

# *New Haven Township*

9024 County Road 3 NW  
Oronoco, MN. 55960  
(507-356-8330)

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## **Annual Town Meeting Minutes March 13, 2012**

**1. Call to Order:** The Annual Town Meeting of New Haven Township was called to order at about 3:01 PM by Township Clerk Dale Thomforde and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An estimated 25 patrons were present.

### **2. Comments by Clerk:**

Clerk Thomforde welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting and reminded people when addressing the meeting to state their name and address. He also requested that people be respectful of neighbors when others are speaking.

Recognition of retiring Supervisor Dave O'Brien. Denny Beyer and Ann Fahy-Gust spoke on behalf of the citizens of the Township recognizing Dave O'Brien for 21 years of service, including six years as Chairman. Dave thanked the Township, and said that it runs well, is financially in the black, and he is proud of the local control. Dave also said that he was glad that all could have debates and then leave friends and hoped that would continue in the future.

**3. Moderator Selection:** Dave Klann nominated Dave O'Brien to be the meeting moderator, seconded by Dale Hayward, motion carried on a voice vote. Dave thanked Dale for his work as the Town Clerk and for accepting the appointment by the Board.

**4. Agenda Approval:** Mary Andrist moved that the meeting follow the proposed agenda as printed, second by Bob Lindahl. The motion carried on a voice vote.

### **5. Minutes Approval:**

Dave Klann moved to dispense with reading of the 2011 Town Meeting minutes. Dale Hayward seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Dale Hayward moved to approve the 2011 Town Meeting minutes as written, Don Baker seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote.

## 6. Treasurer's report:

Mike Hassler moved that we have the New Haven Treasurer read a summary of the Treasurer's report, and Dave Klann seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Treasurer Bob Figy presented a summary of the 2011 financial report. The year-end balances for each account are:

Planning and Zoning	\$ 3,981.47
General Road and Bridge Account	\$ 1,363.05
Money Market Deposit Account (MMDA)	\$ 435,631.10
Certificate of Deposit (CD)	\$ 261,629.48
<b>Year End 2011 Total</b>	<b>\$ 714,305.85</b>

Anthony Brock commented the website uses a lot of acronyms in the minutes that are not spelled out. Further discussion on this topic was deferred until later. No further discussion was raised on the Treasurer's report.

Lamoyne Bruce moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Dave Klann seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote.

## 7. Fire Department Report:

Brian Hervey presented the Fire Department report. The Pine Island Fire Department is made up of rural 5 townships, we supply equipment and the City of Pine Island supplies the building. We have a new Fire Chief this year. A new truck was purchased that can pump 3000 gal water in about 5 minutes from ponds, streams etc which should improve the Fire Department rating and lower home insurance rates because they can use local area water. For 2011 there were 250 calls total, with 29 in New Haven Township. The New Haven response time was just under 7 minutes. There are 29 people in the volunteer Fire Department. The 2012 budget is a 0.69% increase, or roughly \$600 more than last year – a good deal for the Township with all the increases in gas, insurance, etc.

When questioned "What is the rating on fire dept?" Brian stated they just missed a better rating because of a needed ladder truck for the City of Pine Island. Since the insurance rates haven't changed recently, assume the rating is still at 5.

Dues for 2012 for New Haven Township will be \$32,762 and it was proposed we send check at next Board Meeting.

Dave Klann made a motion to pay the dues payment of \$32,762, seconded by Jerry Haugen. The motion carried on a voice vote.

### **8. Public Comment:**

Anthony Brock commented the website uses a lot of acronyms in the meeting minutes that are not spelled out. The Clerk will try to do better explaining acronyms in the minutes the first time they are used.

### **9. Road Report:**

Contractor Mike Wood introduced himself. Mike will be going on his 6th year doing road maintenance for the Township. Mike thanked board for working with him.

We add rock to roughly 10 miles of roads per year. This next year New Haven Road will be next on the list. Roughly about 1/3 of the roads are rocked each year.

Replaced 3 culverts this year on 85th Street near Mark Holmes and across 110th Avenue. All replaced culverts bottoms were rotted out.

Cleaned ditches 105th Street by John Meyer's, Hawkin's, and near Hoerle's.

Tree work along 75th Avenue near Brook's and on 95th Avenue near Fuchs.

Plowed snow in 2011 until March 23rd, but this year not so much.

Question was raised on chloride treatment, with the comment that it was not as effective as on county roads. Mike replied we apply to county spec per foot and results in a heavier application because our roads are not as wide. Mike tries not to blade through chloride if possible. The quality of rock on township road is better evidence is that County roads are muddy, township roads marbling is better but will get chloride ground into the rock. Bob Lindahl and Anthony Brock thanked by Mike for his road and ditch work.

**10. Quarry report:** Bob Figy reported Braaten Construction royalties for 2011 for rock sold out of the Townships quarry were \$5,115. We now have purchased a stockpile about 3,000-4,000 yards of crushed road rock.

## **11. Planning & Zoning Report:**

Planning and Zoning Administrator Ann Fahy-Gust gave her report (copy attached). In summary, Ann presented permits issues for 2011, website/scanning, hall rental/CTAS (Minnesota City and Township Accounting System) activities, a 2012 look forward of updating variance language and adding a road ordinance, and an analysis if the Township savings from going to a by-appointment service for Planning and Zoning. Ann asked for survey input on how Planning and Zoning is working for the residents.

## **12. Township questions:**

### **- Cemetery budget – 2011 \$2000 each and \$500 more if needed:**

Dave Klann spoke for Center Grove Cemetery. All goals were reached – storm damage cleared, push to raise perpetual care fund added \$4,000 now at \$55,000 now and interest goes to maintaining the cemetery. The hope is to get self supporting. Checked on the cemetery on Highway 52 – having trouble selling lots too – like all cemeteries. This year's project is to clean and straighten stones (cost estimated \$15,000) most are families gone. Thanked New Haven 4H that did a lot of work and thanked the Board and people for their support. Asking for \$2500 this year.

Dick Erwin spoke for Othello Cemetery. Had a beginning 2011 balance of \$21,875.06 with income of \$2,603.53, including perpetual care \$450 and \$2,000 from New Haven Township (\$500 later), \$1858.20 in expenses, for a year-end total balance of \$22,620.39. Push is to clean and straighten stones this year. Request \$2500 for 2012 for projects etc.

St Michaels Cemetery submitted a written report showing about \$500 more in expenses than income for 2011, including \$2,000 from New Haven Township.

Dale Hayward moved that cemeteries get the same as 2011 and Mary Andrist seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote. Denny Beyer commented that \$7,500 is the maximum any one township can to give to cemeteries by law.

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**- Gopher Bounty – 2011 \$2/pocket gopher and \$1/streakies:**

\$1,225 was paid out in 2011. Two years ago, the land and section where the gophers came from must be specified to prevent bounty from being paid for gophers from other townships with lower bounties.

Lamoyne Bruce moved keep the gopher bounty the same, and Al Prestegard seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**- Township officer wages – 2011 \$1000 annual per diem supervisor, \$2000 treasurer, \$3000 clerk, plus \$20/hr services and \$65/meeting:**

Don Baker asked if the officers were satisfied with the current wages, Dave answered that they were satisfied with the wages and they were on the Board to serve the Township.

Don Baker moved to stay the same since supervisors are satisfied with that arrangement. Stan Wegman seconded, and the motion carried on a voice vote.

**- Township newspaper for publication of notices:**

Must be in Post Bulletin for legals, also in Zumbrota News Record since it is fairly cheap and they cover most of the Township. Dave Klann moved the same, John Meyers seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**- Posting notices:**

Township notices are posted on the website and town hall office door. An outside bulletin board requested – nice idea, but vandals are a concern. E-mail notices can be provided if patrons give us their e-mail address. Dave Klann moved to leave the same with e-mail notification. Dale Hayward seconded, and the motion carried on a voice vote.

**- Official bank:**

Pine Island Bank – we have a good working relationship with the Bank and the Board recommends we stay with them. Opened to discussion on floor. Jerry Haugen moved we stay with the Pine Island Bank, Dave Klann second. The motion carried on a voice vote.

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**- Chloride application for road dust control:**

Application was 50/50 cost split between township and patron in 2011. Denny Beyer explained the process where patrons get stakes, pay and get chloride applied. The Township contract with county for chloride, same trucks and same drivers, heavier rate because of road width, we try to rock before we chloride and get blading done first.

Anthony Brock stated he spoke to the County Engineer (name not known) claims it's stronger on County Road because they have prepared roads before it's put down, so the County roads are better. The County maintains the roads asphalt and gravel and don't charge any money to those that live on County roads. Township patrons have to pay extra money. He would like the township to pay for the cost. Others discussed Oronoco Township process – gravel pits owners were required to pay an excise tax of \$0.05-0.06 per yard and on whatever came in as well. This gave them extra money, they had 3 pits there and we don't have as many. Motion by Stan Wegman keep chloride patron cost-sharing the same and seconded by Bob Lindahl. The motion carried on a voice vote with one vote in opposition.

**- Tax levy – 2011 \$135,000 Road and Bridge Fund with \$15,000 for special fund major road projects, and \$60,000 General Fund:**

Dave commented the Board has not raised the budget for the last 4 years and feel that we can go another year without raising real estate taxes.

Motion was made by Dave Klann to keep the same as 2011, and second by Don Baker. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**- Burning Permits:**

Annual burning permits are free shortly after the Town Annual Meeting and shortly before or after regular monthly Town Board meetings (not available during the meetings to prevent the interrupting the meeting) – otherwise the fee is \$5 for the annual permit (to cover part of the Township administration costs).

**- Next annual meeting site and time:**

Motion to keep as is by Dale Hayward and seconded by Dave Klann. The motion carried on a voice vote. The next Annual Town Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, beginning 3:00 PM.

Township elections by law will be on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at a minimum from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM, but can be extended. Motion to leave the same was made by Dave Klann and seconded Jerry Haugen. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**13. Open Comments:**

Bob Lindahl questioned what is a major road improvement – Denny replied regrading a ¼ or 1 mile of road, or a bridge improvement. We have a bridge in Devil’s Kitchen that needs to be replaced in the next few years. The estimate is that the special road fund might be currently at \$45,000-\$60,000.

Lamoyne Bruce asked about state funding for the Devils Kitchen road bridge. It looks like it may be on the list for federal funding and looks like it is slated for 2014 replacement.

Anthony Brock asked if the annual meeting could be moved to 6-8 PM. Dave pointed out that the time was already voted on for 2013. Anthony Brock thought that this is still a problem because people work. Township elections by law have to be at a minimum from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM and the Town Meeting cannot be held during that time. Some townships hold there meeting after that election starting at 8:30 PM. This can be brought up and discussed again for the 2014 meeting at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting.

**14. Adjournment:** Mary Andrist made a motion to adjourn, seconded Jerry Haugen. The motion carried on a voice vote. Adjourned at about 4:25 PM.

Approved by the Board,

Attest,

Denny Beyer – Chair  
For the New Haven Town Board

Dale J. Thomforde – Clerk  
New Haven Town Board