New Haven Township

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New Haven Township
Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance/Call to Order – Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was called to order by Chair Ann Fahy-Gust at 1:00 PM. Supervisors David Andrist and Dale Thomforde were present to constitute a quorum. Also present were Treasurer Chris Hawkins, and Clerk Bonnie Kosmicki.

Set Agenda and Order – Clerk Kosmicki requested that a Board of Equalization and Adjustment meeting be added to the agenda. Chair Fahy-Gust directed that this item be included under New Business. Thomforde moved to approve the agenda with the addition, and Andrist seconded the motion. The motion carried 3–0.

Comments from the public – None

Consent Agenda – Thomforde moved to approve the consent agenda, including regular town board meeting minutes from February 10, 2026, and Board of Audit meeting minutes of the same date, as written, Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Old Business

Hope Farms- The Planning and Zoning Advisory Commission had previously been directed to meet and review proposed revisions to the New Haven Township Zoning Ordinance submitted by Couri-Ruppe. The Commission met on Monday, March 2, to review the proposed amendments, and Commission Chair Chris Hawkins provided a summary of the discussion. The proposal includes amendments to Section 4.02 of the Zoning Ordinance, which addresses violations of condition or interim use permits. The Commission recommended minor changes to the language provided by legal counsel. Chair Fahy-Gust inquired about the rationale for extending the timeframe to initiate the violation process from 30 to 45 days. Hawkins explained that the extension was intended to account for situations where an issue arises shortly after a regular monthly meeting, leaving fewer than 30 days before the next meeting and potentially requiring a special meeting. Fahy-Gust expressed support for holding special meetings, when necessary, particularly in cases involving the revocation of a conditional or interim use permit. Thomforde noted that the time between meetings can be as much as 35 days. Thomforde and Andrist agreed that the timeframe should remain at 30 days. Section E.2.c was reformatted into a checklist-style format to clarify the steps involved in revocation; no changes were made to the language. This formatting approach was also applied to Section 3(c). Fahy-Gust reviewed each step of the revocation process as recommended by legal counsel. As a next step, Hawkins will revise the document to incorporate the Commission's recommended changes, and Fahy-Gust will forward it to legal counsel for further review. A public hearing will be scheduled once a final draft is approved by the Town Board. Any additional recommendations arising from the public hearing will be submitted to legal counsel until the amendments are finalized. Fahy-Gust thanked Hawkins for his work and asked him to extend her appreciation to the Commission.

> Mark Stenberg, 7945 100th St NW, Pine Island, inquired how residents are notified of special meetings so they may attend if interested. Chair Fahy-Gust explained that notices of special meetings are posted on the Town Hall door and on the Township website. Stenberg was also advised that he could receive notifications of website updates by providing his email address to the Clerk to be added to the distribution list.

Becky Bosch, 7331 100th St NW, Pine Island, asked for an estimate of how long it would take to finalize the revocation process. Chair Fahy-Gust explained that once final recommendations are received from legal counsel, a special meeting will be scheduled to review the ordinance. At that meeting, copies will be provided and attendees will have an opportunity to offer input. Following the meeting, the Board will determine whether to adopt the ordinance or incorporate any significant feedback. Bosch then asked when the revocation process would begin after adoption of the ordinance. Fahy-Gust explained that once a violation is identified, the resident is notified and given 30 days to come into compliance. If the violation is not corrected, the revocation process begins. This includes written notice to the permit holder that revocation proceedings have been initiated, along with a list of violations. The resident may also apply for a new permit. If the permit is ultimately revoked and the non-compliant activity continues, legal action would be the next step.

Kim Rupprecht, 7222 100th St NW, Pine Island, observed that it appears the notification process has already taken place. Chair Fahy-Gust acknowledged that notification has occurred but noted that there is currently no formal process in place to revoke a permit. She added that there has been no communication from Hope Farms despite two letters being sent. Rupprecht commented on what he viewed as there is already failure to comply. Fahy-Gust responded that while the process takes time, it must proceed in a thoughtful, justified, and thorough manner.

Miller Quarry – Chair Fahy-Gust reported that a meeting was held with representatives from Bruening Rock, New Haven Township, and Olmsted County to review the steps necessary for the quarry to come into compliance. Because the quarry entrance is located on a county road, New Haven Township will no longer be involved in the permitting process or related discussions. All documents pertaining to the quarry that were held by the Township have been transferred to the County. Fahy-Gust also noted that a current conditional use permit (CUP) remains in effect.

Pine Island Estates – Fahy-Gust provided clarification regarding roads in Pine Island Estates that the filing with the county designates them as private roads, thereby, New Haven Township is not obligated to assume maintenance of them. Andrist concurred with this statement. He had received a phone call from a resident of Pine Island Estates and relayed this viewpoint to her as well.

Brad Weis 12236 Pine Bluff Rd Pine Island, a resident of Pine Island Estates commented that he has been involved in conversations with other residents and an attorney discussing options regarding road maintenance.

Stan Weichert, 213 2nd St SW Pine Island, stated that the Yanish family desires to dissolve the LLC and no longer be responsible for the roads in the development and there is currently no home association. If this goes forward, the residents are left to explore their options and come to an agreement for road maintenance. Fahy-Gust reiterated that the roads were filed and platted as private indicating this was the intent of the residents and the development.

Mike Woods asked whether New Haven Township receives any property taxes from Pine Island Estates. Thomforde responded that there is one mill rate applied across the entire township. Chair Fahy-Gust clarified that taxes are not assessed to residents for road maintenance in Pine Island Estates because the roads are private. Woods then asked whether the township could be required to take over the roads. Andrist noted that this has occurred in the past. Fahy-Gust explained that residents would need to petition the township with full (100%) agreement to township road standards, including maintenance requirements and granting necessary easements. She added that even with such a petition, the township would not be obligated to assume responsibility but would

be required to consider the request. Thomforde added that the township currently spends approximately $6,000 per mile per year on road maintenance.

CD Resolution – Resolution No. 2026-02, regarding a maturing Certificate of Deposit, was reviewed. The resolution directed that funds from CD #949764QS6 be transferred to the MMDA account. Thomforde moved to adopt the resolution, and Andrist seconded the motion. The motion carried 3–0.

Chloride Quotes – Andrist reported contacting Freeborn County and Quality Propane for pricing. Freeborn County quoted $1.25 per gallon, an increase of $0.03 per gallon from the previous year, while Quality Propane quoted $1.39 per gallon. Freeborn County was the provider used last year, and Thomforde noted they performed well. Thomforde made a motion to utilize Freeborn County again this year, and Fahy-Gust seconded the motion. The motion carried 3–0. Andrist will contact Freeborn County to inform them the desire to use them again this year. Cost to residents for chloride application will be discussed at the April meeting.

New Business -

Kalmar Road Signs – Mike Woods stated that Kalmar Township currently does not have road signs, barriers, or cones like New Haven Township does for use when a road is closed. Olmsted County and the Sheriff's office had contacted Kalmar Township regarding signage when a road needed to be closed. Because Kalmar does not have any, the Sheriff suggested they contact New Haven Township to borrow or rent the equipment. The supervisors reached a consensus not to loan or rent the signs, citing concerns that they could be lost, needed simultaneously by New Haven, or otherwise be cumbersome to manage. New Haven's road signs are currently stored in a trailer on Mike Wood's property.

Annual Meeting Prep to include budget review – Refreshments are typically provided at meetings. Chair Fahy-Gust will purchase cookies, and coffee and water will also be available. Discussion was held regarding the 2026 budget and a recommended levy. The Rural Fire Association (RFA) invoice for 2025 will be $64,913.00, payable for 2026, and the budgeted amount will be $72,788.00 payable for 2027. When the Certificate of Deposit currently held for the RFA matures, it will be liquidated and the funds provided to the Pine Island Fire Department to purchase air packs and one rescue pack to replace obsolete equipment. Fahy-Gust explained that the $64,913.00 owed to the Fire Department includes 28% allocated for equipment, with the remainder covering the prior years' service. This amount is based on 100% of services for New Haven Township provided by the Pine Island Fire Department and the township's tax capacity valuation, which increased by approximately $1,000,000. There are five townships in the association with some that use the service less service area than New Haven, and a formula is applied based on these factors. Aside from the RFA figures, other budget items are based on actual revenues and expenditures. A recommendation was made to increase the Street Maintenance budget from $160,000.00 to $173,000.00. Incorporating the RFA and Street Maintenance changes results in a projected deficit of $56,298.00 for 2026, bringing the total budget to approximately $350,000.00. Fahy-Gust expressed the opinion that the budget should be maintained at around $400,000.00, noting that costs will continue to rise. Recovering the full $56,298.00 deficit through the 2027 levy would require an approximate 24% increase. The desired $400,000.00 reserve would also be reduced by the deficit and would need to be rebuilt. After detailed discussion, the Board agreed to recommend a 14% levy increase (approximately $30,000.00), resulting in a total levy of about $250,000.00. It was also noted that the township portion of property taxes represents approximately 10% of the total tax bill. The delineation of funds to be reported to the county will be discussed at the April meeting. Andrist moved to recommend increasing the levy by 14% (approximately $30,000.00), and Thomforde seconded the motion. The motion carried 3–0.

Supervisor Election Judge Comp Resolutions – Resolutions No. 2026-03 and 2026-04, authorizing contracts with interested officers for Supervisors Thomforde and Andrist, were presented and reviewed. Fahy-Gust moved to approve compensation for Thomforde for the 2026 elections. Andrist seconded the motion. The motion carried 2–0, with Thomforde abstaining as an interested officer. Fahy-Gust then moved to approve compensation for Andrist for the 2026 elections. Thomforde seconded the motion. The motion carried 2–0, with Andrist abstaining as an interested officer.

Board of Appeal and Equalization – Notification has been received that the Board of Appeal and Equalization has been scheduled for April 8, 9:30 – 10:00 AM at the town hall. Notice has been posted; ads will be placed in the Post Bulletin and the News Record.

Meeting Reports

TCPA Meeting Recap – Andrist provided a summary of the most recent TCPA meeting and submitted a copy of the signed 2026 Agreement between TCPA and West Driftless LLC. Fahy-Gust reported observing that a foundation for a pole shed had been installed at a residence north of the bridge on County Road 3, (9509 County Rd 3 NW). She questioned whether a building permit had been issued, noting that because the property is less than 35 acres, the structure would be required to meet residential building code standards. Andrist stated that he will follow up to confirm whether a permit has been issued.

Road Report – A request was received from the school for additional rock on 69th Ave. M. Woods addressed the issue by cutting back the windrow, ice, and snow. After discussion with the school transportation supervisor, it was determined that these measures were sufficient to address their concerns. The intent was not to create a cul-de-sac, but rather to provide adequate space for the school bus to back up.

Betsy Carney agreed to have trees cut back within the right-of-way; however, this work has not yet been completed.

Road Maintenance Contract – Thomforde researched the parameters regarding service contracts and reported that there is a $175,000.00 expenditure limit before sealed bids are required. Currently, Wood receives approximately $73,000.00 per year. A new contract could be established at this time for the 2027–2029 period, and there is no legal obligation to solicit bids for services below the threshold. Historically, no quotes have been submitted aside from Mike Wood. A three-year contract would exceed the expenditure limit. Mr. Wood presented a cost proposal extending through 2029, noting that fuel prices could impact overall costs. Thomforde made a motion to accept the proposal and approve a two-year contract with Mike Woods, covering April 2027 through April 2029. Andrist seconded the motion. Motion carried 3–0.

OCTOA Meeting – Next meeting scheduled for March 26th. Fahy-Gust will not be available to attend, Andrist and Thomforde will attend.

Rural Fire Association – Fahy-Gust provided a summary of the previous Rural Fire Association meeting and noted that an invoice for dues will be forthcoming. A full report will be presented at the annual meeting. She reported an increase in expenditures, including the need to hire a third party to perform hose testing, as it is not appropriate for the Pine Island Fire Department (PIFD) to conduct its own testing due to potential liability concerns. The department is currently not reimbursed for medical lift assists, which are occurring with increasing frequency. Assisted living and nursing facilities are the primary users of this service, as their staff are not trained to lift residents. It is anticipated that pending legislative changes may allow the department to charge for lift assist services in the future. Truck #581, a high-pressure pumper (brush truck) manufactured in 2001, has a frame that is deteriorating due to rust and may need to be replaced within the next two years. The department is exploring options for replacement, with an estimated cost of $450,000.00, including potential lease or rental arrangements. The Pine Island City Council is considering hiring a consulting service

to conduct a review of PIFD operations and provide recommendations for improvement. Fahy-Gust also presented the annual financial report.

Township Day at the Capitol – On March 2, Supervisor Thomforde attended Township Day at the Capitol. During the event, Thomforde met with the area's state representative for approximately 45 minutes, along with other attendees. Discussion topics included potential revisions to the Minnesota state flag, as well as requests from townships for additional state funding for road maintenance and emergency medical services (EMS). Thomforde also noted that security measures at the Capitol were significantly increased.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Hawkins presented the February month-end financial report to the Board, including account balances and investment information. February month-ending balances were:

Frandsen Bank and Trust Accounts	**Principal Balances**
Checking Account	$5,953.88
MMDA Account	$139,560.63
Minus Outstanding Checks	$
Total Bank Balance	**$ 145,514.51**

Investments	**Int Rate**	**Maturity Date**		
Frandsen Bank	3.50%	4/10/26	$30,754.00	Fire Depart Escrow
Bank of America	4.15%	7/30/2026	$102,000.00	LPL Financial
Wells Fargo Bank	4.20%	3/18/2026	$55,000.00	LPL Financial
Wells Fargo Bank	3.90%	9/9/2026	$103,000.00	LPL Financial
LPL Financial	Cash Account		$2.61	LPL Financial Cash account
Total Investments			**$290,756.61**	
Total Deposits			**$436,271.12**	

The Fire Department Escrow will be rolled over to the MMDA account. Thomforde a made motion to approve the Treasurer's report, Andrist seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Review/Pay Bills – Kosmicki reviewed billed. Hemann-Grover bill increased due to the management of the paid leave program. The employee portion paid by the township is considered taxable wages. Other than the usual bills there was an invoice for check blanks and envelopes, Couri-Ruppe, election notice ads, and claims for the Planning and Zoning Commission members. Thomforde made a motion to approve paying all bills, Andrist seconded, motion carried 3-0

Mail/Miscellaneous – Couri & Ruppe are holding Township Legal Seminars for interested officers. MAT membership cards were distributed to officers. People's Energy Cooperative will be holding an election for their officers. Thomforde will be attending.

Adjournment Fahy-Gust made a motion to adjourn, Thomforde seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:32 PM.

Signed: Signed:

/Signed copy on file/

Ann Fahy-Gust, Chair
New Haven Town Board
Date:

Bonnie Kosmicki
Township Clerk
Date:

TOWNSHIP MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
CHECKING ACCOUNT
February 2026

Ending Balance of 1/31/2026 statement **$5,259.87**

Income

Date	Check #/Cash	Description	Amount
02/02/26		Hall Rental	$100.00
02/11/26		MMDA Transfer	$10,000.00
02/26/26		Hall Rental	$75.00
02/27/26		Hall Rental	$250.00
02/27/26		Interest	$0.53

Total Deposits: $10,425.53

Debits

Date	#/Online	Description	Amount
2/18/26	4887	Ag Partners	$449.62
2/18/26	4888	Brunning Rock Products	$107.88
2/18/2026	4889	Riverside Outdoor Services	$75.00
2/18/26	4890	Adams Pest Control	$78.00
2/13/26	4891	Michael Wood LLC	$6,510.00
2/24/26	4892	Olmsted Co. Assoc of Townships	$200.00
2/17/26	4893	David Andrist	$36.41
2/13/26	4894	Dale Thomforde	$179.52
2/19/26	4895	Herman Grover and Co	$259.00
2/17/26	20761	Wages	$323.10
2/19/26	20762	Wages	$346.19
2/19/26	20763	Wages	$530.81
2/19/2026	20764	Wages	$323.10
2/10/26	Online	Bevcomm	$78.46
2/24/26	Online	Cullgan	$43.95
2/25/26	Online	People Energy Coop	$190.48

Total Debits: $9,731.52

Ending Balance of 2/27/2026 statement **$5,953.88**

Outstanding checks

TOWNSHIP MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
MMDA ACCOUNT
February 2026

Ending Balance as of January 30, 2026 Statement **$123,284.90**

Income

Date	Decription	Amount
2/20/2026	Olmsted County	$26,131.25
2/27/2026	Interest	$144.48

Total Deposits: $26,275.73

Debits

Date	Description	Amount
2/11/2026	Online Transfer	$10,000.00
	Online Transfer	

Total Debits: $10,000.00

Ending Balance as of 2/27/2026 Statement $139,560.63