

# *New Haven Township*

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA — EST. 1858

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## **Annual Town Meeting Minutes March 8, 2022**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the 2022 Annual Town Meeting of New Haven Township was called to order by Clerk Dale Thomforde at about 3:00 PM. About 20 attendees/voters were present, including all current Town Board officers.

After welcoming comments, Clerk Thomforde requested nominations for a meeting moderator. Dave Klann (7143 75th St NW) nominated Dennis Beyer (7537 Co Rd 3 NW); seconded by Mary Andrist (11233 Co Rd 3 NW). No other nominations were made and the nominations were closed. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Clerk Thomforde turned the gavel over to Dennis Beyer as moderator of the meeting.

**Voters set the agenda** – Mary Andrist made a motion to approve the agenda as written in the handout packet; seconded by Dave Klann. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**Review 2021 Annual Town Meeting Minutes** – Dave Klann made a motion to dispense with a reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes as printed in the handout packet; seconded by Mary Andrist. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**Board of Audit** – Clerk Thomforde read the February 8, 2022, Board of Audit meeting minutes. A copy was also included in the handout packet. A minimum of two items per month were selected at random for audit and review. A financial summary for the year 2021 was also reviewed and approved during the audit. No anomalies were noted during the audit and all records were found to be in order and the audit was approved by motion.

**Rural Fire Association Report** – Supervisor Brian Hervey presented the report. Hervey is the Town Board representative to the PI Area Fire District. The Pine Island Fire Department has room for 27 fire fighters and is currently at 23. They are currently are training some high school students. Hervey reviewed a handout sheet showing the Fire District budgets and dues for the townships for years 2013 through 2022. The Rural Fire District is made up of 5 rural townships. Expenses are split between the townships and the City of Pine Island. The Pine Island Fire Department had 451 calls last year, up from 350 previous years. The dues for 2022 year will be \$56,259, very close to the budget. Staying close to the budget with the increase in calls is very good. They are shooting for an increase in budget of 4.89% for this year. Last year the City ordered a new pumper truck that will serve both the City and the townships, which should be delivered later this year. The Rural Fire District capital equipment fund will have a remaining balance of about \$500,000 after this year.

**Cemetery Reports** – Dave Klann spoke for Center Grove Cemetery. A financial report was included in the handout packet for the Annual Meeting. Mr. Klann said they finished all

their major projects this year. Mr. Klann said the \$3,000 contribution from the Town Board really helps. Mike Frost (10101 85th St NW), a member of the Othello Cemetery Board, spoke for Othello Cemetery. He said they appreciated the \$3,000 Township contribution this year, and that it went for mowing the lawn and upkeep. They had a large donation last year that paid for a new fence in the front of the cemetery. This last year, the same person gave another donation for the flag pole. Chris Hawkins (10234 105th St NW) spoke for the St. Michael’s Cemetery Board. He thanked the Township for the \$3,000 contribution this year, which will be used to help pay maintenance costs. They had to thin out the trees to the west that had overgrown the fence. They had some vandalism last year with someone driving through a fence on the south side which has been replaced. Moderator Beyer said the Township appreciates the hard work these groups put into maintaining the cemeteries.

**Road Report** – Clerk Thomforde reviewed the written road report from Mike Wood, the Township road contractor. A copy included in the handout packet. Bruening Rock Products was the road rock supplier last year, and will be again this year. The Township has 33.61 miles of township roads, and a population of about 1,261 with 485 households. A list of roads rocked in 2021 was provided in the report. Ditch cleaning was done on 88th Avenue. Extensions to a driveway culvert on 75th Ave NW were installed. Several roads were listed in the report where brush was removed from the road right-of-way (ROW).

**Treasurer’s Report** – Town Treasurer Bob Figy directed attention to the Pine Island Bank account summary statement in the handout packet. The following were the account balances for year-end 2021:

Checking Account	\$8,806.75
Money Market Deposit Account (MMDA)	\$216,773.78
Pine Island Bank CD 04-15-2022 2.58%	\$110,027.24
Pine Island Bank CD 12-01-2022 0.51%	\$100,621.45
Less Outstanding Check #4365	\$193.13
<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>\$436,036.09</b>

Treasurer Figy said that in his opinion, the Township is sitting pretty darn good.

Clerk Thomforde reviewed the Township Financial Summary for the last 3 years. Total cash reserves were up \$13,702.22 for the year, which was \$78,504.22 under the 2021 budget. Most of the increase in cash reserves is due to the \$67,263.22 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. A similar amount in ARPA funds should be received again this year.

**2021 Auditor Filing and 2022 Budget** – Clerk Thomforde reviewed revenues and expenditures for 2021, which will be filed with the MN State Auditor. For the year, revenues were up 18.5% to \$271,023.15, mostly due to the ARPA funds. Expenditures were down 9.8% for the year to \$257,320.93. The change in cash reserves was up \$13,702.22 for the year.

A chart showing the 2022 property tax mill rates for townships and some cities in Olmsted County was presented. New Haven Township still has the lowest mill rate of the 18 townships in Olmsted County for 2022.

A graph showing the 2007-2022 property tax historical mill rates for New Haven Township and adjoining Kalmar and Oronoco Townships was presented. The property tax mill rate in 2022 will remain lower than mill rates for Kalmar and Oronoco Township in 2022.

The budget for 2022 was reviewed, which included the 2022 levy approved at last year's Annual Meeting. With the anticipated revenues and disbursements, a surplus transfer to cash reserves of \$50,945 will balance the budget.

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

**Voters set the 2023 Township Levy** – The Town Board recommended Voters set the 2023 Levy at \$193,692 (unchanged from 2022), including:

- Continue General Fund Levy at \$30,000
- Continue Road and Bridge Levy to \$98,170
- Continue Fire and First Responders Levy at \$56,522
- Continue Cemetery Levy to \$9,000

Mary Andrist made a motion to set the levy as recommend by the Town Board; seconded by Dave Klann. Moderator Beyer asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, a vote was called. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**Voters set the time and location for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting** – by law it must be held on March 14, 2023, with a bad weather date of March 21, 2023. Mary Andrist moved to keep the Annual Town meeting starting time at 3:00 PM at the Town Hall; seconded by Dave Klann. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The Town Board has set the time for the Annual Town election from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Tuesday March 14, 2023.

**Special events** – Voters set a maximum that the Town Board may spend to commemorate an event of historical significance to the town, to recognize volunteers, service efforts, and to recognize town officers, or to host or support a community celebration, under Minn. Stat. §365.10, subd. 12. In 2021, \$500.00 was spent for 4H cemetery cleanup. The Town Board recommended an authorization of a total maximum of \$2,500 for 2022 for all of the above items. Dave Klann moved to set as recommended; seconded by Wendell Zwart (8383 75th Ave NW). The motion carried on a voice vote. Dave Klann commented that the 4H group did a great job cleaning up the Center Grove Cemetery.

### **Other items of Township business for discussion and possible action**

Wendell Zwart asked how much land does the Township have left with the Town Hall property. Town Board members answered that the Township has about 35 acres of cropland that

are leased out, and the remaining acreage is about 20 acres of pit and Town Hall property. The pit is being filled in with clean fill to reclaim the land. There are no plans to expand the pit.

Dave Klann thanked Denny Beyer for serving as supervisor for the last 18 years. Brian Hervey said it has been a pleasure to work with Denny Beyer. He has always been a wealth of information for him over the years. Hervey said having someone like Denny on the Board is like gold. Clerk Thomforde said Denny has been a mentor to him the last 10 years, and he would like to thank him. These accolades were followed by applause from the audience.

**Adjournment**

With no further business before the electors and no further comments or questions, Mary Andrist made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave Klann. The motion carried on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at about 4:16 PM.

Approved by the Moderator,

Attest,

Date:

Date:

*[Signed copy on file]*

*[Signed copy on file]*

Dennis Beyer – Moderator

Dale J. Thomforde  
New Haven Town Clerk