

# *New Haven Township*

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA — ESTABLISHED 1858  
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## **Special Town Board Meeting Minutes September 22, 2017**

**1. Call to Order:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a special meeting of the New Haven Town Board was called to order at about 8:00 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.

**2. Consider alternatives to improve safety on New Haven Road NW north of the intersection with 125th Street NW / Co Rd 5 extension:**

Chair Beyer said the Board found out a resolution is required to close a road, not just a motion. Beyer found a couple of other things to consider. If the road is closed, the people living on the road may not get mail or newspaper delivery. First responder and fire department times will be down. Delivery trucks will have to make two trips. Grading and roadwork will take a little longer. Law enforcement times will be longer. These are just a couple of things to think about.

Hervey said he received a report from Tom Berg that there was an accident last night by his farm, where a kid coming from the high school slid off the road and hit a tractor near where his daughter was welding. The kid said he wasn't even aware of the 125th Street access. Tony Olson told him that school maintenance trucks aren't using the road any more. Hervey would like to have signs and a gate installed and if it doesn't work, the town board will have to close the gates.

Andrist said we are very fortunate that we have not had a major accident on the road. She said it is a very dangerous road and she is for closing the road for safety. It can be revisited at any time.

Clerk Thomforde did a 2-hour morning traffic study on Wednesday September 13. The traffic report included in the handout packet shows the number of vehicles entering and exiting the intersection of 125th Street and New Haven Road. This 2-hour study showed 79 vehicles using New Haven Road, north of 125th Street. The section of 125th Street to the school had a total of 308 vehicles. Also included in the handout packet was an estimate of the cost to chloride New Haven Road north of 125th Street to the City. Some 'local traffic only' signs have been ordered to put on barricades

Jim Bier, Olmsted County Fifth District Commissioner, said when he was on the Kalmar Town Board, they had similar problems when Byron built a school on a township road. He asked that the road not be closed and to work another month to chloride the road and to try to get the traffic rerouted. He understands it is a safety issue.

Tammy Berg, Pine Island Public Schools Superintendent, said she gets it that all the traffic on the road is a pain to the families living on the road. They have been working to keep

the busses off the road but haven't been working with families to reroute them. That is something they will do. She asked if something like speed bumps would be an option? She said the school wants to be a good neighbor and will respect any decision of the Township.

Mark Thein, Olmsted County Seventh District Commissioner, asked the Town Board not to close the road. He said there are three issues, speed, dust, and volume. Controlling dust has been discussed. Speed bumps would slow down speeds and make the road less attractive, while still allowing emergency traffic between the school and the town.

David Todd, City Administrator for the City of Pine Island, said he was representing the City Council which formally objects to the closing of New Haven Road. He said he thought some implementations could be done without jumping to a road closing. He hasn't seen any signage and other things that can be done to engage the general public. Having worked as an emergency responder, they always want as many avenues as possible to respond to an emergency and asked the Town Board to seriously sit down and consider all options before closing the road.

Bill Frame (13218 New Haven Road) said he has seen the higher volume of traffic. He said he doesn't understand the safety issue. They aren't happy with all the dust, but he will contend that they get more than anybody else. He wanted to go on record that he is not in favor of the road closure.

Dean Kukson (12883 New Haven Road) said the road closure is a big step to take as a first step. With harvest season coming, a lot of trucks will be using that road that probably do not want to go out to Co Rd 3. He said chloride and signage may be smaller steps to try first. He added that if that doesn't work, the road may need to be closed.

Kerry Hayden, Pine Island Public Schools School Board, said he would like to see alternate methods tried first before the drastic measure of closing the road.

Beyer asked and the County, School, and City confirmed that they would be willing to help with the cost of chloriding the road. Hervey said chloride helps but makes the road icy during the winter. He would like to see the traffic reduced, possibly through signage. Tammy Berg said she will send out an alert to all the families to try to reduce the traffic. Thomforde said he didn't think speed bumps were an option on a 55 MPH road. Possibly stop signs could be installed on the road at the two Douglas Trail crossings to help slow down the traffic.

Beyer said New Haven Road will be reviewed during the road inspection. He said anyone wanting to join the road inspection is welcome to come along. Hervey made a motion to table the issue on how to handle New Haven Road until 12:00 noon, after the road inspection, seconded by Andrist. The motion carried 3-0.

### **3. Conduct the fall road inspection:**

Chair Denny Beyer, Supervisor Mary Andrist, Supervisor Brian Hervey, Road Maintenance Contractor Mike Wood, and Clerk Dale Thomforde went on the road inspection. Beyer drove his minivan for this road inspection of about 47 miles.

**The following items were observed (in order of inspection):**

1. 91<sup>st</sup> Street – no issues.
2. 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue – some overhanging trees on east side need to be trimmed back.
3. East 85<sup>th</sup> Street – no issues.
4. 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue – culvert marker knocked down on triple culvert needs to be reinstalled.
5. New Haven Road – no issues.
6. Old Co Rd 113 – working on cleaning culverts and removing trees in Right-of-Way (ROW).
7. 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Brogan electric fence in ROW prevented full ditch mowing.
8. 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue – tree at 9248 is overhanging road and needs to be removed. There is some washout on the north side of the road on the hill.
9. Genoa - trees overhanging Mechanic Street.
10. Genoa Road - some overhanging trees.
11. Douglas – no issues.
12. 120<sup>th</sup> Street – no issues.
13. West Center Street – no issues.
14. 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue – no issues.
15. 117<sup>th</sup> Street – no issues.
16. 115<sup>th</sup> Street – no issues.
17. 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue – ditch on west side down from Pressnall's will be cleaned out.
18. Plum Creek Road – consider adding fill on steep bank at intersection with CR 105.

**4. Reconvene consideration of alternatives to improve safety on New Haven Road:**

Chair Denny Beyer reconvened the meeting at the Town Hall at 12:00 noon after the road inspection. Beyer asked Hervey to review what was discussed about New Haven Road. Hervey explained that everyone would do their best to reduce the traffic. School families should be notified. Road closed signs and a gate will be installed. The road will be officially closed, but the gate will be left open at this time. The situation will be reviewed again at the October 10 regular Town Board meeting, and the Board will determine at that time whether to leave the gate open, or close it. Hopefully notices to families and signage will solve the traffic problem. Andrist read *Resolution Temporarily Closing New Haven Road NW North Of The Intersection With 125th Street Nw/ Co Rd 5 Extension #2017-14*. Hervey made a resolution to adopt the resolution, seconded by Andrist. The motion carried 3-0.

**5. Adjournment:** With no further business before the Board, Chair Beyer adjourned the meeting at about 12:06 PM.

Approved by the Board,  
Date:

Attest,  
Date:

Denny Beyer – Chair  
For the New Haven Town Board

Dale J. Thomforde  
New Haven Township Clerk