

# *New Haven Township*

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA — ORGANIZED IN 1858  
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9024 COUNTY RD 3 NW, ORONOCO, MN 55960

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## **Annual Town Meeting Minutes March 11, 2014**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the 2014 Annual Town Meeting of New Haven Township was called to order at about 3:00 PM by Town Clerk Dale Thomforde. An estimated 20 patrons were present.

Thomforde requested nominations for the meeting moderator. Denny Beyer was nominated by Bob Lindahl (10678 105th St); seconded by Dave Klann (7143 75th St). No other nominations were made. Motion carried unopposed.

Beyer noted handouts including a proposed agenda were available on the back table.

Motion to set agenda as printed by Dale Hayward (10145 CR 113); seconded by Dave Klann. Motion carried unopposed.

Review 2013 Annual Town meeting minutes – motion to dispense with reading and approve as written was made by Dave Klann; Jerry Berg (13102 New Haven Rd) seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Treasurer's report – Town Treasurer Bob Figy pointed the patrons to the year-end printed Financial Summary. The 2013 year-end balances for each account were:

Planning and Zoning Account	\$ 4,930.25
General Road and Bridge Account	\$ 7,076.71
Money Market Deposit Account (MMDA)	\$ 856,807.93
Certificates of Deposit (CDs)	\$ 0.00
<b>Year End 2013 Total</b>	<b>\$ 868,814.89</b>

Figy also pointed out the year-end balance for the last two years has been pretty good. He added, as reported at the last Town Board meeting, \$600,000 in funds from the MMDA have been invested in a ladder of 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year CDs, \$200,000 each, as authorized by the Town Board, to get a little higher interest rates for the township. The Board of Audit was held February 11th 2014. The Board of Audit verified the books balanced with CTAS (City and Township Accounting System) report and the bank statements. Items for review were selected at random. Thomforde pointed out that there are a lot of summary details of the receipts and disbursement available in the printed 2013 year-end Financial Summary in front of the patrons. The biggest expense last year was roughly \$154,000 spent on maintaining roads. There were no questions raised on the township financial status. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Jerry Berg; seconded by Jerry Haugen (12503 CR 5). Motion carried unopposed.

Annual Fire Report was presented by Supervisor Brian Hervey who is the Town Board representative to the PI Rural Fire Department. The fire department is made up of 5 Townships and the City of Pine Island. The five townships own the equipment and Pine Island owns the building, and the maintenance is split 50/50 between the city and the townships. Recently the association bought a 2000 Chevy brush truck from Zumbrota. 2014 dues are slightly higher than the 2013 dues for New Haven Township based on a township value of \$1.65 billion. In 2013, the dues were \$33,850 for the township. The dues for 2014 are \$35,112, an increase of \$1,262 over 2013. A lot of that increase is to set more money aside to buy trucks in the future. The fire department is pushing for fire signs with the house number for each residence. The township is offering to share the \$40-\$50 cost for the sign and installation to those wanting a house-number fire sign. The optional-sign cost to the residents will be \$25 for the first sign. Applications were handled out at the Annual meeting and will be mailed to all residents in May. The deadline to get the application and payment in is by June 1. The goal is to install the signs installed by fall 2014. Contractor Mike Wood will be installing the fire signs for the township. Bob Lindahl asked if it was true that the townships are now paying half the expenses on the building. Hervey verified that is true and the city and now looking to purchase a ladder truck which the city needs and the townships don't need. The last truck purchased was a pumper for the townships. We now have a written joint powers agreement and any new townships that want to join will have to buy in to the association.

Road Contractor Mike Wood was absent with notice to attend his own town meeting. Beyer reported that during the last year we have replaced a number of culverts, we have done ditch cleaning, and several other improvements. We also purchase a two-wheel trail, road closing barricades, and cones to handle emergency road closing situations. The trailer makes it much easier and quicker to respond as needed having everything ready to go. We have a total of 32 miles of roads and 1,193 people.

The quarry report was given by Bob Figy. The current lessor Braaten Sand and Gravel crushes rock for themselves and the township. The 2013 rock royalty was \$7,106.03, a little less than the previous year. The current lease expired in February and the Board has extended it to July 15, 2014.

Planning & Zoning report –P&Z Administrator Ann Fahy-Gust was absent with notice. Written copies of her report were available for each person. Thomforde presented a summary. We had 20 building permits this year, down from 26 the prior year. Two metes and bounds splits, 4 septic permits, 0 conditional use permits, 0 variances, and 2 boundary adjustments. We had increased hall rentals due to website and word of mouth. CapX 2020 coordination has continued along with 125th St corridor study. Anyone signing in for the Annual Meeting today will qualify for a free burning permit, and Ann will be at the town hall from 8-10 AM Saturday March 15 for anyone that wants to pick one up at that time. Bob Lindahl commented that he sees in the financial report that we lost money on P&Z last year. He didn't think that was a problem because when he was town clerk they transferred over \$35,000 from P&Z, so once P&Z is

\$35,000 in the hole, it will have broke even. LaMoyne Bruce (9474 CR 105) asked what we are going to get on taxation from CapX 2020? Since we don't have any substations in the township, we won't be receiving any taxation from them. We are currently working with CapX 2020 to receive compensation for some road damage.

### **Township Questions – Binding unless changed by subsequent Town Meeting**

2015 Road and Bridge levy – Town Board proposes keeping the levy at \$50,000. There is a balance of \$75,000 in the set-aside major-road-improvements fund. LaMoyne Bruce said the school bus superintendent told some parents that it is illegal for the school bus to drive on 88th Ave past Haakenson's. He said it is too narrow, and the school bus would not go up there because their insurance wouldn't cover it. He asked if the Board is going to do anything about rebuilding it so it would be legal. Beyer and Andrist said we haven't been notified about any problem with the road but we will check into it. LaMoyne Bruce also said we could use another stop sign on 88th Ave entering 105th St. Beyer said we cannot put one there because the intersection is controlled by the County. Beyer said we are also looking at doing some improvements on 60th Ave. Thomforde said road improvements are budget issues that don't have to be taken into account for setting the levy since we have sufficient reserve funds for road improvements without raising the levy. Chris Hawkins (10232 105th St) said that there might be a need to create a capital needs budget for the next 3-5 years to identify needs to hold the state at bay from our reserves. Bob Lindahl said with upgrading 88th Ave more building development may occur on building sites along the road. Dave O'Brien (12702 CR 3) said the township can go to the county and talk to the engineering department to get an estimate without going to outside engineers. Beyer said this is the first we have heard of issues with 88th Ave, other than the previous traffic speed problem. The Town Board will look into it. Dave Klann moved leave the 2015 Road and Bridge levy at \$50,000; Dale Hayward seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

2015 General Fund levy – Town Board proposes keeping the levy at \$30,000. Dave Klann moved keeping the levy at \$30,000; Dale Hayward seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

2015 Fire and EMS levy – Town Board proposes raising the levy to \$35,112, the 2014 dues. Dave Klann moved to set the fire levy at \$35,112; Bob Lindahl seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Set time and location for next Annual Town Meeting and Election – Dave Klann moved to keep the Annual Town meeting and election at the same times at the town hall; Jerry Berg seconded. Dave O'Brien asked if the time should be backed up to 2:00 PM in case we do have a lot of discussion on some issues. LaMoyne Bruce agreed 2:00 PM would allow more discussion and the polls could be opened starting after the meeting. Beyer stated we had to have a definite time for opening the polls. With no further discussion, Beyer called for the question. The motion passed with a majority of ayes and 3 nays.

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**Township non-binding recommendations to Town Board**

Cemetery budget the Board recommends they get \$2500 each. Dave Klann spoke and thanked the people of New Haven Township for their support of the Center Grove Cemetery. They have been advertising and soliciting donations. Dave O'Brien thanked Dave Klann for all the work he does for the cemetery so the township doesn't have to take it over, and asked the total expenses were last year. Dave Klann said about \$5,500 last year and estimates up to \$7,500 this year. Dave O'Brien made a motion to continue the \$2500 donation to each cemetery; Dale Hayward seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Other donations and other common related expenditures – Board recommends limiting to a total of less than \$2500 per year. \$500 in 2013 was given to the 4H club for cemetery cleanup. Dave Klann moved leaving it at \$2500; Bob Lindahl seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Gopher Bounty – Board recommends that the gopher bounties be left the same at \$2.50 pocket gophers and \$1 streakies. LaMoyné Bruce moved leaving it the same; Dale Hayward seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Township Officer compensation – Board recommends to stay the same as clarified in resolution 2012-15. Jerry Berg moved that it be left the same; Jerry Haugen seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Consideration of approval of continuing the practice of waving the Town Hall rental fee for past and current township officers, board, and commission members, with an added limit of one fee waiver per year with a request to the Town Board – Mary Andrist said she won't take it but is not against it. LaMoyné Bruce moved to continue to let the Board use its discretion; seconded by Dave O'Brien. Motion carried unopposed.

Township newspaper legal publications have been in Post Bulletin and Zumbrota News Record. Board recommends they stay the same. Dave Klann moved that we keep it the same; seconded by John Meyer. Motion carried unopposed.

Posting notices have been on the Town Hall Door and with email notification of updates for those requesting. Dale Hayward moved to keep them the same; seconded by Dave Klann. Motion carried unopposed.

Official Bank has been Pine Island Bank – Board recommends to keep the same. Bob Lindahl commented that the PI Bank treated us very fairly when we needed them. Jerry Berg moved to keep Pine Island Bank; second by Jerry Haugen. Motion carried unopposed.

Dust-Control Chloride cost has been shared 50%/50% for first 300 ft – 600 ft for corner properties – Board would like to retain this cost sharing. Dave O'Brien moved to keep the same, seconded by Jerry Berg. Motion carried unopposed.

Fire Permits have been \$5 for an annual permit or free at annual meeting or township meeting – Board recommends this remain the same. LaMoyne Bruce moved to keep it the same. Seconded by Dave Klann. Motion carried unopposed.

**Other Township Business**

LaMoyne Bruce asked if more fines could be left in the road rock that we put on the roads so that it doesn't roll off the roads. This year we hope to get the rock on the roads a little earlier so it can get graded and worked in.

Bob Lindahl noticed that land rent doubled this year and he wondered if that was correct. That is correct under our current 3-year rental agreement. We don't have any plans to expand the pit any further into the ag land.

Jerry Berg commented what a nice job road contractor Mike Wood does on the roads. Bob Lindahl asked what the snow plowing bill was for February. It was about \$9,000, to which Bob Lindahl commented that he earned every dime of it. Others commented that Mike Wood does a stellar job.

**Adjournment**

Adjournment was moved by Dave Klann; seconded by Mary Andrist at about 4:12 pm. Motion carried unopposed.

Approved,

Attest,

Denny Beyer – Moderator  
For the Town of New Haven

Dale J. Thomforde  
New Haven Town Clerk