

# *New Haven Township*

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA – EST. 1858

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## New Haven Township Regular Meeting Minutes January 14, 2025

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 Deputy Treasurer Hannah Walters, and Clerk Bonnie Kosmicki.

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

**Comments from Chair** – Chair Fahy-Gust commented that we have a large agenda and will keep focused meeting.

**Comments from the Public** – Ian Swanton, 11485 85<sup>th</sup> St NW Pine Island, addressed the board regarding his neighbor who purchased a property several years ago that was a 27.5-acre parcel. It is Swanton's understanding that the 27.5-acre parcel was combined with the adjacent property the neighbors live on resulting in a parcel equaling 33.5 acres. The property is now for sale and has not been split again. Swanton's question is regarding whether or not the property can be split after being combined. Fahy commented that the property is zoned A2 which would indicate that the smallest acreage eligible to be split is 40 acres and would need a variance in order to split. Thomforde commented that he has reviewed the property on the Olmsted County website and did not find that the property had been combined into one parcel. It should to be clarified whether or not the property was indeed combined. If not combined, it would be considered a lot of record and is eligible as a building site. There was a previous agreement regarding the building site that specifies where and how a house can be built on the site. Fahy commented that this agreement was drafted when she was the Zoning Administrator and will look in the files to locate it. Swanton was referred to TCPA to determine whether or not the parcel has ever been combined. Swanton also commented that when his neighbor's address is entered into maps, the pin is dropped onto the shared driveway not the neighbor's house. Swanton was directed to discuss the issue with Olmsted County as they manage the Geographic Information System (GIS) and can explain how the pin got dropped.

**Consent Agenda** – Supervisor Thomforde made a motion to accept December 10, 2024 minutes as written, Supervisor Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Old Business**

**Solar Energy Farms**– The draft of the Solar Farm Ordinance with attorney changes was discussed. Chris Hawkins, chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission expressed that the commission would be interested in reviewing changes recommended by the attorney and by the township board. Discussion of the ordinance is tabled until the commission has an opportunity to review and discuss proposed changes. The party who previously expressed interest in developing a solar farm is no longer pursuing it.

**Cannabis Ordinance** – A deadline of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 was given to respond to the Office of Cannabis Management regarding New Haven Township’s decision as to who will be responsible to monitor zoning compliance. Clerk Kosmicki contacted the Olmsted County department responsible for implementing the compliance and registration processes. It was confirmed that Olmsted County does have New Haven Township’s resolution delegating cannabis retailer registration authority to Olmsted County on file. Kosmicki also informed the individual that the township zoning ordinance has not been finalized. Kosmicki was informed that the state may at some time request the document. Attorney Ruppe sent a proposed cannabis zoning ordinance. The attorney was informed that New Haven was not going to have a separate ordinance and would be adopting the ordinance developed in cooperation with townships partnering with TCPA. Fahy-Gust suggested sending the attorney’s draft to TCPA as it might be helpful to them.

**New Business**

**Preliminary Review of 2024 Year End Financial Results** – Thomforde provided a detailed review of 2024 year-end financial report and variances from the 2024 budget. He also reviewed a financial summary comparing the last three years. The 2025 mil rates, based on the levy set at last year’s Annual Meeting, are not yet available.

**Review Maintenance Quotes Notice** – A proposed notice for maintenance quotes was reviewed. Clerk Kosmicki asked if the expectation for itemized bills needs to be defined in the notice. It was decided that this expectation did not need to be part of the notice. Right-of -Way maintenance will be divided into 3 categories, with separate bids for a) spraying, b) mowing, and c) brush/tree removal. The notice will be placed in the Post Bulletin and News Record and posted on the township hall door. Quotes will be opened and reviewed at the February 11th meeting.

**Requested Land Use Changes in Olmsted County (unincorporated portions)** – Supervisor Thomforde brought forth information published in the Post Bulletin regarding Olmsted County’s approach to managing growth outside the city. A map provided by the county included sections of land in New Haven Township. It was unclear to the board as to what the intended use of those areas would be and why they were included on the map. This could possibly be discussed at the upcoming OCTOA meeting for clarification of land use for those areas of New Haven Township. Supervisor Fahy-Gust intends to review the maps and information.

**Resolution for March Election Judges** – A resolution was presented to approve Donna Beyer, Ginger Roberts Carson, Ann Fahy-Gust, David Andrist, and Bob Madsen as election judges for the township election scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup>. Donna Beyer will be assigned as head judge. Clerk Kosmicki asks for clarification regarding the wording of the resolution authorizing the head judge to appoint additional election judges as needed. As needed is defined as on an emergency basis. Thomforde made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-01 with the five election judges listed, Fahy-Gust seconded. Roll call vote was conducted and approved unanimously.

**Resolution for Supervisors Serving as Election Judges-** Thomforde made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-02 Authorizing Contract with Interested Officer authorizing Ann Fahy-Gust to perform as an election judge at a standard rate of \$20.00/hour. Andrist seconded. Roll call vote was conducted with Fahy-Gust abstaining and Thomforde and Andrist approving. Motion carried. Thomforde made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-03 Authorizing Contract with Interested Officer authorizing David Andrist to perform as an election judge at a standard rate of \$20.00/hour. Fahy-Gust seconded. Roll call vote was conducted with Andrist abstaining and Thomforde and Fahy-Gust approving. Motion carried.

**Board of Audit Date and Time** - The meeting was tentatively set for February 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM prior to the regular board meeting. This date and time were confirmed. A public notice of the meeting will be posted.

**2025 Mileage Reimbursement Rate** - Mileage reimbursement has been increased to \$0.70 per mile.

**TCPA Meeting Recap** – Fahy-Gust attended the meeting for Andrist. There was a lengthy discussion about the cannabis ordinance. There is a great deal of flux in how the program will be administered. A lawsuit has been filed relative to under-represented people who have an advantage in obtaining a license. The Public Health Department will be part of the Office of Cannabis Management and will need to be licensed at the county level based on ordinances that are developed. TCPA will continue to provide building permit reports. They will provide a monthly report and a cumulative report for each individual township. CMS is changing their rates of billing. A new contract was negotiated with Jered and Ethan. The full contract will be less than last year because there are fewer compensated individuals in the contract. The proposal was for \$217,439.00 for both, and there was a request for compensation for phone and mileage bringing the total to \$229,000.00. This was approved by the board. There was also a request for 14 paid holidays. This will be approved individually by the board chair. There remain 3 townships in Olmsted County not a part of the association. If they should decide to join, this would create a need for additional staff.

**Road Report** – Mike reported that he is unable to turn around in Kittleson’s driveway due to Christmas lights blocking entry necessitating the need to back out. Otherwise, there are no issues. Clerk Kosmicki was contacted by a resident who lives at 9309 1125<sup>th</sup> St NW, Pine Island, who had questions regarding the processing for plowing snow. The last time it snowed he stated he wasn’t plowed out for 24 to 30 hours. His road is the furthest point and would be one of the last roads plowed. Plowing does not commence until snow has stopped. Kosmicki will provide this feedback to the resident.

**Treasurer Report** – Treasurer Figy is currently at Pine Haven after experiencing a stroke approximately 2 weeks ago. It is his intention to return and to file for reelection. Hannah Walters was previously appointed as deputy treasurer and will serve in this role for the time being. There was discussion as to whether or not to disclose wages. By state law, gross wages are public, but net wages are confidential. Going forward, Walters will list individual net wages without including a name.

Frandsen Bank -	Checking Account	\$ 3,861.99
	Money Market Account	\$ 160,953.43
	Less Outstanding Checks	\$ 152.50
	<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$ 164,662.92</b>

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
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>

**Total Deposits** **\$414,662.92**

Thomforde made a motion to approve treasurer’s report, Andrist seconded, no further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Review/Pay Bills** – Two bills due this month that are not typical monthly bills were Olmsted County Truth in Taxation Mailing for \$175.46 and MAT 2025 membership dues for \$821.20. Ag Partners has delivered propane

\$447.06 at a rate of \$1.54/gallon, leaving a current prepay balance is \$70.53. Andrist made a motion to pay all bills, Thomforde seconded, no further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Mail/Miscellaneous –**

Christmas cards were received from Ellingson Company, Prairie Island Tribal Counsel and Frandsen Bank. A schedule is available for pick up times for the bus to Township Day at the Capitol. Notice of Gaming Land Acquisition Final Determination was received. Fahy-Gust will review. Received notice of application to increase electric rates from Xcel Energy. Received final orders approving annexation of the two previously-discussed properties into Pine Island. Thomforde reminded the Board that there is an OCTOA meeting scheduled this month in Viola.

**Adjournment** – Thomforde made a motion to adjourn, Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 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**  
**CHECKING ACCOUNT**  
 December 2024

Ending Balance of November, 2024 statement

**\$4,468.99**

**Income**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Check #/Cash</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
12/11/24	Online	MMDA Account Transfer	\$8,000.00
12/31/24	Online	Interest	\$0.53

**Total Deposits:      \$8,000.53**

**Debits**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Check #/Online</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
12/10/24	Online	Bevcomm Telephone Payment	\$78.34
12/12/24	4749	Hemann Grover & Co.	\$142.00
12/12/24	4753	David A. Andrist	\$41.27
12/12/24	20698	David A. Andrist	\$542.49
12/13/24	4754	Dale J. Thomforde	\$35.38
12/13/24	4755	Lavonne Kosmicki	\$319.50
12/13/24	20700	Robert Figy	\$1,178.94
12/13/24	20701	Lavonne Kosmicki	\$810.22
12/13/24	20702	Dale Thomforde	\$643.22
12/17/24	4750	Column Software PBC	\$103.04
12/17/24	20699	Margaret A. Fahy-Gust	\$1,060.41
12/18/24	4751	Grimsrud Publishing Inc.	\$43.75
12/23/24	20695	Donna M. Beyer	\$160.00
12/24/24	Online	Culligan of Greater Rochester	\$63.95
12/24/24	4752	Michael Wood LLC	\$3,037.50
12/26/24	Online	People's Co-Op Electric Payment	\$187.52
12/31/24	4744	Ginger Roberts Carson	\$160.00

**Total Debits:      \$8,607.53**

Ending Balance of December, 2024 statement

**\$3,861.99**

**TOWNSHIP MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**MMDA ACCOUNT**  
December 2024

Ending Balance of November, 2024 statement **\$86,459.63**

**Income**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
12/02/24	Olmsted County Payments	\$78,389.91
12/26/24	MN State Payment	\$3,846.42
12/31/24	Interest	\$257.47

**Total Deposits: \$82,493.80**

**Debits**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
12/11/24	Online Transfer	\$8,000.00

**Total Debits: \$8,000.00**

Ending Balance of December, 2024 statement **\$160,953.43**