

New Haven Township

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA – ORGANIZED IN 1858
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Annual Town Meeting Minutes March 10, 2015

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the 2015 Annual Town Meeting of New Haven Township was called to order at about 3:00 PM by Town Clerk Dale Thomforde. An estimated 25 patrons were present.

After welcoming comments, Thomforde requested nominations for the meeting moderator. Mary Andrist was nominated by Dave O'Brien (12702 Co Rd 3); seconded by Howard Glamm (1011 Co Rd 13). No other nominations were made. Motion carried unopposed on a voice vote.

Mary Andrist (11233 Co Rd 3) took over as moderator of the meeting. Andrist asked for a moment of silence for those in the township that passed away this year. Andrist noted there were handouts of a tentative agenda and a packet including the 2014 Annual Meeting minutes available in the back of the room.

A motion made to set agenda as written by Dave O'Brien; seconded by Dave Klann. Motion carried unopposed.

Review 2014 Annual Town Meeting Minutes – motion to dispense with a reading and approve as printed was made by Dave Klann (7143 75th St); Bob Lindahl (10678 105th St) seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Treasurer's Report and Board of Audit Report – Town Treasurer Bob Figy pointed out the Board of Audit 2015 minutes in the handout, showing audited disbursements for each month. The Board of Audit verified the books balanced with CTAS (City and Township Accounting System) report and the bank statements. The New Haven Township Financial Summary shows the 2014 year-end balances for each account were:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Planning and Zoning Account | \$ 1,135.88 |
| General Road and Bridge Account | \$ 6,165.66 |
| Money Market Deposit Account (MMDA) | \$ 174,756.75 |
| Certificates of Deposit (CDs) | \$ 603,747.98 |
| Year End 2014 Total | \$ 785,806.27 |

Figy pointed out the year-end balance for the MMDA is down due to investing most of it in a ladder of 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year CDs, to get a little higher interest rates for the township. The Board of Audit was held February 10th 2015. 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 some of the summary details

of the receipts and disbursement available in the printed 2014 year-end Financial Summary in front of the patrons. The total cash reserves were down \$83,008.62 to \$785,806.27 at year-end 2014. This was intentional as a result when the patrons at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting lowered the levy by approximately 50%. It is felt the cash reserves of about 1 year's budget should be sufficient, which is greater than the Minnesota Townships Association recommendation of a minimum of about 6 months cash reserves. Thomforde then pointed to the table of the tax mill rates for the townships in Olmsted County. New Haven Township has the lowest tax mill rates in the county. It was pointed out that the tax mill rates in Pine Island are over 11 times higher than in New Haven Township. Also included in the handout packet is the 2015 budget for the township, which includes a rough estimate of spending an additional estimated \$77,000 from the cash reserves. Thomforde summarized stating that New Haven Township is in great financial shape, with the lowest tax rates in the county, and probably one of the highest cash reserves for any township. Ann Fahy-Gust (12851 Co Rd 5) asked why the budget shows a net loss of about \$77,000 for 2015 when the township had a net loss of about \$83,000 last year, and shouldn't they be about the same? Thomforde explained that the township prepaid \$37,400 for rock crushing at the end of 2014 for rock that will be used on the roads in 2015, so that increased expenses in 2014 and will decrease expenses in 2015. Bruce Miller (1130 Co Rd 13) asked why are we buying rock and where do we buy it from? Thomforde explained the township owns the quarry and we lease it out to Braaten Sand and Gravel. We pay them to crush the rock and for spreading it on the roads. Mr. Miller followed up asking how much we make selling rock from the quarry? Figy pointed to the General Fund Receipts in the packet showing the rock royalty was down in 2014 to \$3,240.54 from \$7,106.03 in 2013 due to the late start they got last spring crushing rock and we used most of the rock on our roads so we didn't get royalties for that rock. They have a good pile of crushed rock, 12,000 yds, ready to go this year. Bob Lindahl asked how many acres we take off the tillable land each year for the quarry. Supervisor Denny Beyer answered that we haven't taken any additional land for the quarry for a few years.

Annual Fire Report and Budget was presented by Supervisor Brian Hervey who is the Town Board representative to the PI Area Fire District and Chair. The Fire District is made up of 5 Townships. Hervey pointed out the township is once again offering to share the roughly \$45 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. Application forms are available at the back of the room or from the Clerk. This is the last year the township currently plans to offer this program of subsidizing fire signs. Hervey went through and explained the chart in the handout showing the Fire District dues for New Haven Township for 2015 are slightly lower than the 2014 dues. This is because the property values in other counties were raised more than in Olmsted County so our share went down. The requested dues for New Haven Township for 2015 are \$33,782, which he feels is a good value for the township. Howard Glamm said he heard the city wanted to appoint the fire chief. Hervey confirmed the city did appoint a chief, and did not confirm the first nominee by the fire department members. The way it is set up the

city pays the insurance on the volunteers so they are actually city employees, as set up in the joint powers agreement. They city is looking to set something up to the townships would have some say in choosing the fire chief in the future.

Road Report by Contractor Mike Wood – The township has 31.45 miles of township roads with a population of 1,193. Mr. Wood explained his written report that was included in the handout packet. A list of the roads rocked this year was provided. The township tries to rock about 1/3 of the roads each year, or about 10 miles, to keep the roads in good shape. With the new school going in, Pine Island Schools paid for the rock on 125th Street and the township paid for Mr. Wood's time and equipment for spreading. In exchange, this road will have a 10 ton limit during road restrictions this spring to allow the school construction to continue. This is the only township road that will be rated 10 ton when under the road restrictions going on March 11th. Right-of-way ditch brush cutting and ditch cleaning for 2014 was reviewed. Two culverts were replaced under the roads last year. About a ½ mile of 60th Avenue was regraded and rocked last year, building it up as a 24 foot wide road instead of the pushed down 36 foot width. The road was pretty much free of snow build up this year. Bob Lindahl commented that he looked at 60th Ave after it was done and the road was pretty and looked like a road should look. He said Mr. Wood did a good job. Supervisor Andrist commented that she looked at the road recently and it is holding up well.

Quarry Report – Bob Figy: This was covered earlier in the meeting under the Treasurer's report.

Planning & Zoning report – P&Z Administrator Ann Fahy-Gust presented a written report that was included on the last page of the handout packet. The township had 21 building permits issues this year. Three metes and bounds splits, 1 septic permit, 1 conditional use permit, 2 variances, 1 boundary adjustment, 285 burning permits, and 27 hall rentals. In addition, the extension of the Genoa RSD to the east was completed. There was a lot of work for the new school with annexation and setting up the process and procedure to get all the construction vehicles there in a safe way. We completed the 125th St corridor study with the county. The chloride application program continued for the township gravel roads. She felt for P&Z Administrator annual cost of \$6,570, the township received a lot of benefit; minimizing permit costs, flexible meeting hours, and competent oversight to annexation and zoning change issues.

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

2016 Road and Bridge levy – Town Board proposes keeping the levy at \$50,000. The balance (in cash reserves) set-aside in a major-road-improvements fund is \$271,976. Dave Klann moved leave the Road and Bridge levy at \$50,000; Dale Hayward (10145 CR 113) seconded. The motion carried unopposed.

2016 General Fund levy – Town Board proposes keeping the levy at \$30,000. The balance in annexation-set-aside fund (in cash reserves) is \$271,976, set-aside “to be used for road

and bridge improvements and other improvements that would benefit the citizenship of New Haven Township.” Dave Klann moved to accept the Board recommendation to keep levy at \$30,000; Bill McNallan (12246 Co Rd 113) seconded. The motion carried unopposed.

2016 Fire and First Responders Levy – Town Board proposes setting the levy at \$33,782; the 2015 dues. Dave Klann moved to set the fire levy as recommended; Dale Hayward seconded. The motion carried unopposed.

The resulting total levy for 2016 is \$113,782 for the above three items, which is a 1.2% decrease from 2015 levy of \$115,112.

Set time and location for next Annual Town Meeting – Dale Hayward moved to keep the Annual Town meeting time at 3:00 PM at the town hall; Dave Klann seconded. The motion carried unopposed.

Set time for next Annual Town Election – Dave Klann moved to keep the Annual Town election at the same times, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Tuesday March 8, 2016; Bob Lindahl seconded. The motion carried unopposed.

Township *non-binding* recommendations to the Town Board

Cemetery budget (\$2500 each / \$7500 total in 2014) The Board recommends to continue to give \$2500 each to each cemetery. Moderator Andrist stated it was a good value for the township since if a cemetery fails, the township is responsible for maintaining. Dave O’Brien made a motion to continue the \$2500 donation to each cemetery; Dale Hayward seconded. The motion carried unopposed.

Other donations and other common related expenditures – limited to a total of less than \$2500 per year (\$500 in 2014 – 4H road-side cleanup). Dave Klann moved leaving it at \$2500; Dale Hayward seconded. The motion carried unopposed.

Gopher bounty (2014 – \$2.50 per pocket and \$1 for streakies) A question was asked how much was paid out last year by the township? The General Fund disbursements shows \$403.50 was paid out in 2014. Dave O’Brien asked what the neighboring townships were paying? Supervisor Beyer said New Haven was about in the center of other townships, some higher and some lower. LaMoyne Bruce (9474 Co Rd 105) moved to leave it the same; Bill McNallan seconded. The motion carried unopposed.

Township Officers compensation (2014 – \$1000 annual stipend for Supervisors, \$2000 annual stipend for Treasurer, \$3000 annual stipend for Clerk, \$20 per hour for services and \$65 per meeting; clarified by Resolution No. 2012-015; unchanged since 2007.) Mary Andrist presented a printed study she did of the 5 townships in Olmsted County that have websites. Bruce Miller made a motion to leave it the same: LaMoyne Bruce seconded. In further discussion, Dave Klann asked if they paid the clerk enough? He said he doesn’t believe the clerk is paid enough for the amount of hours he puts in. Ginger Carson (6715 100th St) asked if we had any ability to get recommendations from a committee since there is a lot of information to

review and study? Dave Klann said he agreed with Mary Andrist that the board needs a raise, since they haven't had a raise since 2007. Mary Andrist pointed out the town board sets their own wages, taking input from the patrons at the Annual Meeting. Bruce Moon (8931 75th St) said the supervisors spend a lot of time taking phone calls for which they do not get compensation. Once discussion had finished the motion to recommend keeping the wages the same was voted on. With a show of hands, 8 voted to keep the same, 10 voted to oppose. The motion failed. Bob Lindahl made a motion to recommend raising each officers wages by \$500 per year, and raising the hourly rate to \$30 per hour; seconded by Dale Hayward. A voice vote was taken and by acclamation, the ayes had it, approving the motion.

Consider 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. Mary Andrist said she won't take it but is not against it. Dave Klann moved to continue to let the Board use its discretion; seconded by Al Prestegard (10061 Co Rd 113). The motion carried unopposed.

Township newspaper for legal notices (2014 – Post Bulletin and News-Record) Dale Hayward moved that we keep it the same; seconded by Dave Andrist (11233 Co Rd 3). The motion carried unopposed.

Posting notices (2014 – Township door and Township website with email notification of updates for those requesting). Dave Klann moved to keep them the same; seconded by Al Prestegard. The motion carried unopposed.

Official Bank (2014 – Pine Island Bank) – Mary Andrist said our current arrangement is working well and recommends to keep the same. Dave Klann moved to keep Pine Island Bank as the official bank; second by Howard Glamm. The motion carried unopposed.

Dust-Mitigation Chloride Application (2014 – 50% / 50% cost share between township and patrons for first 300 ft – 600 ft for corner properties). Dave Klann moved to keep the same, seconded by Bill McNallan. The motion carried unopposed.

Burning Permits (2014 – \$5 for annual permit March-March, free if attending the Annual Meeting or any Town Board Meeting.) Dave O'Brien moved to keep it the same. Seconded by Dave Andrist. The motion carried unopposed.

Other Township Business

Richard Keane spoke on behalf of St. Michaels Cemetery thanking the township and the board supervisors for supporting them. Mary Andrist thanked those maintaining the cemeteries so they don't land back on the desk of the township. The amount the township provides is just a small portion of the total cost for maintenance of the cemeteries.

Bob Lindahl thanked the town board for regrading a ½ mile of road last year and wished they could regrade that much every year. He said it looked so pretty after it was completed.

Adjournment

Adjournment was moved by Denny Beyer; seconded by Dave Andrist at about 4:00 PM.
Motion carried unopposed.

Approved,

Attest,

Mary Andrist – Moderator
For the Town of New Haven

Dale J. Thomforde
New Haven Town Clerk