

New Haven Township

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA — ESTABLISHED 1858
PHONE: 507.356.8330 EMAIL: NHTOWNSHIP@BEVCOMM.NET
9024 COUNTY ROAD 3 NW, ORONOCO, MN 55960

Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting Minutes October 10, 2017

1. Call to Order: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a regular-monthly meeting of the New Haven Town Board was called to order at about 6:30 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, Road-Maintenance Contractor Mike Wood, and Clerk Dale Thomforde.

2. Set Meeting Agenda and Order: Andrist moved to approve the agenda as printed, seconded by Hervey. The motion carried 3-0.

3. Comments from the Chair: Beyer commented on the passing of Robert (Bob) Lindahl. He was the clerk for the township for almost 30 years, from 1974 to 2003. He served the township in many other capacities over the years. A moment of silence was observed in his memory.

4. Public Comment Time:

Bonnie Tarara (13301 New Haven Rd) said she was concerned about the closing of New Haven Road. She lives on the road and there was a special meeting about closing the road of which she wasn't notified. She teaches at the school and with the road closed it is 3.5 miles to the school instead of 1 mile. She doesn't see the road as being dangerous since she only knows of one car driving in the ditch since the school opened.

Beyer responded that the gate on the road has not been closed at this time. People living on the road should be able to drive on road. Andrist added that every meeting is posted on the township website 3 days before a meeting. Also, email notification is available of all meeting agendas and website updates for those that wish to be notified.

5. Consent Agenda:

Andrist moved to approve the September 12, 2017, regular Town Board meeting minutes as printed, seconded by Hervey. The motion carried 3-0.

Andrist moved to approve the September 22, 2017 special Town Board meeting minutes as printed, seconded by Hervey. The motion carried 3-0.

Hervey moved to approve the September 26, 2017 public hearing minutes as printed, seconded by Andrist. The motion carried 3-0.

Old Business

6. Town Board review of New Haven Road NW road closing:

Clerk Thomforde reported gates and signs have been installed on New Haven Road. The Board had agreed not to close the gates until reviewing the current situation at this meeting. Thomforde presented a second traffic study done on October 5th at the intersection with 125th Street / Co Rd 5. After the signs and gate (still open) were installed, and the school sent out a

notification to families asking them to use Co Rd 5 to access the elementary school, traffic on New Haven Road has dropped significantly. Traffic on New Haven Road dropped during the 2-hour morning study period almost 90%, from 79 cars down to just 8 vehicles for the same time period. There are other busy times at noon, after school, and events at the soccer field. Hervey commented that we have tried several things and nothing has worked before installing the road-closing signs and gates. He said he sees no reason to close the gates at these traffic levels.

Sara Tiner (504 2nd Ave SE, Pine Island) asked if there is any precedent for closing a public road that has more cars on it than it should? Beyer responded it would be closed for safety, not because of the number of cars. She asked if there were other less drastic options that would be available? Hervey said we cannot lower the speed limits without state approval.

Clerk Thomforde presented a draft second resolution closing New Haven Road. In addition to the previously adopted resolution closing New Haven Road, this resolution includes a provision allowing the designated township road authority supervisor to open or close the gate, as warranted. Andrist made a motion to adopt the *Resolution #2017-15 Temporarily Closing New Haven Road NW North of the Intersection with 125th Street NW/ Co Rd 5 Extension*. The motion was seconded by Hervey. The motion carried 3-0.

New Business

7. Consider MNDOT request to lower speed limit on New Haven Road:

Clerk Thomforde pointed out there is a summary of the state laws on speed limits in the handout packet. The speed limit on New Haven Road is 55 MPH. Since there are no other options to lower the speed limit on New Haven Road, Thomforde recommended we request a MnDOT study to see if we can lower the speed limit on this section of road. The Board agreed that we should proceed with this request. Thomforde pointed out that there are three safety problems with the traffic on New Haven Road: 1) traffic volume; 2) traffic speeds; and 3) dust. If the speed limit could be reduced to 25-30 MPH, the safety issues would be greatly alleviated.

Clerk Thomforde also included in the handout packet a letter he wrote "To whom it may concern:" regarding traffic on New Haven Road. The letter documents how the Pine Island Public Schools and New Haven Town Board have worked together to solve problems ever since the school bond issue was passed. The letter was written to help clarify some of the facts.

8. Consider closing south end of 85th Avenue NW:

Clerk Thomforde presented a draft resolution closing south end of 85th Ave NW. The trail crossing is dangerous. The road is narrow and there is only one residence on the road. Thomforde said the Township either needs to spend money to upgrade the road or close it. Andrist said the road is too narrow for two cars to meet. Joel Friedrich (12314 85th Ave) said traffic on the road has increased a lot since the new road opened. His only request is that it be maintained for field access. The road would be minimum maintenance south of the Friedrich driveway, and not maintained during the winter months. Andrist read *Resolution #2017-16 Permanently Closing the South End of 85th Avenue NW*. Andrist made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Beyer. The motion carried 3-0.

9. Sept 13 TCPA meeting recap – Thomforde:

Clerk Thomforde attended the Township Cooperative Planning Association (TCPA) meeting. This was the first meeting since June where a quorum has attended. The question came up how long blue prints should be held. Currently they have all the blue prints since the TCPA was formed, which is about 20 years, and they are running out of space. Thomforde asked how they handle cases where individuals don't get septic or building permits.

10. Sept 20 Community Planning Team (CPT) meeting recap – Thomforde:

Clerk Thomforde attended the monthly CPT meeting. The City of Pine Island is raising their levy next year by up to 21%, of which 13.5% of the increase is to finance debt. The new pool should be opening in 2019.

11. Sept 28 Olmsted Co Township Officers Association (OCTOA) meeting recap:

Clerk Thomforde attended the OCTOA meeting at the Byron Fire Hall. Roger Richardson was reelected secretary. Olmsted County is raising their levy next year by up to 7%. Information was received to obtain an ORI number to get a portion of money from traffic tickets issued in the township.

12. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Figy presented a written treasurer's report detailing all bank accounts receipts and debits for September 2017. The September month-ending bank account balances were:

General Fund / Road and Bridge Account	\$4,895.01
Money Market Deposit Account (MMDA)	\$114,127.11
Cash Reserves in 1/2/3-year Laddered CDs	\$407,928.68
Total	\$526,950.80

There was one outstanding check at the end of September for \$300.

13. Review and Pay Bills:

Clerk Thomforde reviewed the current Schedule 1 report from CTAS (City and Township Accounting System) showing the balances in each of the different township fund accounts. Although the Road and Bridge fund currently is negative, receipts are expected before the end of the year to bring it back into the black.

All claims received through October 10th were presented for payment consideration to the Board of Supervisors. Claims totaling \$21,159.51, plus payroll, were submitted for approval. Included in the total was \$9,624.23 to Michael Wood for work on the old CR 113, which will be reimbursed by the County. The final payroll number for September, including PERA, was \$1,386.58.

Andrist made a motion to pay all bills, seconded by Beyer. The motion carried 3-0.

14. Road Maintenance Report – Mike Wood:

Mr. Wood reported he has been working on the old Co Rd 113. Some of the culverts were in worse shape than expected. He plans to finish up in the next few weeks.

Adding rock to New Haven Road before winter was discussed.

Ann Fahy-Gust will send a letter to James Fuchs on 85th Street requesting permission to cut the tree overhanging the road before it falls down.

15. Planning & Zoning Report – Ann Fahy-Gust

Fahy-Gust reported:

- Four permits for new houses were issued.
- There is one split in conversation.
- There has been a conversation with the County about doing a CUP review for 2nd dwellings to verify there are no density violations.
- There was a septic permit for the residence in Douglas issued through G-Cubed.
- There now is a building permit for the residence in Genoa.
- The previously approved resolution for rezoning Jewell’s property was signed and will be filed.

16. Miscellaneous Mail Etc. – Clerk:

Olmsted County officially transferred CR 113 to New Haven Township on September 19th. It has been renamed 100th Street and 110th Avenue. We have received a payment of \$17,500 for the first year on maintenance.

The township legal seminar is on October 14th at the New Haven Town Hall.

The County is looking at using electronic poll books and are looking for townships that would like to try them out at the township election next March. The County needs to know which townships would like to try them out before November 15th. This can be revisited at the November town board meeting.

The County has updated the subdivision ordinance.

The County is looking for volunteers on the County Board of Adjustment.

The MAT annual conference will be in Rochester on November 16-18.

Hervey attended a Rural Fire Association on October 9th. They appear to be pretty much on budget this year.

Beyer received the annual road mileage certification form from the County. Clerk Thomforde will follow up on this annual certification.

17. Adjournment: With no further business before the Board, Chair Beyer adjourned the meeting at about 7:45 PM.

Approved by the Board,
Date:

Attest,
Date:

Denny Beyer – Chair
For the New Haven Town Board

Dale J. Thomforde
New Haven Township Clerk