball field, basketball court, horseshoes, playground area, skating (winter months), and a covered picnic area with picnic tables and two grills! Fun for all!!

Did I mention what an awesome Board we have? Our line up (no particular order...and no it's not age before beauty ). Our supervisors serve on a variety of committees/boards, as well as take care of specific duties within the township as follows: Dennis Kortekaas-our weed inspector guru; Jim Kelley-Vice Chair of the Board, and CEO of roads/ROW; Ken Haubrich-CEO of roads/ROW, and Maintenance Crew Supervisor; Mike Schack-Firewise Pro, Maintenance Crew Supervisor, and boat landings inspections; and yours truly – Peggy Clayton-Chair of the Board, parks/cemetery inspections, and FaceBook author; Becky Adams-Treasurer of all Treasurers; Cari Alleman-Clerk of all Clerks; and Kati Pierce- Deputy Clerk and Cemetery Sexton extraordinaire!

\*\* If you are interested in knowing/learning what cemetery your family members, friends are buried, you can search at: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday (Regular), and fourth Wednesday (Planning and Development) of every month. We encourage you to attend and participate in these meetings. If you are unable to attend, our meetings are "live" on ICTV!

Until next time.....Peggy Clayton

### COFFEE WITH THE COMMISSIONERS!

WEDNESDAY JULY 18  
7:00 PM  
HARRIS TOWN HALL

Coffee with the County events are scheduled in each Commissioner district for holding open discussion with constituents regarding current issues.





## Harris Township 2018 Meeting Schedule

The Harris Town Board will meet on the following dates in 2018, with the meetings starting at **7:30 p.m.**, and held **at the Harris Town Hall, 21998 Airport Road.**

Regular Meeting July 11  
P & D Meeting July 25  
Regular Meeting August 8  
P & D Meeting August 22  
Regular Meeting September 12  
P & D Meeting September 26  
Regular Meeting October 10  
P & D Meeting October 24  
Regular Meeting November 14  
P & D Meeting November 28  
Regular Meeting December 12

## FIREWISE By Michael Schack

Greetings everyone!

FIREWISE is a program that informs homeowners how to keep their homes safe from wild fires as well accidental fires. The main focus is keeping combustible materials away from your home and keeping your driveway accessible for emergency equipment.

There are a few changes this year due to budget cuts. There will no longer be a work crew to help with clearing around homes or driveways, and no chipping of debris. They will pick up brush that YOU clear though! There are forms to be filled out, for in kind expenses.

I have packets that explain what you can do to make your home less susceptible for fires.

Also, thank you to everyone who participated in last years FIREWISE program! We are now a township that is nationally recognized by the NFPA.

Please contact me at 218-310-8852 or [supervisorehpt@gmail.com](mailto:supervisorehpt@gmail.com)

**The General Election is Tuesday, November 6th**  
**Polls are open from 7:00am to 8:00pm, at the Harris Town Hall (21998 Airport Road).**

**The next township election will be held Tuesday, November 6, 2018 for:**

**One Supervisor- Seat A: Ken Haubrich (incumbent)**

**One Supervisor- Seat D: Jim Kelley (incumbent)**

**One Supervisor- Seat E: Mike Schack (incumbent)**

**Treasurer: Becky Adams (incumbent)**

**To ABSENTEE VOTE, please contact:**

**Vicki Martin**

**Elections/Licensing Administrator**

**Itasca County Auditor's Office**

**(218) 327-2849 or email: [vicki.martin@co.itasca.mn.us](mailto:vicki.martin@co.itasca.mn.us)**

**Questions? Call Clerk Cari Ann Alleman at 218-244-5070**

Great news!!!

ICTV is now Live Streaming Harris Township Meetings. Watch from the comfort of your home, live on your TV or PC on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 7:30 PM.

<http://watchictv.org/content/ictv-live-stream>

Past meetings can be viewed at:

<http://watchictv.org/content/harris-township>



## Appointed vs Elected. What is best for our township- you get to decide on Election Day!

The Treasurer and Clerk positions have historically been elected positions. This fall a question will be on the ballot asking if the township would want to change to appointing the positions.

The ballot question will be: ***“Shall option “b”, providing for the appointment of the clerk and the appointment of the treasurer by the town board, be adopted for the government of the town?”***

If you vote **NO** it means you want to keep the separate positions Elected:

\*Voted on by the public

\*Governed by the public: no qualifications needed, must reside in the township and be 18 years old.

If you vote **YES** it means you want to have an appointed Treasurer and an appointed Clerk:

\*Employees of the township

\*Not have to reside in the township

\*Governed by supervisors: the township board is able to set the qualifications for the separate positions.

The Treasurer position will be on the ballot this November, and the Clerk will continue be an elected position until November of 2020.

By Becky Adams, Harris Township Treasurer and Cari Ann Alleman, Harris Township Clerk



## RIGHT OF WAYS

After three years on the Harris Township Board, I will never look at roads the same as before. I have learned more than I care and I find myself critiquing roads as I drive. So, I would like to share some information about Right of Ways.

Road authorities have a common law and statutory duty to keep roads reasonably maintained. As the local road authority, Townships are tasked with maintaining Right of Ways as well as maintaining road surfaces. Maintenance of Right of Ways includes mowing, weed control, ditching, brushing and tree trimming, and removing trees from Right of Ways.

Mowing right of ways usually starts in June depending on the length of the grass. Harris Township is mowing up to eight feet of right of way beginning June through July. Beginning in August the entire right of way can be mowed. If there are noxious weeds growing in the ditch then the entire ditch may be mowed as often as needed to destroy the weeds. Minn. Stat. §160.23.

Ditches are important because they drain water away from the road way keeping the driving surface drivable and maintaining the integrity of the road base. Roads are crowned to allow water to flow to the ditch and not run down the center of the road. Brush, trees and other debris can render ditches ineffective, hence the need for right of way maintenance.

Also, cutting brush and tree branches hanging into the right of way help keep roads open and safe for the traveling public. Tree branches will hang in front of signs blocking the motorist line of sight to the sign. If you notice this condition, please call one of the Board members or Township maintenance.

And, the Right of Way has a number of other uses. Telephone lines, either underground or on poles, natural gas lines, power lines, all are placed in Right of ways. In addition, during winter months, Right of ways, ditches, are needed for snow plowing.

By Ken Haubrich



---

### EASY RHUBARB CRISP

"Growing up in Minnesota, we had rhubarb growing out of our ears. This recipe is a great way to use it, and people will devour it."

#### Ingredients

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 cup all-purpose flour    | 1 cup brown sugar          |
| 3/4 cup oats               | 1/2 cup melted butter      |
| 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon | 4 cups diced rhubarb       |
| 1 cup white sugar          | 1 cup water                |
| 2 tablespoons cornstarch   | 1 teaspoon vanilla extract |

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.

Mix flour, brown sugar, oats, butter, and cinnamon together in a bowl until crumbly. Press 1/2 of the oat mixture into the bottom of prepared baking dish. Sprinkle rhubarb over oat mixture.

Combine white sugar, water, cornstarch, and vanilla extract in a saucepan over medium heat; cook and stir until thick and clear, about 5 minutes. Pour sugar mixture over rhubarb. Sprinkle remaining oat mixture over rhubarb.

Bake in the preheated oven until crisp is lightly brown and bubbling, about 1 hour.

