

# *New Haven Township*

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

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## **Town Board Reorganization Meeting Minutes April 3, 2012**

**1. Call to Order:** A special meeting of the New Haven Town Board was called to order at about 7:30 PM by Clerk Dale Thomforde and Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum requirements were met with Supervisor Brian Hervey, Supervisor Denny Beyer, and recently elected Supervisor Mary Andrist present. Also in attendance were Treasurer Bob Figy, Planning and Zoning Administrator Ann Fahy-Gust.

**2. Select New Chair Person:** Clerk Thomforde asked for nominations for a new Chair. Supervisor Mary Andrist nominated Denny Beyer. Supervisor Brian Hervey seconded the nomination. The nomination was approved 3-0. The Clerk handed over the gavel to the new Chair.

### **3. Vice-Chair Position:**

Thomforde read a proposed resolution establishing a Vice-Chair position to fill in for the Chair and to sign checks when the Chair is absent. Brian made a motion for adoption of the resolution and Denny seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution #2012-04 was adopted by the New Haven Town Board on April 3, 2012, signed by the Chair and attested to by the Clerk.

Denny nominated Brian Hervey to fill the Vice-Chair position and Mary Andrist seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

**4. Board of Adjustment Appointment:** Denny nominated Dave O'Brien for a 3-year term on the Board of Adjustment to fill Mary's position. Mary seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Denny will contact Tom Olson before the next meeting to check to see if he is still interested in continuing his position on the Board of Adjustment.

**5. Regular Town Board Meeting Dates:** Brian moved that the date for the regular monthly Town Board remain the second Tuesday each month, with the 3rd Tuesday as an alternative as needed, with all meetings starting at 7 PM. The motion was seconded by Mary. The motion carried 3-0.

**6. Recommendations from Annual Town Meeting:** Brian moved that the Board accept all recommendations from the annual meeting – Mary seconded. The motion was approved 3-0.

**7. Planning and Zoning Administrator Wages:** Ann was asked if she was satisfied with her wages. She indicated all worked well. Brian moved to leave P&Z wages the same at \$20 per hour on an on-call basis. Mary seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

**8. Resolution Reestablishing Precinct and Polling Place:**

A resolution was read by the Chair to reestablish the precinct and polling place, as a required after each legislative redistricting. New Haven is the name of the precinct and the polling place is the New Haven Town Hall. Brian moved to adopt the resolution, and Mary seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

Resolution #2012-05 was adopted by the New Haven Town Board on April 3, 2012, signed by the Chair and attested to by the Clerk.

**9. Spring Road Inspection:** Mike Wood had passed along the message that he would like to do the road inspection as soon as possible, since there are a number of projects that he would like to get started on. The date for the spring road inspection was set to April 14th, 2012, with a 9 AM departure from the Town Hall.

**10. Fire Permits:** Brian expressed that Britt Bjugan was concerned about the Township handling our own burning permits. There might be a potential liability for us handling them. Brian will meet and review with Brent. The Township would have about 1 year to review since the Annual Town meeting has set the burning permits for this year.

**13. Adjournment:** Chair Denny Beyer adjourned the meeting at about 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale J. Thomforde - Clerk  
New Haven Township

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OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA

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## **Board of Appeal and Equalization for New Haven Township Meeting Minutes April 18, 2012**

**1. Call to Order:** A Board of Appeal and Equalization for New Haven Township meeting of the New Haven Town Board was convened at about 10:00 AM by Chair Denny Beyer. Quorum requirements were met with Supervisor Mary Andrist and Supervisor Brian Hervey also present. Chair Denny Beyer and Supervisor Brian Hervey each have training certification. In attendance from Olmsted County Assessor's Office were Julie Hackman – Assistant Director, Ryan Kraft – Appraiser, and Mike Brumm – Appraiser. Clerk Dale Thomforde took a record of the minutes.

### **2. Appeals:**

Bob and Barb Pike were present to appeal the valuation parcel No. 38681 (40 acres). Ryan Kraft explained how the parcel was classified and the valuation was calculated. This parcel is pasture land without road access. The Board discussed the valuation. Brian Hervey moved to leave the valuation and classification as set by the County and Mary Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bob and Barb Pike also appealed the valuation parcel No. 38682 (20 acres). Ryan Kraft explained how the valuation was calculated for this parcel which is classified as a building site. The parcel includes an older mobile home and well. The Board discussed the valuation. Brian Hervey moved to not change the valuation and classification as set by the County and Denny Beyer seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**3. Adjournment:** Chair Denny Beyer adjourned the meeting at about 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Dale J. Thomforde – Clerk  
New Haven Town Board

Denny Beyer – Chair  
New Haven Town Board

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## **Road Inspection Town Board Meeting Minutes October 20, 2012**

**Call to Order:** A special meeting of the New Haven Town Board was called to order at about 9:08 AM by Chair Denny Beyer. Quorum requirements were met with Supervisor Mary Andrist and Supervisor Brian Hervey also present. Also in attendance were Road Maintenance Contractor Mike Wood, and Clerk Dale Thomforde. Denny once again was designated driver of the van provided by Brian.

The following items were observed:

1. End of 69th Ave – Township Road Ends sign missing.
2. Salley Street – Consider removing Dead End sign on Salley (and 75th St) in Douglas.
3. 80th Ave (east of Genoa) – Clear trees on east side.
4. Pearl and Main Street in Genoa – Stop sign obscured and sightline blocked. Send letter to owner to notify them that this will be on the next Town Board meeting agenda.
5. Exchange and Mechanic streets in Genoa – Stop sign obscured by bush/tree.
6. 85th St – Spray rip-rap along Zumbro river bank next spring to kill vegetation.
7. 85th St – Culvert marker 85STW-7-MKR bent and damaged, needs to be replaced.
8. 85th St – Plum Creek crossing markers (4) may need to be replaced.
9. 110th Ave (south end) – Township Road Ends sign post bent, move to other side (north side) of road by mailbox.
10. 110th Ave – Plum Creek crossing markers (4) need to be replaced.
11. 105th St – Clear ditch on south side near Keith Maxson farm, Kramer property.
12. 105th St near Co Rd 3 – Stop Ahead sign and box posts need to be replaced.
13. Riverheights Ct – Culvert markers may need to be replaced.
14. Riverheights Ct – Township Road Ends Here sign needs new bottom post and to be reset.
15. Riverheights Ct – Needs some brush cleared.
16. Riverheights Ct – Stop Ahead sign and box posts need to be replaced.
17. Riverheights Ct – Trim tree near Stop sign.
18. 68 Ave off 120th St – At dead end, needs fallen tree removed/moved and Township Roads Ends sign and new reflectors.

19. West Center St and 65th Ave – Check on replacing Stop sign with Yield sign.
20. 117th St at old bridge crossing – Replace 4 round reflectors or replace with chevron arrows.
21. 117th St – Replace and extend rusted out culvert (about 200 ft E of driveway at 7212 117th St – Tomas Suther,).
22. 117th St – Extend culvert on north end and add end flares (about 300 ft W of driveway at 7814 117th St – Wayne Jackson).
23. Stopped for lunch in Pine Island.
24. New Haven Rd about 1 mile north of Co 3 – Trim back trees at trail crossing on east side.
25. 88 Ave – Trim back limbs on trees on west side to provide clearer view from Co Rd 105.
26. 88 Ave – Remove/spray willow trees in creek at outlet of triple culvert.
27. 60th Ave – Trim trees on east side near apple orchard (Dona Fisher property?).
28. Intersection of 90th St and 75th Ave – Inspected with consideration to convert triangle intersection into a T-intersection. Decided to take no action at this time. There are no known accidents at the intersection and any changes may make things worse.
29. OCAT meeting in November will be at the New Haven Town Hall. Motion was made by Brian to authorize Denny to purchase snacks for the meeting as is normally done by the rotating-host township. Mary seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**Adjournment:** Chair Denny Beyer adjourned the meeting at about 2:30 PM.

Approved by the Board,

Attest,

Denny Beyer – Chair  
For the New Haven Town Board

Dale J. Thomforde – Clerk  
New Haven Town Board

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## **Conditional Use Permit Hearing November 20, 2012 Thomas Lee applicant Proposed use: Personal use airstrip**

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Hearing New Haven Town Board was called to order at about 6:03 PM by Chair Denny Beyer. Quorum requirements were met with Supervisor Mary Andrist and Supervisor Brian Hervey also present. Also in attendance were Treasurer Bob Figy, Planning and Zoning Administrator Ann Fahy-Gust, and Clerk Dale Thomforde.
2. Beyer explained that the meeting was specifically for the conditional use permit hearing for Thomas Lee to construct and use a personal airstrip on his property.
3. Ann Fahy-Gust presented the facts and findings for the conditional use permit as attached. She also requested that the Board consider that this be an interim use permit (IUP) rather than a conditional use permit because of the nature of the activity – it is linked to Lee’s desire and skill set that would not be necessarily transferrable with the land.
4. Thomas Lee – applicant addressed the Board. He handed out a diagram for the airstrip as attached. He stated that the plane he will use is small and should not be an issue for the neighbors.
5. Beyer asked for those speaking in favor and Bob Lindahl (10678 105th St NW, Pine Island), neighbor, spoke in favor. He saw no issues with the airstrip. Beyer asked three times if there was anyone else that was in favor that would like to speak .
6. Beyer asked for those opposed and John Meyer (10245 105th St NW, Pine Island) has a concern for planes over head and how his cattle would respond. Chris Hawkins (20132 105th St NW, Pine Island) was concerned that he would be prevented on re-building on his property that he recently purchased. He also expressed concern for re-fencing with different fencing and if that would be an issue. Basically his concern was that if the airstrip would be allowed, he might be limited in the use of his land. Beyer asked three times if there was anyone else that was opposed that would like to speak .
7. Lee was given opportunity to speak to the concerns expressed. He stated that there is not a regulation by FAA of where houses are constructed near airports so the reconstruction of a house can’t be prevented by the allowance of an airstrip. As for the cows he stated that he has been

clearing his lower pasture and the cows weren't bothered by the chainsaw or the tractor. He believes the noise level will actually be lower than that of a snowmobile on take-off, and landings will be fairly silent at low power.

8 The Board then requested information – Beyer wondered about the airplane type which Lee responded was a Sport craft. Hervey asked about lighting, Lee responded that he is visual flight only so no requirements to light the strip. Beyer requested the size of the field, Lee responded that the field is 850' but only 200'-300' are required for take-off and landing because of the type of plane. He will have plenty of room to veer from structures in neighboring lands.

9. Mary Andrist made a motion to close the hearing which was seconded by Brian Hervey and passed unanimously. The Board then discussed their thoughts on the approval of the airstrip. All were in favor of the use of an interim permit. They asked Lee for an opinion of when he would start flying and he felt it would be about 1 year. Hervey stated that if the permit was approved and people were unhappy with the situation it could change after a period of time, however, he personally felt that if Lee worked with neighbors this would not be an issue since the noise levels and the frequency of use would be minimal compared to a commercial strip. Beyer stated that the noise level would likely be preferable to motorcycles that run all summer.

Andrist moved approval of an interim use permit to be reviewed again in November 2014. The conditional requirements are taken care of since the flight permit is for visual only so the use times will be controlled to daylight only and the parking requirements are not applicable since this is personal use. The remaining issue will be the impact on neighbors which can be reviewed in November 2014. Hervey seconded the motion. Votes cast were: Hervey – aye, Andrist – aye, Beyer – aye, with reluctance. Motion carried 3-0.

10. Chair Denny Beyer adjourned the meeting at about 6:40 PM.

Approved by the Board,

Attest,

Brian Hervey – Vice-Chair  
For the New Haven Town Board

Dale J. Thomforde – Clerk  
New Haven Township

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## **Special Town Meeting December 4, 2012**

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this Special Town Meeting was to consider reducing the New Haven Township levy for the 2013 tax year.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Dale Thomforde, Township Clerk called meeting to order at about 7:02 PM. He welcomed township members and briefly described the difference in this meeting and other Township meetings where the Board presides. This meeting requires a moderator nominated by the residents present to run the meeting. Nominations for moderator were held. Dale was nominated by LaMoyne Bruce, but declined due to other duties required at the meeting. Dave Andrist nominated Howard Glamm which was seconded by Dave O'Brien. No other nominations were given. The vote for Howard Glamm as moderator was unanimous.

Howard Glamm requested the Board state the reason for the special meeting. Board Chair Denny Beyer stated that the township has extra money this year and would like to reduce the levy. Farmland has paid a higher percentage of taxes and the board would like the opportunity to return that to the patrons. He stated that this action if approved will reduce 2013 taxes. Beyer explained that there is a proposed reduction in general fund from \$60,000 to \$20,000, a 66.67% reduction, and for Road and Bridge the reduction is from \$135,000 to \$99,000, a 26.67% reduction. Thomforde reviewed the historical surplus fund growth, which led to calling this special meeting. The surplus growth is primarily due to the town hall mortgage retirement, the minimum road and bridge levy which has been repealed so township can spend money where it is needed, road maintenance costs being lower because of the recent good weather, and frugal spending policies within the town board. This means a surplus of \$50 thousand to \$90 thousand per year has been created over the past few years.

Thomforde explained that this meeting needed to be held now because this is the last time to change the levy before it is set for 2013. If we were to wait until March, we would only be setting the tax for 2014. He also said that the statement that came in the mail recently is only a proposed statement and there would be an adjustment for action taken tonight. No new notification is required to the township tax payers. They will only have a lower bill.

Moderator Howard Glamm called for speakers regarding the Board proposal.



Keith Maxson (10925 Co Rd 113 NW, Pine Island) spoke. He understands that there is a surplus but we haven't gone through the winter yet. He would prefer to keep the money and hold for rainy-day fund. The 2014 taxes can be reduced appropriately at the annual meeting next year.

Dave O'Brien (12702 Co Rd 3 NW, Pine Island) spoke. He agreed with Keith Maxson. It is a good thing to talk about reducing the taxes, however, when we have had issues with roads the cost is high. He gave an example of Wasioja Campground road – less than ½ mile of work to take a dangerous bend out in 1991 they spent over \$45k. There are a number of roads/ bridges that could be done better for example the township will need to acquire land to make sure we have space for the bridge at Devil's Kitchen and Dunkle's corner/Stussy's corner which need to be straightened out for safety. Another concern would be Schettl's corner which also needs to be straightened. The school bus drivers are complaining. Let's take this money and make a big project that we can move forward on and put it up for bids, and do something with it. Besides it is probably not a lot of money that would be returned to people directly. It would amount to only a few dollars per parcel because of the number of parcels. There are outstanding projects that we could do and make a difference for the whole township while we have the money. O'Brien stated that he can remember closing roads when we ran out of funds and couldn't plow the roads.

Dave Andrist (11233 Co Rd 3 NW, Pine Island) spoke. We all have plenty of taxes to pay. If we have some surplus, the whole township will benefit with lower taxes. However, if the township is going to use the extra money he believes that there needs to be a bidding process. Give extra to the people and lower taxes.

LaMoyne Bruce (9474 Co Rd 105 NW, Pine Island) spoke. He reflected on his time on board. In 1988 the Board spent \$10,000 in one month for plowing and a total of about \$100,000 for snow plowing that year. He would like to have it banked in case there is an emergency.

Dale Thomforde (9637 Plum Creek Rd NW, Pine Island) spoke. We do have quite a surplus built up, estimated \$800,000 at the end of 21012. He also estimates that even with the reduction in tax, there will still be a surplus for next year at some level. The overall surplus will be reduced slightly. He explained that there are different buckets of money - \$15k/year for road projects has been set aside and this has grown to around \$50k-\$100k. There are funds set aside from the annexation to Elk Run and Pine Island worth about \$325k as compensation for lost taxes in perpetuity. There is room to do road projects without having to go back to township for increased levy in the future.

Bob Lindahl (10678 105th St NW, Pine Island) spoke. He thanked the Board for what they do. The feeling that he gets from those that have spoken so far is that the Town Board has the best benefit of the residents at heart. His impression is also that the people would like to spend more on the roads and bridges work/ special projects. Things are expensive with road work. He stated that he feels re-grading roads is still an issue, more needs to be done. He would like to have a road review by someone else and grade them as to how they look.

Art Gust (12851 Co Rd 5 NW, Pine Island) spoke. He is new to the township and gets some of what is going on. He looks at what the economy has done historically and giving back taxes now might mean raising them higher in the future. If we have some project down the road and have a surplus we won't have to have the taxes raised. He would prefer to see that we don't have to raise and lower taxes all the time. Use the funds on what needs to be done. Get bids on what the changes should be based on a plan and then see what the balance would be once those projects are in a plan.

Dave O'Brien asked when the Township 60-month CD was due to mature and Thomforde responded it matured last July and all moneys are in the MMDA (Money Market Deposit Account) now. O'Brien stated that the interest was high for a number of years (5.2%) and now this money from the annexation will be earning much less so we won't have the income in perpetuity that we had been getting. This will reduce the surplus on it's own.

Howard Glamm (1105 Co Rd 13 SW, Pine Island) spoke. This is a unique meeting regarding – having too much money it – should be on record somewhere. This township has been forward looking in what has been done and has been accomplished. This is reflected in the comments tonight. It seems that there is a request for a long range plan to make the roads safer. There are places that should be improved. He stated that his feeling is that the decrease is too much. He referred to his experience when he drove bus by the Catholic Cemetery and if you miss the stop you can't see who is coming which creates the potential for a bad accident. So a long range plan is called for. He agrees with the majority heard from at the meeting. He wants to see our vision planning process go forward so that we can see what we will get from the money that we have. He also thanked Board for the work they do.

Moderator Glamm asked three times if anyone had anything else to say. Dave O'Brien made a motion that the levy stay as set at the annual meeting in 2012 for the tax year 2013. The 2014 taxes can be reviewed and reduced if needed at the annual March meeting. The motion was seconded by Art Gust. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Moderator Howard Glamm adjourned the meeting at about 7:45 PM.

Approved by the Town Board,

Attest,

Denny Beyer – Chair  
For the New Haven Town Board

Dale J. Thomforde – Clerk  
New Haven Town Board