

# *New Haven Township*

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA – EST. 1858

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9024 COUNTY ROAD 3 NW, OROCOCO, MN 55960

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## New Haven Township Regular Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2024

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was called to order by Chair Dale Thomforde at 1:03 PM. Supervisor David Andrist and Supervisor Ann Fahy-Gust were present to constitute a quorum. Also in attendance were Treasurer Robert Figy and Clerk Donna Beyer.

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

**Comments from the Chair** – “It is a busy time of the year with lots of elections going on.”

**Comments from the Public** – None

**Consent Agenda** – Fahy-Gust made a motion to approve the February 13 Board of Audit meeting minutes and the February 13 regular meeting minutes as written. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

### **Old Business:**

**Review and approve the 2024 Budget** – The Board reviewed the proposed budget, which will result in a \$50,495 deficit. This will bring the reserves near the upper end of the targeted range. Discussion occurred regarding fire protection and gopher bounties. Thomforde made a motion to approve the 2024 budget. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

### **New Business:**

**Tax mill rates** – Thomforde presented information on the property tax mill rates for New Haven Township compared with other townships in Olmsted County. New Haven Township has the lowest rate of all the townships in the County.

**Determine 2025 Levy Recommendations** – The reserves are nearing the target range. Discussion occurred regarding balancing the budget to achieve a \$0 change in cash reserves in future years. There was also some discussion about looking at future needs, such as road improvements. After much discussion, Thomforde made a motion to recommend that the levy be increased by 10%, roughly \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Fahy-Gust and carried 3-0.

**Annual Meeting and Election Preparation** – Beyer has received the road report and a report from Center Grove Cemetery. Discussion occurred regarding the need for a report from Township Cooperative Planning Association. Fahy-Gust will provide a report of planning and zoning activities in the Township over the past year. Andrist has taken care of ordering refreshments and will pick them up the morning of the meeting.

**Reaffirm Date/Time for Reorganization Meeting (tentative date of April 2)** – It was decided that the meeting would occur on April 2 as scheduled but at 4 PM. Dave O’Brien, Board of Adjustment Chair, and Chris Hawkins, Planning and Zoning Advisory Commission chair, will check with their respective Board members regarding continuing to serve.

**Presidential Primary Election Recap** – The election went well. 164 people voted in person on March 5 with 4 absentee votes for a total of 168 township residents voting. Biden and Trump carried their parties, with 2 votes for the Legalize Marijuana Now party.

**TCPA Meeting Recap** – Fahy-Gust reported that TCPA has been removed from the lawsuit against Rochester Township. Work is still in progress on the Floodplain ordinance. Once finalized it will go back to TCPA and then the townships. There will be a memorandum of understanding that will need to be signed. They are working with WSE on charges for inspections which will be going to an online application.

**Fire Association Meeting Recap** – Fahy-Gust reported on the recent Fire Association meeting. Charges for each township are based on the % of the township that is covered by the Pine Island Fire Department (New Haven is totally covered) and the valuations of properties in the township. 28% of the charges are set aside for new equipment. There was a significant increase to \$64,429 this year, mostly due to the Sick and Safe legislation recently enacted by Minnesota.

**Board of Adjustment Meeting Recap** – Dave O’Brien reported on the recent Board of Adjustment meeting. The Board did meet with the Otto’s regarding the three variances they were requesting. A discussion occurred and it was determined that perhaps it would be best to modify the ordinances to create special district language. The Otto’s received a 90-day notice regarding the delay in response to their request for variances.

The variance for Paul Johnson in Trophy Lakes for an accessory building larger than 1,500 square feet was tabled so the Board could obtain information regarding the Trophy Lakes Association covenant. This was later approved but the Board of Adjustment asks that the Township officers have a discussion with the Trophy Lakes Association to modify their covenant to address the difference between their covenant and the township ordinances.

**Planning and Zoning Advisory Commission Meeting Recap** – The Commission reviewed an application for a conditional use permit from Frank Wittlief for a firearms service, design, manufacturing, and transfer business. After reviewing the conditions for the permit, the Commission recommended the Board approve the permit. This will be addressed with a public hearing the April 9 regular Town Board meeting.

They also discussed whether the Township should adopt language in the ordinances that would allow for special districts within the township. After discussion, they determined that this should be done and determined the language that they felt would work best for New Haven Township. This will also be addressed with a public hearing at the April 9 Town Board meeting.

**Discuss Clerk role/transition** – Beyer stated that due to changes in her husband’s health, she needs to step away from the role of clerk. Bonnie Kosmicki has agreed to serve as the deputy clerk, and Beyer plans to work with her to learn the role. Thomforde made a motion to approve Kosmicki to attend the upcoming Spring Short Course on March 19. Motion seconded by Fahy-Gust and carried 3-0.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan** – FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) requires that plans be updated every five years to receive emergency funding. Beyer attended the first session of the Zoom meetings to begin work on the County plan. Discussion occurred regarding what groups were felt to be vulnerable in the County and what natural occurrences were at higher risk in the County. Those attending included flooding, windstorms, tornados as high risk for the County. Moving forward, Fahy-Gust will work with the group.

**Road Report** – Mike Wood, road maintenance contractor, stated that he has done some grading to cut edges on the road and bring the gravel back onto the center of the road, in preparation for rocking later this spring. He has also done some brush removal on 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Genoa Road and removed a tree from the road on 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue (east). Andrist pointed out that there is a culvert on Riverheights Court near Peter Helland that is almost plugged and needs cleaning out. The Board authorized Mr. Wood to go ahead and clean it out.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Figy gave a detailed report of the financial transactions for the month of February. Account balances at the end of February were:

Frandsen Bank:	Checking Account	\$ 3,925.18
	Money Market	\$171,980.32
Frandsen Investment Services:		
(LPL Investments)		
	Merchants Bank of Indiana 5.3% 5/26/24	\$ 50,000.00
	JP Morgan Chase 5.02% (semi-annual) 1/6/25	\$100,000.00
	Wells Fargo of South Dakota 5.2% 2/26/25	\$ 50,000.00
	Flagstar Bank, 4.7% (semi-annual) 7/25/25	\$100,000.00
	<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$475,905.50</b>

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 which concurs with the Treasurer’s report. Bills totaling \$71,039.55 were presented for payment. This included \$64,429.00 for fire protection and \$4,635.00 for road maintenance. Fahy-Gust made a motion to pay all bills. Motion seconded by Andrist and carried 3-0.

**Mail**

Board of Appeals and Equalization is scheduled for April 10, 9:30 to 10AM at the New Haven Town Hall

The People’s Energy Annual Meeting is coming up on March 24. If anyone is attending, they will need to RSVP for the event.

We received a communication from NorthStar regarding their rates for spraying this year.

We received a communication from United Township Officers of Minnesota regarding concerns related to Minnesota Association of Township.

With no further business before the Board, Fahy-Gust made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Andrist. Meeting adjourned at 3:27 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 January, 20 24 statement

3431.23

Income

Checking Account

2-26 Election Filing Fee	6.00
Donna Beyer David Andrist Cole	
2-17 Troy (Hall Rent)	75.00
MMDA	
2-14 Transfer from Acct.	13,000.00
2-25 Interest	.22
2-29 Paper statement Refund	5.00

Total Deposits

13086.22

Debits

4620 Hemann Grovet & Co. LTD (Payroll)	387.00
4623 OCAT (Member Ship)	200.00
4624 Michael Wood (Road Maint)	94.20
4625 Adams Pest Control (Pest Control)	50.00
4626 Donna Beyer (Mileage)	98.99
4627 Dale J. Thom Forde (Mileage)	25.46
4628 Fogarty's Outdoor Services LLC (Snow Removal)	160.00
4629 David A. Andrist (Pit Keys)	6.39
4630 Olmsted Co. Public Works Bridge Signage	608.00
20655 Wages	369.40
20656 Wages	637.21
20657 Wages	341.69

Total Debits

12592.07

New Ending Balance of February, 20 24 statement

3925.18

**TOWNSHIP MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ending Balance of February, 2024 statement

158,714.89

Income

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2-16 Olmsted Co. Pymt	25260.37
2-27 LPL Credit	862.00
2-29 Interest	143.06

Total Deposits

26265.43

Debits

2-14 Transfer to Checking	13,000.00

Total Debits

130,000.00

New Ending Balance of February, 2024 statement

171980.32