

New Haven Township

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA – EST. 1858
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New Haven Township Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes March 8, 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 Thomforde made a motion to approve agenda as printed, Supervisor Andrist seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Comments from Chair – Good to have snow.

Comments from the public – Clerk Kosmicki received information from Olmsted County regarding free water testing that will be made available to residents among request. Kosmicki has received a couple calls from residents regarding frustration with mail service out of Pine Island asking if there is anything the township board can do to intervene. Kosmicki advised callers that other than them contacting their state representative and filing a formal complaint, there was probably nothing for the board to do but the topic could be brought up at the next board meeting. Fahy-Gust acknowledged that the local post office is struggling with understaffing currently but this was not an issue the board would become involved with and agreed the residents need to submit a formal complaint on their own behalf. The Oronoco Seniors Group is restarting meetings and invites anyone interested to attend a planning meeting scheduled for Wednesday March 12th, 11:00 AM at the Oronoco Community Center. Promotional circus tickets were received and are available to anyone interested.

Consent Agenda – Thomforde made a motion to approve the Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes February 11, 2025, and Board of Audit Meeting Minutes - February 11, 2025. Andrist seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Old Business

Follow up Dog complaint – A letter was sent to Rachel Beck regarding her dogs. Rachel responded by calling and writing Fahy-Gust. She did not want to attend a meeting as she felt intimidated by the situation. Fahy-Gust told her that she would read her message into the minutes.

Her message is as follows: *"Good evening, I received your message regarding my dogs and I want to tell you that I have lived here for 13 years and my neighbor has talked to me twice. The last time being eight years ago. The sheriff and DNR have both spoken to me and I've agreed they should not have been out roaming. It was an accident. I don't let them out and let them roam. On occasion, they have gotten away from me and I am respectful of others property. I don't know why this has escalated to the extent it has. I assure you my dogs don't freely roam around. The DNR just came here last week so I hadn't even talked to them before you had your townhall meeting. I want nothing but peace with my neighbors. I will be diligent about keeping my dogs at home. I would appreciate you giving me a phone call. It is frustrating to me that my neighbor can make a claim that my dogs are constantly roaming around and it isn't true, they aren't. They have gone up to his place and I am not defending that. I appreciated knowing it actually. I would have appreciated a civil conversation about it but he was very aggressive and told me he was going to shoot them. Again, I don't want conflict. I have been talked to by the cops and the DNR and I believe that is enough."*

Fahy -Gust provided follow up information regarding Sheriff Torgerson speaking about dogs at the last OCTOA meeting. He clarified that he was speaking specifically about dangerous dog. The county

can be called out to pick up dangerous dogs, not ones that are roaming. Fahy-Gust suggested that as of February 28, 2025, Rachel has stated that she will not let her dogs out to freely roam around. If she keeps to this agreement, the issue should be resolved. If the issue continues, the complainant will inform Fahy-Gust and further action in the form of an ordinance will be considered. Concern was expressed that the issue of roaming dogs may become more of an issue as surrounding cities expand. Matt Rohl, 11435 110th Ave NW, Pine Island, expressed concern regarding roaming dogs and potential harm to livestock. He asked that an ordinance be considered should this issue become increasingly prevalent in order to have more authority to enforce compliance. Fahy-Gust will contact Beck to reiterate the agreement that her dogs will not be roaming. If there are further incidents, an ordinance will be written and enforced.

Solar Farms Ordinance – Chris Hawkins reported that the Planning & Zoning Advisory Commission met on February 18th. There was some confusion as to who was to attend as far as supervisors creating a quorum. Hawkins asked for clarification from supervisors as to who should attend the P&Z meetings. The commission reviewed the draft that included the attorney's comments and made some recommendations for edits and changes. Clerk Kosmicki will draft a version of the ordinance that will include all changes made by the attorney, supervisors Fahy-Gust and Thomforde and the P&Z Commission indicated by different colors. The Solar Energy Farms ordinance will be put on the May agenda.

Cannabis Ordinance – An email received from TCPA with the proposed final draft of the Cannabis Ordinance was forwarded to the supervisors. The township board was in agreement with the draft ordinance as written. Supervisor Andrist will inform TCPA when he attends the next meeting. A public hearing will be held once the ordinance is finalized.

Annual Meeting and Election, Finalize 2025 Budget recommendation-

In preparation for the annual meeting, the agenda and packet provided by supervisor Thomforde was reviewed. Adjustments and additions to the agenda and information to be provided were agreed upon. The budget was also reviewed in detail, adjustments made and recommendations formalized for presentation at the up-coming annual meeting. Fahy-Gust reported actual numbers from the Rural Fire Association and provided detailed information regarding how the payment to the RFA will be divided into two payments. Thorough discussion regarding recommendation for percentage of levy increase occurred. The annual meeting is scheduled for March 11th at 3:00 PM. Election supplies will be picked up Monday before the election. Election Judges are in place. Polls will be open from 5:00PM to 8:00 PM.

New Business

Keller Quarry – Andrist met with a representative from DeCook to give direction on where to dump their loads. Andrist also proposed to move the gate access in order to shut off access to the quarry. There is a gate left over from closing New Haven Road that will be used. Mike Wood will install the gate. There was some concern about access to the lower field by the neighbors and blocking access. Supervisor Andrist will research to ensure there are no issue with neighbors or easements before gate is installed and report back at the next regular meeting.

New Haven Township Representation on County Transportation Projects –An invitation was received from Allison Sosa, Associate Director of Planning, for New Haven Township's participation in two significant transportation related projects planned for 2025. Namely, the Countywide 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and the Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan. There are two meetings they are asking a representative to attend. Supervisor Andrist volunteered to attend.

Investment Resolution – A summary of Clerk Kosmicki and Supervisor Thomforde's conversation with Carter O'Reilly from LPL Investment was provided. Options were discussed. A resolution was drafted to include all options for consideration. A typo was noted under Frandsen Bank and Trust CD. The 10-month CD should be 4% not 10%. Board members preferred and FDIC insured CD as opposed

to state insured fixed annuity. The decision was made to invest the entire amount in a 12-month LPL FDIC insured CD at 4.1% or current rate. Resolution 2025-06 was approved.

Investment Policy Resolution – The last investment goals resolution was in 2023. The resolution was updated to included state insured annuities as an option. Fahy-Gust noted a typo to update the year to 2025. Resolution 2025-07 was adopted.

Board of Appeals and Equalization Meeting Date – BoAE meeting is scheduled for April 9th from 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM at the townhall. Notice of the meeting will be published in the Post Bulletin and News Record newspapers. Thomforde commented that no one came to the meeting last year and that if this happens again this year, the board could decide whether to do a local or county BoAE. The decision should be made before the end of the year. Supervisor training is good for four years. The notice was received on March 10th and will be posted on the hall door and on the website.

Reaffirm Date/Time for Reorganization Meeting - Tentatively scheduled for April 1st at 4:00 PM. The Canvas Board met on March 11th and there is a one-week contest period after the Canvas Board after which certificates of election can be issues. There is then a 10-day period the candidate has to take the oath of office. After calculating these time periods, April 1st would be the first Tuesday the Reorganization meeting can convene. Meeting time set April 1st at 4:00 PM at the townhall.

TCPA Meeting Recap – Permits will be raised by 10%. No changes to the proposed Cannabis Ordinance. TPCA asked County Board for additional funds. CMS was bought out by WKS and there was discussion of TPCA taking responsibly for building inspections, this will most likely not happen due to cost and time.

OCTOA – Next meeting is scheduled for March 27 and will be either in Rochester or Oronoco. All supervisors are expected to attend.

Road Report – The was a bit of snow, approximately 5 inches.

Fire Association Meeting Recap – New Haven Township total dues for 2024 are \$61, 490.00. Half will be paid now, half will be held in reserve until such time the funds are needed. The new tanker truck is in service having replaced the 1993 tanker. A data program has been purchased that will be useful in analyzing trends in calls such has location, number of calls, types, number of personnel, etc.

Treasurer's Report – Deputy Treasurer Walters provided a detailed report of financial transactions for the month of February:

	Frandsen Bank	Checking Account	3190.69
		Money Market Account	183,759.57
		Less outstanding checks	0
		Total Bank Balance	186,950.26
Deputy	Investments	Frandsen Bank 4.4% 8/22/2025	100,000.00
		Wells Fargo of South Dakota, 5.2% 3/04/205	50,000.00
		Flagstar Bank, 4.7% (semiannual) 7/25/2025	100,000.00
		Total Investments	250,000.00
	Balance	Total Bank Balance	186,950.26
		Total Investments	250,000.00
		Total Combined Balance	436,950.26

Treasurer Walters asked what details should be listed with deposits. Fahy-Gust stated just to indicate what the check was for, e.g. hall rental, not necessary to list name of renter, Thomforde made a motion to approve treasurer's report, Andrist seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Review/Pay Bills – Kosmicki commented that on the Couri-Ruppe invoice. There was a charge on the invoice listing a phone call with her for an hour and twenty-five minutes. She called the attorney to questioning this charge as there was no phone call at that length and that she didn't discuss the cannabis ordinance. He explained that the invoice did not break down time for each charge but the time was cumulative for several services performed to include work on the solar energy farms and cannabis ordinances. He did say that if there was no permission giving for work to be done on the cannabis ordinance, offered to waive that fee. The Couri-Ruppe check number 4785 will be held until Kosmicki can clarify with their office charges incurred with interactions with her and ask to be re invoiced. Bob Ruppe concurred that charges were rolled into one and the process for invoicing needs to be more specific and detailed. The Hemann-Grover charge was increased by \$7.00 from prior bills. This change in invoice was not noticed until after checks were done. Kosmicki will contact them to see if they would want to wait for the total invoice to be paid or add the extra to next month's bill. Thomforde made a motion to approve and pay bills with the exception of Couri-Ruppe until final disposition is determined and hold the Hemann-Grover bill until they are contacted to see what their preference is regarding waiting until next month to be paid or make up the difference next month. Fahy-Gust seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Mail/Miscellaneous

- Information item - Olmsted County 2025 CBAS information was forwarded to the supervisors previously.
- Information item – Olmsted County is soliciting requests for the development of the former Seneca property.
- Rideability sent information in accordance with a previous CUP.
- People's Energy Cooperative is holding an annual meeting and an opportunity to vote on issues. Thomforde will most likely attend.
- Couri & Ruppe is holding several Township Legal Seminars in numerous locations for any supervisors interested.
- Short Course Dates and Location were provided. Short Course in Rochester will be on March 18th Township Officer compensation is \$20.00 per hour plus mileage and \$75.00 registration fee. Discussion occurred regarding whether deputy treasurer should attend. The election will occur before the Reorganization meeting. Thomforde made a motion to pay Walters to attend the Short Course Training conditional on attendance by Bob Figy, registration fee and \$20.00 per hour. Fahy-Gust seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Adjournment – Andrist made a motion to adjourn, Thomforde seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:25 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

February 2025

Ending Balance of January, 2025 statement

\$4,388.77

Income

Date	Check #/Cash	Description	Amount
02/06/25		Deposit	\$75.00
02/12/25	Online	Transfer From MMDA Account - Bills Transfer	\$4,500.00
02/14/25		Deposit	\$75.00
02/28/25		Deposit	\$75.00
02/28/25	Online	Transfer From MMDA Account	\$500.00
02/28/25		Interest	\$0.40

Total Deposits: \$5,225.40

Debits

Date	Check #/Online	Description	Amount
2/5/25	4756	Duane Friese - Gopher Bounty	\$152.50
2/10/25	Online	Bevcomm Telephone Payment	\$78.37
2/18/25	4765	Michael Wood	\$1,190.00
2/18/25	4768	Hemann Grovver & Co LTD	\$562.00
2/18/25	4773	Ann Fahy-Gust	\$29.26
2/18/25	20709	Wages	\$392.49
2/19/25	4769	Adam's Pest Control	\$75.00
2/19/25	4772	David A. Andrist	\$40.60
2/19/25	20707	Wages	\$323.22
2/19/25	20708	Wages	\$518.66
2/19/25	20710	Wages	\$228.56
2/20/25	4764	Ag Partners Co-Op	\$493.86
2/20/25	4770	Grimsrud Publishing Inc.	\$39.38
2/20/25	4771	Column Software PBC	\$53.13
2/25/25	Online	Culligan of Greater Rochester	\$63.95
2/25/25	Online	People's Co-Op Electric Payment	\$193.75
2/25/25	4767	Couri and Ruppe PLLP	\$1,788.75
2/26/25	4766	Olmsted County Assoc of TWSPS	\$200.00

Total Debits: \$6,423.48

Ending Balance of February 2025 statement

\$3,190.69

TOWNSHIP MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
MMDA ACCOUNT
February 2025

Ending Balance of January, 2025 statement

\$156,991.13

Income

Date	Decription	Amount
1/24/2025	Olmsted County Payments	\$31,536.76
1/31/2025	Interest	\$231.68

Total Deposits: \$31,768.44

Debits

Date	Description	Amount
2/12/2025	Online Transfer	\$4,500.00
2/28/2025	Online Transfer	\$500.00

Total Debits: \$5,000.00

Ending Balance of February 2025 statement \$183,759.57