

New Haven Township

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA – EST. 1858

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9024 COUNTY ROAD 3 NW, OROCOCO, MN 55960

New Haven Township Regular Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2024

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was called to order by Chair Dale Thomforde at 6:30 PM. Supervisor Ann Fahy-Gust and Supervisor David Andrist were present to constitute a quorum. Also present were Treasurer Robert Figy and Clerk Donna Beyer.

Set Agenda and Order – Fahy-Gust made a motion to approve the agenda and order as written. Motion was seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

Comments from the Chair – “This has been a busy month for the clerk.”

Public comments – None

Consent Agenda – Andrist made a motion to approve the January 9 meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Fahy-Gust and carried 3-0.

Old Business – Update on Mankato to Mississippi River Transmission Line - Thomforde gave an update on the status of the planned transmission line. Pine Island Township, Oronoco Township and Cascade Township all signed a resolution asking to include paralleling the CapX2020 route from Pine Island across the Zumbro River to Chester Junction as an option for the planned Xcel Energy transmission line route. The City of Oronoco has also expressed concerns since the plan could route the line through an area where they are planning a city park. Xcel Energy has agreed to study this route for their submission to the PUC (Public Utilities Commission) who will make the determination of where the transmission line will be located.

New Business – McConahey Metes and Bounds Split – Dave Meir, Township Cooperative Planning Association, gave a detailed report on the proposed split. Peter McConahey is splitting off 12 acres of land and planning to sell it to Nathan O’Brien who plans to use the property for farming purposes, although the property would be buildable with a road access easement. Both Mr. McConahey and Mr. O’Brien were at the meeting. Following a discussion, Fahy-Gust made a motion to approve the split. The motion was seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

2024 Township Budget/Preparation for Annual Meeting – The 2024 budget was briefly reviewed, but it was decided that it would be easier to understand if the budget was combined with the excerpts table from previous years, as suggested by Chris Hawkins. The budget will be reviewed at the March meeting. Beyer will handle obtaining refreshments for the Annual Meeting.

Thomforde suggested that the Board needs to consider their recommendations for the 2025 levy. It was increased at the 2021 Annual Meeting for 2022 but was kept stable for 2023 and

2024. The Board might want to consider recommending an increase of the levy by approximately 5%, roughly \$10,000, which will be discussed further at the March meeting.

Burning Permits – Beyer and Thomforde attended a DNR (Department of Natural Resources) presentation to become fire wardens. As discussed at the 2023 Annual Meeting, the Board had been advised that we could not continue to issue permits as in the past. Fire Wardens can issue 1-day or 3-day paper permits and charge up to \$1.00 for the permit. A yearlong permit can be obtained online for a \$5.00 fee from the DNR webpage. It is up to the individual to decide whether they want to purchase a permit online or get a short-term permit. Beyer and Thomforde will assist as needed with purchasing online permits or issuing short-term permits. Either way, the individual does need to call a number to receive an activation number which needs to be written on the permit. Fahy-Gust made a motion that no fees be charged for the paper permits. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

Prairie Island Indian Community/Elk Run – A letter was received from the Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the proposed change of Elk Run land from private land to government trust land. The letter requested information from New Haven Township regarding the impact this would have on the Township. The Township was asked about the financial impact, whether there were any assessments against the properties, what services were provided by the Township to the property, and whether the proposed use would be consistent or inconsistent with the zoning of the property. There are 3 parcels in New Haven Township that are included in the proposal. Thomforde and Beyer drafted a response which was reviewed at the meeting. The Board decided to send the letter as drafted.

Resolution for CD maturing on 2/23/2024 – Fahy-Gust made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-08 to reinvest \$50,000.00 in a 3-month CD with Frandsen Investment Services and \$50,000.00 in a 1-year CD with Frandsen Investment Services, with any remaining funds to be deposited in the Money Market Account. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

TCPA (Township Cooperative Planning Association) Meeting Recap – Fahy-Gust reported that Ethan Kaske has been hired for training to eventually replace Dave Meir, who plans to retire later this year. There are new rates for septic inspections and a proposal from WSE Engineering for building permit inspection fees. This was tabled for further review at the next TCPA meeting. Oronoco Township will be joining TCPA. Financially TCPA is stable, with total assets of \$382,000, but they are aware that expenses will be higher with the addition of the third planner. The Department of Natural Resources is continuing to review the proposed Floodplain ordinance. Once completed, it will be approved by TCPA and brought to the townships.

Rural Fire Association Meeting Recap – Fahy-Gust reported that Beyer was approved to assume the role of secretary/treasurer for the Association. The Association will be holding its Annual Meeting on February 28. The Association has asked that an alternate be appointed to attend the meeting in the absence of Fahy-Gust. Thomforde made a motion that Beyer be appointed as the alternate. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

OCTOA (Olmsted County Township Officers Association) Meeting Recap – Andrist, Thomforde and Beyer attended the meeting on January 25th at the New Haven Township Hall. Andrist reported that bridge inspections have been completed for the year and that nitrates were going down in the soil about 8 feet a year, depending on soil type. Beyer recalled that a question was raised regarding having meetings in a central location. Thomforde mentioned that the Minnesota Association of Township meeting did not have a quorum to be able to vote on the

proposed bylaw changes at their annual meeting in St. Cloud. This will now be done during the short course period. Township Days will occur in April. People can now register to be permanent absentee voters and have a ballot sent to them for each election.

Road Report – Mike Wood, road maintenance contractor, reported that he has done some tree trimming, also has done some grading to pull gravel from the edge back onto the road. Andrist reported that the County closed hauling into our pit due to excessive dirt on the roads. Apparently, another contractor started to haul dirt into the pit without permission, contributing to the problem, but was unwilling to assist with the cleanup. This situation has been resolved and they are again hauling but making more effort to keep the roads clean.

Treasurer’s Report – Figy gave a detailed report of the banking transactions occurring in January. Account balances at the end of January were:

Frandsen Bank:	Checking Account	\$ 3,431.23
	Money Market Account	\$158,714.89
Frandsen Investment Services	Bank of the Ozarks 4.55% 2/23/24	\$100,000.00
(LPL Investments)	JP Morgan Chase 5.02% 1/6/25	\$100,000.00
	Flagstar Bank 4.7% 7/19/25	\$100,000.00
Total Deposits		\$462,146.12

Fahy-Gust made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

Review/Pay bills – Beyer presented Schedule 1 (Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances) which concurred with the Treasurer’s report. Bills totaling \$11,238.97 were presented for payment. This included \$9,420.00 for road maintenance (snow plowing, grading, and tree work) and \$608.02 for signage for the restricted bridge on 85th Street. Fahy-Gust made a motion to pay all bills. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

Mail/Miscellaneous – The Township received a corrected order approving annexation of a portion of Section 3 into Pine Island.

The Township received a communication from MATIT (Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust) that they were extending insurance coverage for the Town Hall until July 1, 2024 at no additional cost.

Culligan of Byron is under new management.

A communication was received from Arrow Treeworks of Zumbrota wanting to provide roadside clearing, spraying etc. They were advised that the Township was currently under contract for these services until next spring, but they would be welcome to submit a bid at that time.

Freeborn County Cooperative Oil will be offering chloride for township purchase again this year.

With no other business before the Board, Fahy-Gust made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Approved by the Board

Signed:

Signed:

(Signed copy on file)

Date:

Date:

Dale Thomforde, Chair

Donna Beyer

For the New Haven Town Board

Township Clerk

TOWNSHIP MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Ending Balance of December, 2023 statement

5328.39

Income

Checking Account

1-8	Hall Rent - Tax Loss	124.68
1-8	Tax Loss	8071.37
1-31	Interest	.12
1-31	Refund	5.00

Total Deposits

8171.18

Debits

4612	Duane Friese (Gopher Bounty)	251.00
4615	Hemann Grover & Co. LTD Payroll	135.00
4616	Grimstad Publishing INC. (Legal Notices)	108.13
4617	Olmsted Co (Truth in Taxation)	175.46
4618	MAT (Dues)	831.12
4619	David Andrist (Mileage)	19.00
4620	Donna Beyer (Mileage - Supplies)	632.3
4621	Forum Comm Co. (Legal Notices)	30.59
20649	Payroll	969.67
20652	Payroll	281.67
20653	Payroll	438.66
20654	Payroll	253.96
	Beverly m	78.15
	IRS Tax Pymt	1220.24
	Culligan water	51.49
	PEC	157.97
	Paper statement Fee	5.00
	Online Banking Transfers	5000.00

Total Debits

10,068.34

New Ending Balance of January, 2024 statement

3431.23

