

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

August 8, 2024

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

Set Agenda and Order – Chair Fahy-Gust requested that the July Rural Fire Association Meeting and review of recent correspondence from the Bureau of Indian Affairs be added to the agenda. Supervisor Thomforde requested that MAT District 1 meeting recap be added to the agenda. Thomforde made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendments as discussed, seconded by Andrist. Motion carried 3-0.

Comments from Chair – Chair Fahy-Gust expressed gratitude for cooler weather.

Comments from the Public – Mark Gunderson, 8649 85th St NW Pine Island (by Genoa bridge) approached the board regarding his concerns of sediment build up clogging culvert and flooding over the road causing rock to wash into the yard. In addition, there are trees in the right of way that are dying and he requests that the trees be dropped before falling across the road and causing blockage or harm to someone. Andrist requested that Mark provide a list of the issues and a review will be done during the fall road inspection.

TCPA By-Law Changes and Voting Form – Thomforde asking for clarification regarding Article 9 Hearings, Section C, page 6. There is reference to “a member of the commission”, Thomforde asked what is the commission. Meir indicated that this article had not been discussed and there has not been a hearing since he has been with TCPA. Consideration was given to this possibly referencing a committee that is established every year to negotiate a contract with TCPA. He will take this input back for discussion. In addition, Article 6, Section G indicates Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern proceedings. Thomforde stated Minnesota Association of Townships warns townships not to adopt these rules of order due the complexity. Faye-Gust asked for vote to approve the amendments to the TCPA by-laws via roll call vote. Thomforde made a motion to adopt the changes pending discussion of Articles 9-C and 6-G, Andrist seconded. Motion passed. Unanimous roll call vote approved pending discussion.

Consent Agenda – Thomforde made a motion to approve July 9, 2024, meeting minutes as written, Fahy-Gust seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Old Business

Silting on 100th Street – Andrist spoke with Jim McNamara who indicated he is willing to pay a third of the expense for tiling. McNamara also intends to place a silt fence and to stay back when working the earth. Ellingson Tiling confirmed the tiling quote remains the same as previously given. Thomforde made a motion to approve completion of the work when conditions are favorable. Andrist seconded. Motion carried. Andrist will report back to the board when work is completed.

Floodplain, Shoreland and MOA Discussion – TCPA is in the process completing township discussions and will return with final Memorandum of Understanding for consideration by the township boards.

Solar Farms – The Planning and Zoning Advisory Commission has met twice and continues to explore options, review aspects of solar farms, and discuss impact on land usage. There has been active participation by members of the commission in discussions and seeking public input. There are many factors to consider and challenging issues to resolve. Another meeting is scheduled for August 14th, 7:00 PM.

Windows Upgrade – Kosmicki informed the board that the Operating System on the township computer is Windows 10, Microsoft office is out of date (2007 version). There are some security issues with having an outdated version but possibly not enough to warrant upgrading to Office 360. Windows OS will need to be upgraded in 2025 to Windows 11. Currently using Norton antivirus. Will assess upgrading Office when Windows OS is upgraded. Tabled until later.

Rental Form Revisions – Forms have been updated to reflect changes made to rental policies. Information from multiple forms has been incorporated into one version. A checklist will be left with the key for renters to complete after their event, except for those that use the townhall on a routine basis.

Bureau of Indian Affairs – Fahy-Gust provided a review of a document from BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) informing residents that should a disaster occur, such as a nuclear event, gaming operations would move to Elk Run. This will not occur until 6 years after tribal land has been accepted in to the trust, which has not yet occurred. There was a request for comment, none offered at this time.

New Business –

Metes and Bounds Subdivisions –

Jack Weichert property – Meir stated that this is a standard split. Presently access meets requirements to subdivide the property, however if and when any of the 3 parcels are sold, there would be a requirement to update easement agreement. There is a bridge that crosses Plum Creek on the property that has recently been repaired but may have issues as far as supporting large equipment or a fire truck if a house were to be built in the back of the property. Staff recommendations included any future development will require an update easement agreement. Any future development of parcels will require a shared driveway agreement and a potential bridge study. Andrist made a motion to approve metes and bounds with the staff recommendations, Thomforde seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Leslie Haack – Family is seeking to subdivide 220 acres into 3 parcels, 79 acres the family will retain, a 2 acre non-farm dwelling site parcel, and 139 other acres. Criteria for this subdivision has been met. The family desires access to the 79 acres from 65th Avenue which will require a survey be provided that includes a written report of an easement across the residual 139 acres. Access point is yet to be determined. Thomforde made a motion to approve pending the survey and easement, Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

County Hazard Mitigation Committee – Fahy-Gust attended the meeting, discussion included how information will be shared by Olmsted County to the townships. Once the plan is complete it will be shared.

Culligan – Discussed recommendations made by Culligan to install an automatic softener that only regenerates when water is used. Culligan could set up quarterly delivery of salt and add only when needed. There was also a request to provide them with a key so they wouldn't need to contact someone to come to the hall. Currently Culligan charges \$43.00 per month whether the tank is exchanged or not, \$63.00 when it is exchanged. Concern was expressed that the softener would regenerate, fill the septic holding tank thus requiring a more frequent need to empty the septic holding tank. The iron level in the water is also a concern. Discussion concluded to not change the current status with Culligan.

Request for Concrete Barrier – New Haven and 85th Ave NW – An email was received from Travis Viker, MN Department of Natural Resources, requesting placement of a concrete jersey barrier due to DNR staff expressing concerns about trail safety at the dead-end road. Supervisor Thomforde with contact Viker to discuss what was previously recommended and agreed to when the road was closed.

Township Hall Maintenance –

- Windows – Thomforde requested funds, approximately \$200.00, purchase a window to replace a window that is fogging over. He will perform the labor to do replacement. There are also 2 screens on the south side and one on the west that are deteriorating. He would like to take them to be repaired. Fahy-Gust made a motion to authorize Thomforde to use funds to take care of the windows and screens. Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- Gutters – Kosmicki indicated that the gutters need to be cleaned out. Thomforde and Andrist agreed to look at them to determine if they would be able to do this task and report back at the next meeting.

Primary Election – The schedule for election judges is being established.

TCPA Recap - Andrist reported there was discussion about the Flood Plain and Shoreline agreement. There is continuing interaction with and gathering input from townships. By-law changes were discussed. CMS is changing how billing is being handled, one set fee as opposed to multiple charges.

Olmsted County Township Officers Association Meeting Recap – There were two state House Representatives and a Senator in attendance. The Olmsted County Administrator has resigned going to Dakota County. The meeting was held at the new Haverhill Township Hall that was built on the site of an old waste dump. There are thousands of tires creating a fire concern. The County has received state funds to assist with removal.

Rural Fire Association Meeting – The association met in July. Most of the meeting was spent discussing the replacement of a tanker purchased in 1991 that is nearing the end of its usefulness. The issues with the tanker include a leaking tank, engine, pump motor dies, and unable to accelerate. The fire chief is researching availability of tankers with manufacturers. There is a demo unit that is going to be shown to the Fire Department that is approximately \$100, 000 less than new as it has been driven around. The cost would be covered jointly by city and townships. This issue will be under discussion for at least 6 – 8 months before resolution. The next meeting is scheduled in November.

MAT District 1 Recap – Thomforde reported this was the annual MAT district meeting. There were no elections this year. Rex Edge is our representative. There were approximately 100 in attendance. Representative Steve Jacobs from Winona and a Winona County Commissioner also attended and spoke. MAT by-law changes were reviewed. The staff attorney talked about social media. He raised concerns regarding conducting public business via social media. Blocking individuals from posting on sites that conduct public business is a violation of the First Amendment as determined by the Supreme Court. The attorney offered suggestions on making sites more personal and less public. Questions regarding this issue can be directed to MAT. Currently the township website address is .org, and as directed by State Legislator, all township websites should end with .gov. This is required to be in place by June 2026. Thomforde will research the state statute.

Road Report – Andrist inspected John Wright’s driveway on 110th Ave and offered suggestions on mitigating erosion. There are trees over the road on 110th Ave which Mike Wood took care of. Vince Fangman expressed concerns regarding erosion and silting by Dale Haywards. There was no erosion noted. Two complaints

received regarding 60th Ave being too rough, Andrist directed Mike Wood to blade the road, which was done. Heavy trucks have frequently used the road. The townhall parking lot has been bladed and re-sloped.

Treasurer Report – Figy provided a detailed report for the financial transactions for the month of July.

Frandsen Bank -	Checking Account	\$ 3,460.67
	Money Market Account	\$118,893.45
	Less Outstanding Checks	none
	Total Deposits	\$122,354.12

JP Morgan Chase, 5.02% (semi-annual) 1/6/2025	\$100,000.00
Wells Fargo of South Dakota 5.2% 2/26/2025	\$ 50,000.00
Flagstar Bank 4.7% (semi-annual) 7/25/2025	\$100,000.00
Total Investments	\$250,000.00

Total Deposits **\$372,354.12**

Thomforde made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, Andrist seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Review/Pay Bills – Claims list was presented and reviewed. Claims totaled \$2,916.25 plus payroll. Andrist made a motion to pay all bills, Thomforde seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Mail/Miscellaneous –

A request was received from United States Department of Commerce to participate in a Building Permit Survey. The request will be forwarded to TCPA.

Request received from University of Minnesota to participate in a farming practices and experience survey. The survey will be returned as there is no one on the board participating in farming. This would be difficult to respond to as a township.

Adjournment – Thomforde made a motion to adjourn, Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Approved by the Board

Signed:

Signed:

/Signed copy on file/

Ann Fahy-Gust, Chair
New Haven Town Board

Bonnie Kosmicki
Township Clerk

Date:

Date:

TOWNSHIP MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Ending Balance of June, 2024 statement

3183.32

Income

Checking Account

7-8	Hall Rent	75.00
7-11	Hall Rent	150.00
7-10	Online Transfer From MMA	16500.00
7-31	Interest	1.53
	Paper Statement Fee Refund	5.00

Total Deposits

16730.53

Debits

4692	MATIT (Insurance Premium)	4005.00
4693	North star Property Solutions (Weed Spray)	4320.00
4694	Todd Wagner (Gopher Bountty)	55.00
4695	David Andrist (Mileage)	111.12
4696	Dale Thomforde (Mileage)	48.24
4697	Fogarty's Outdoor Service (Lawn Care)	240.00
4698	Hemann Groven & Co. LTD (Payroll)	142.00
20677	Wages	478.25
20678	Wages	215.46
20679	Wages	1038.94
20680	Wages	910.36
20681	Wages	323.96
	Safe Deposit Box Pymt	25.00
	Delete Checks	373.08
	Bev Comm	78.13
	Culligan	63.95
	P.E.C. - (Elec)	182.51
	Paper Statement Fee	5.00

Total Debits

16453.18

New Ending Balance of July, 2024 statement

3460.67

TOWNSHIP MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Ending Balance of June, 2024 statement

133,710.00

Income M M D A

7-19 State of MN	1460.50
7-31 Interest	222.93

Total Deposits

1683.43

Debits

7-10 Online Transfer TO Checking Acct	16,500.00

Total Debits

16500.00

New Ending Balance of _____, 20____ statement

118,893.45