

New Haven Township

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA – ORGANIZED IN 1858
PHONE: 507.356.8330 EMAIL: NHTOWNSHIP@BEVCOMM.NET
9024 COUNTY RD 3 NW, ORONOCO, MN 55960

Annual Town Meeting Minutes March 12, 2013

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the 2013 Annual Town Meeting of New Haven Township was called to order at about 3:00 PM by Township Clerk Dale Thomforde. An estimated 40 patrons were present.

Thomforde requested nominations for the moderator. Denny Beyer was nominated by Bruce Moon and seconded by Dave Klann. No other nominations. Motion carried.

Beyer noted handouts were available on the counter if not enough on the tables.

Motion to set agenda as printed by Dave O'Brien seconded by Jerry Haugen. Motion carried.

Review 2012 minutes – motion to dispense with reading made by Dave Klann, Bruce Moon made the second, motion carried.

Treasurer report – Board of Audit presented by Bob Figy – Board of Audit minutes are in front of all. It was held February 5th 2013 with the entire board present. Process was to review checks and deposits. The books balanced with CTAS (City and Township Accounting System) report. Items for review were selected at random. Financial Summary year end 2012 financial summary is also in front of the patrons. The 2012 year-end balances for each account are:

Planning and Zoning	\$ 2,211.95
General Road and Bridge Account	\$ 10,125.10
Money Market Deposit Account (MMDA)	\$ 824,700.07
Certificate of Deposit (CD)	\$ 0.00
Year End 2012 Total	\$ 837,037.02

Figy noted that the CD that matured in 2012 was transferred to the MMDA. He also noted the increases in remaining balance year on year. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report made by Dave Klann, seconded by Bruce Moon, motion carried.

Dave O'Brien asked if we needed to review the minutes of the December Town meeting? No minutes were on the table for review. Beyer stated that it was a meeting to reduce the levy for 2013 and it didn't pass. Thomforde exited to make copies and Moderator Beyer decided to come back to it later. When copies of the minutes were reviewed Dave O'Brien moved approval and Dave Andrist seconded, motion carried.

Fire Report was presented by Supervisor Brian Hervey who is the Board representative for the Township. The PI Fire Department (PIFD) financial sheet was handed out to residents. Hervey's summary was 5 Townships supply equipment and Pine Island supplies the building, we

are charged by a factor times the worth of the township. We are covered 100% by PIFD. 2013 dues are slightly lower than the 2012 dues for New Haven. PIFD puts \$33,744 aside annually for equipment. Last year they purchased a \$250,000 pump truck which should reduce the insurance since it uses water locally vs. going back to PI. The 2013 \$33,850 fire dues needs approval today. The Fire Department averages 250 calls/year and in 2012- 28 calls were in New Haven Township with an average response time of 7minutes 24 seconds. First responders are also included. Hwy 52 receives the majority of calls. Moderator Beyer commented that we have an awesome association with this fire district. Dave Klann made a motion to approve the report and the dues, seconded by Bruce Moon, motion carried.

Road report is posted on bulletin board. Road Contractor Mike Wood gave the report listing what was rocked – New Haven Road, 125th St, 120th, 88th Ave, 69th Ave spotted, tree/brush work was done by Denny's hill on 85th St. Ditch work was on New Haven Rd Dunkle's Hill, 91st Street by Kundert's where he fixed water-way ditches and cleaned brush/ trees. The work improved drainage along Dunkle's hill. He also had a request by Scott Lindahl for pipe. There were no replaced culverts, just lowered one on 85th St. so that frost wouldn't push up pipe this is better now. He also tiled 75th Ave by apple orchard to improve drainage on soft spot.

Irv Miller stood to thank Mike Wood on the good job, roads never been better in 40 years. (Applause.) Wendell Zwart asked about the new CapX 2020 line 75th St. The road is getting bad –who is responsible to fix roads? Dave Andrist asked when road restrictions go on – Mike Wood said when there are 3 days above 25 degrees consecutively. Wood reported that restrictions go on March 15th. He noted that Fahy-Gust has a request from CapX 2020 to travel on roads during restrictions. The Board has requested a \$250,000 letter of credit to do repair roads. They have not responded. Our road ordinance does provide for the company to be responsible to repair roads. Dave Klann moved approval of the road report, seconded by Jerry Haugen, motion carried.

Rock Quarry report was given by Bob Figy the current lessor Braaten Sand and Gravel crushes rock for themselves and the township. The 2012 rock royalty was \$7,208.40. They have 1 more year on lease. It runs until April 2014.

Planning & Zoning report – was given by P&Z Administrator Ann Fahy-Gust. Written copies of her report were available in front of each person. We had 25 building permits this year, up from 17 the prior year, with 7 new houses. Two metes and bounds splits, 7 septic permits, 1 conditional use permit, 1 variance, no boundary adjustments, and 5 non-land resolutions recorded. Hall rentals were up last year. CapX 2020 has a temporary construction permit to cross township right-of-ways. By-appoint meetings with the P&Z Administrator instead of regular hours was started in 2010 has saved the township money. Burning permits are now free at town and town board meetings.

Wendell Zwart asked what is the timing on 125th St Corridor road work and Vince Fangman was also interested. Dale Thomforde gave an update that there is no construction funding at the moment and that the study is only to create a road right of way so people don't build in the roadway. The preferred routing was C3 by the New Haven Town Board and C2 South was preferred by the PI Council. Last Thursday, Olmsted Co engineer and the road engineering firm met with Thomforde and reviewed criteria for evaluation. They determined that the agricultural land /wetland is a wash between the 2 options. Big thing is the number of acres for city expansion before hitting road the C2S has 160 acres extra over the C3 option. The timetable is that the Olmsted County Board Committee of the Whole will meet 4th Tue this month. The staff will present their preferred routing. We might get a chance to present. There will be a public hearing before the Olmsted County Board vote. Vince Fangman asked if his 2-page comment to City & New Haven Town Board influenced considerations of the options. Thomforde stated that yes the E option which the paper addressed was not being considered anymore. Fangman said that at the November meeting they were told that once the engineers decided which option was preferred, they wouldn't retract that opinion. Thomforde stated the final decision is up to the Olmsted County Board and they will probably decide later in April.

Township recommendations to Town Board

Cemetery budget the Board recommends they get \$2500 and not bother with paperwork documentation of the request and use of funding. Dave Andrist moved approval. Second by Leon Plantz. Motion carried.

Board requests Township give authority for donations to organizations, like 4H for work they do for the township, which would be limited to \$2500/year total. Dave Klann moved approval. Vince Fangman seconded. Motion carried.

Gopher Bounty – Board recommends that the gopher bounties be left the same. LaMoyne Bruce commented that Rock Dell and Salem townships pay \$2.50 for gopher. LaMoyne Bruce moved to increase to \$2.50 gopher and \$1 streakies. Dave O'Brien seconded. Motion carried.

Township Officer wages – Board recommends to stay the same are clarified in resolution 2012-15. Dave Klann moved that they be left the same. Bruce Moon seconded. Motion carried.

Township newspaper notice publications have been at Post Bulletin and Zumbrota Record. Board recommends they stay the same. Dave Klann moved that they keep the same. Second by Jerry Haugen. Motion carried.

Posting notices have been on the Town Hall Door and website the Board recommends keeping them the same. Jerry Haugen moved to keep them the same. Seconded by Bruce Moon. Motion carried.

Official Bank has been Pine Island Bank – Board recommends to keep the same. Dave Klann moved to keep Pine Island Bank, second by Bruce Moon. Motion carried.

Chloride has been shared 50%/50% – Board would like to retain this and modify plan for a corner property so that they can have 2 lots of 300' at the 50% level. Matt Rohl moved approval with the corner lot modification, seconded by Dave O'Brien. Motion carried.

Fire Permits have been \$5 or free at annual meeting or township meeting – Board recommends this remain. Dave Klann moved to keep it the same. Seconded by Jerry Haugen. Motion carried.

Township questions – binding on Township unless changed by another Township meeting

2014 Road and Bridge levy– Board proposes to reduce levy to \$50k from (2013) \$135k with \$15k set aside for major road improvements. Dave Klann moved approval of the board recommendation, Ron Titus seconded. Dave O'Brien asked board to review December township meeting minutes for the resolution of annexation money and the outcome of the long range plan recommendation that was requested which has not been done by the Board. Brian Hervey indicated that the moderator of that meeting, Howard Glamm, did not stop the conversation when the topic veered off of the question which was reducing the levy. A long range plan recommendation should have not come up. O'Brien indicated that the people there talked about a number of roads that should be improved. Beyer said that there isn't any problem with the roads and that there are no plans to make changes. Reggie Brogan asked if no road work would be done then will there be some ditch work? Bruce Moon asked about assessed values from the Assessors office, apparently land will be up 40%. Moon wanted to know how does the \$800,000 excess play into this? If we have excess would State refuse our projects? O'Brien explained that the excess is not really \$800,000. There is annexation money at about \$210,000 left intact and interest should be added to that. He questioned that the excess is really more like \$265k? By resolution this is designed to sit in order to recoup taxes from the annexation going forward. Actual excess is closer to \$650k said Beyer. Thomforde directed attention to the financial report one can see that the excess is going up about \$90k/year on average for past few years. Projected this year to be balance of over \$900,000. If we lower levy by about 50%, this will lower the excess by about \$25,000 per year, which at that rate we could go 16 years before the surplus balance is down to \$500k. In this balance is the annexation money and \$75,000 set aside for road improvements. The road improvement budget hasn't been spent yet. Vince Fangman said that if the levy goes down this year and it was too much of a decrease, then we can raise the levy if we need to next year. Beyer said we should have lowered it when we didn't have a town hall payment. Hervey said with all things going not well economically we should lower taxes. Careful to not lower it too much so that we don't have to raise things really high if we made a mistake. LaMoyne Bruce said our taxes are going up and if we can get even a small bit back it will help. Leon Plantz called for the question. Motion carried.

General fund is recommended to be reduced from \$60,000 to \$30,000. Dave Klann moved approval Ron Titus seconded. Motion carried.

Fire & EMS levy recommended to be \$33,850. Dave Klann moved to approve, Dave Andrist seconded. Motion carried.

Set the meeting time for next year – LaMoyné Bruce moved for a 1:30 PM start time at the town hall. Dave O’Brien seconded. Jerry Ellefson asked if the intention was to take a break then go home and come back when the polls opened. Polls are required to be open until 8 pm, they can open before 5pm. Beyer called for the question. Motion failed.

Ron Titus moved for the start time to be 3 PM. Dave Klann seconded and that it be held at the same location. Motion carried.

Bruce Moon moved that election time be set at 5-8pm. Seconded by Jerry Haugen. Motion carried.

Dave O’Brien moved a recommendation that the Board conducts a long range plan for major road projects before removing \$15k set-aside annually. Dave said we should have a plan to use the funding so things can happen in a planned fashion. Reggie Brogan seconded. Dave Andrist said we don’t know what is going to happen on 125th St and Dunkle’s hill on New Haven Road could end up a dead end road. Fahy-Gust noted that the overall long range plan has not been reviewed for several years and this would be a start on getting that plan in place so things don’t happen “to” the township but that it participates as a partner in development. Motion failed on a show of hands.

Comments from Moderator Beyer – he and his wife take road trips and see a lot of beautiful country but New Haven Township is a really beautiful location and he thanked the people for allowing the Board the honor to do business for the township.

Adjournment moved by Dave O’Brien seconded by Dave Andrist at 4:30 pm. Motion carried.

Approved,

Attest,

Denny Beyer – Moderator
For the Town of New Haven

Dale J. Thomforde – Clerk
New Haven Township