

New Haven Township

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA – EST. 1858

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9024 COUNTY ROAD 3 NW, OROCOCO, MN 55960

Special/Reorganization Town Board Meeting Minutes April 4, 2023

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the special/reorganization meeting of the New Haven Town Board was called to order by Supervisor David Andrist at 6:30 PM. Also in attendance were Supervisor Dale Thomforde and newly sworn in Supervisor Ann Fahy-Gust to constitute a quorum. Treasurer Robert Figy and Clerk Donna Beyer were also present.

Set order of agenda – Fahy-Gust made a motion to approve the order of the agenda, motion seconded by Thomforde and approved 3-0.

Reorganization of Town Board

Select Town Board Chair – Fahy-Gust nominated Thomforde as chair. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

Select Vice Chair to cover in absence of Chair – Fahy-Gust nominated Andrist as Vice Chair which was seconded by Thomforde and carried 3-0.

Select Rural Fire District Representative – Andrist nominated Fahy-Gust to serve as the representative to the Rural Fire District. Motion seconded by Thomforde and carried 3-0.

Select representative to TCPA (Township Cooperative Planning Association) – Andrist nominated Fahy-Gust to be the township representative to TCPA. Motion seconded by Thomforde and carried 3-0.

Designate Supervisor for Road Emergencies – Thomforde presented a revised version of Resolution 2022-22 Resolution Authorizing Emergency Powers of Road Authority. After much discussion, Fahy-Gust made a motion to retain Resolution 2022-22 as written and to appoint Andrist as the supervisor for road emergencies. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 2-0 with Thomforde abstaining.

Designate Supervisor for Building Maintenance Emergencies – Andrist nominated Thomforde as the supervisor for building maintenance emergencies. Motion seconded by Fahy-Gust and carried 3-0.

Designate Official Bank as Township Depository – Fahy-Gust made a motion to continue to use Frandsen Bank in Pine Island as the official bank, motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

Designate Official Newspaper – Fahy-Gust made a motion that the Rochester Post-Bulletin and the Zumbro Shopper be the official newspapers for the Township as many residents of the township receive the Shopper. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

Designate locations for posted notices – Fahy-Gust made a motion to add a Facebook page to the previous locations on the township website and the Town hall office door. Barbara Allen (8967 County Road 3 NW, Oronoco) spoke in favor of this as did Kory Weis (7741 100th St NW, Pine Island). Thomforde raised some concerns regarding this since governmental groups cannot regulate freedom of speech and

what people might post on the township Facebook account. Andrist seconded the motion and the motion carried 2-1 with Thomforde dissenting.

Approve burning permit fees – Recently the Township was informed that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) felt that the Township should not be issuing burning permits. Some other townships are issuing permits through the DNR, but they have a fire warden, which New Haven Township does not. The Township probably should investigate the issue of someone becoming a fire warden in the township. Fahy-Gust will follow up with the Rural Fire District regarding this. Since the issue has not been resolved, Thomforde made a motion to continue to issue burning permits and waive the \$5 fee, no matter where or when obtained. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

Approve or change town hall rental fees and designate contact person – Discussion occurred regarding groups that use the hall but don't pay the standard fee of \$75 for township residents/landowners or \$200 for business/commercial or non-residents. Fahy-Gust made a motion to continue the fees as stated above with Beyer as the contact person. Motion seconded by Thomforde and carried 3-0. Fahy-Gust asked that Beyer compile a list of users that are not paying the standard fee.

Reaffirm or change gopher bounty – Fahy-Gust made a motion to continue the bounty at \$2.50 for pocket gophers and \$1.00 for striped gophers and that this be discussed at the 2024 Annual Meeting. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

Adopt fee schedule policies – This was deferred to the next Town Board meeting.

Set election judge compensation – Fahy-Gust made a motion to continue the current compensation of \$20.00 per hour. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

Reaffirm or change township officers' compensation – Fahy-Gust made a motion to continue township officers' compensation as set last year with the removal of the \$5 compensation for each burning permit issued. Thomforde seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

Approve 4-H project for 2023 – The New Haven Sodbusters plan to clean up cemeteries this year. Fahy-Gust made a motion to approve a donation of \$500 to the New Haven Sodbusters for their efforts. Motion seconded by Thomforde and carried 3-0.

Review Planning and Zoning Advisory Commission appointments and set compensation – Fahy-Gust made a motion to increase the commission to 7 members appointed for one year, one alternate member appointed for one year with a Town Board supervisor serving as the liaison to the commission. She feels this would increase resident involvement in the township. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0. Since this is a one year appointment, Chris Hawkins, Commission Chair was asked to contact the other members of the Commission regarding continued service on the commission. Fahy is willing to serve as the liaison to the commission.

Review Board of Adjustment appointments and compensation – Much discussion occurred regarding the Board of Adjustment composition and the Township ordinance stating that decisions of the Board of Adjustment must be appealed to District Court. Fahy-Gust made a motion that the Board of Adjustment appointments be suspended until the Township can change the current ordinance which will require a public hearing. She feels that this can be done quickly with the public hearing in May and is willing to

work on changing the ordinance. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 2-1 with Thomforde dissenting.

Review schedule of regular meeting calendar, time, and cancellation dates – It was noted that the May and August meeting dates are also election dates and may be impacted by school board elections. It was decided that the March meeting before the Annual Meeting would be on Thursday, March 7. Fahy-Gust made a motion to approve the meeting calendar with alterations as noted. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

Review and approve resolution designating check signers – Fahy-Gust made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-05 Resolution Designating Check Signers which was seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

Consider any urgent concerns- No urgent concerns were brought forward.

Adjourn – Fahy-Gust made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Thomforde. Meeting adjourned by Chair Thomforde at 8:00 PM.

Approved by the Town Board

Signed:

Attest:

Date:

Date:

(Signed copy on file)

Dale Thomforde, Chair

Donna Beyer

For the New Haven Town Board

New Haven Township Clerk