

New Haven Township

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA – EST. 1858

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9024 COUNTY ROAD 3 NW, OROCOCO, MN 55960

New Haven Township Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes July 14, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance/Call to Order – 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 Chris Hawkins, and Clerk Bonnie Kosmicki.

Set Agenda and Order – Fahy-Gust requested adding an update on Hope Farms to Old Business and the Rural Fire Association Report to Meeting Reports. Kosmicki requested adding a resolution appointing Fahy-Gust as an election judge and a discussion of the upcoming primary election to New Business. Thomforde made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions noted above. Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Comments from the public – Jerry Berg, 13040 New Haven Road NW, Pine Island, and his son, Scott Berg, 50749 170th Ave Way, Pine Island, approached the Board to discuss splitting a property so that a grandson could purchase a portion of the farm. Scott had spoken with Township Cooperative Planning Association (TCPA) staff, who referred the Bergs to the Township Board to discuss the proposed split. The process for pursuing a property split was discussed. A Planning and Zoning Commission meeting will be convened to review the request and determine existing property lines that could impact the proposed parcels. The Planning and Zoning Commission will assist the Bergs in ensuring a successful Metes and Bounds request. TCPA staff will also be invited to attend the meeting. A public hearing is not required for a Metes and Bounds split; however, public hearings are required for CUP and IUP applications.

Thomforde commented on how nice the newly mopped and waxed floors looked. Andrist thanked Fahy-Gust and Kosmicki for their work.

Consent Agenda – Thomforde made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 9, 2026 as printed. Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Old Business

Process for Monitoring CUP's and IUP's - Fahy-Gust will provide a list she previously maintained documenting current Conditional Use Permits (CUPs), Interim Use Permits (IUPs), and the responsible person for each. Her list includes 18 CUPs and 2 IUPs. Fahy-Gust is aware of situations where someone has moved onto a property with an existing CUP. The property owners will need to be contacted to determine whether the permit is still in use and, if so, who the responsible person is. TCPA will also need to be contacted to determine how many CUPs and IUPs have been issued since Fahy-Gust's departure from her planning and zoning position. A chart will be developed to establish a monthly rotation for reviewing specific permits. The fall and spring road inspections will provide an opportunity to follow up with residents who have not responded to an invitation to attend a Board meeting and provide an update on their CUP or IUP. If a resident is unable to attend, a written update will be sufficient. Fahy-Gust will draft a letter to be sent to CUP and IUP holders for Board approval. The new process is expected to be implemented in August or

September. Thomforde stated that the process should be as uncomplicated as possible for residents. CUPs can remain with the property and may be reactivated as needed. If a CUP is no longer being used, it may be revoked, as a revocation process has now been established. IUPs may be sunsetted when they are no longer applicable. Some permits may be grandfathered in, in which case there may be no course of action available to revoke the permit or otherwise intervene.

Center Grove Cemetery – There has been no response to the public request for assistance with the administrative duties for the cemetery. Fahy-Gust will repost the request for assistance. If the Cemetery Board becomes inactive, the Township Board will need to assume responsibility for the cemetery's upkeep and administrative duties. It was suggested that this issue be revisited quarterly to remain informed of the status and activities of the current Cemetery Board.

Hope Farms Update – Fahy-Gust read an update received from Jon Zimmerman regarding his intention with plans for Hope Farms. Mr. Zimmerman was informed that this email would be read at the meeting. September 1st is the deadline for compliance with the current CUP. This is a summary of his response. The full transcript of his response is on file. Mr. Zimmerman provided a list of three potential options were enumerated. The three options include return to a smaller scale operation, sell the property to a key manager, or sunset the business and sell the property. A decision will be reached by August 31st. The greenhouse is essentially closed for the season.

Kim Rupprecht, 7222 100th St., Pine Island, has been in contact with farm staff regarding the increasing presence of Canada thistle on the property and the need for removal. Other neighboring residents have expressed similar concerns. Neighbors have also raised concerns about the scale of the operation and whether the maintenance and upkeep required for the property may have been underestimated by the owners.

New Business

Genoa Alleyway – A couple in Genoa has been mowing and maintaining an alleyway adjacent to their property and has expressed interest in purchasing the alleyway. They were referred to TCPA to research the possibility. TCPA subsequently referred the matter back to the Board after determining that the alleyway is a public road under the jurisdiction of New Haven Township. There are currently four other residents whose properties abut the alleyway, which was previously known as John's Street. If New Haven Township were to abandon the road, a formal process would be required, and the property would need to be divided among the residents whose properties abut the roadway. It will first need to be determined whether the road is actually owned by New Haven Township. Surveys would likely be necessary and would be at the township's expense. Thomforde will conduct additional research and report back to the Board at the next meeting. There is also an abandoned property along the alleyway that would need to be considered, further complicating the matter.

Minnesota Flag - A resident contacted the Clerk to inquire why the current Minnesota flag is not being flown at Town Hall. The previous flag had deteriorated and was not replaced. There is no requirement to fly the state flag, and there continues to be legislative discussion regarding the possibility of another change to the Minnesota flag. The Board determined that, given the frequency with which the flag requires replacement (approximately every six months), the associated expense, and the uncertainty surrounding potential future changes to the flag, it was prudent not to purchase and display the current Minnesota flag at this time.

Resolution Officer Compensation 2026-07 Officer Compensation Resolution 2026-07 was drafted to address compensation for authorized duties performed by town officers outside of their normal officer

responsibilities. The Board also discussed the distinction between contracts and wages. Resolution 2026-05, Resolution Setting the Compensation and Reimbursement of Town Officers, adopted at the last reorganization meeting addresses compensation for town officers performing duties beyond their regular responsibilities. It was decided that the duties covered by the resolution should be further defined at the next annual reorganization meeting. An example discussed was maintaining the exterior shrubbery. The Board could either compensate an officer at an established hourly rate for performing the work or hire someone else to complete the task. An officer can choose to be compensated or not. The draft resolution was not adopted.

Resolution Bank of America LPL Maturing CD 2026-08 – Treasurer Hawkins summarized the proposed resolution regarding two CDs that will soon mature. He reviewed current interest rates and noted that this may be an opportune time to stagger the CDs' maturity dates. Frandsen Bank and Frandsen LPL Financial were reported to offer similar interest rates. Hawkins recommended investing one CD for 12 months and the second for 24 months. The Board discussed upcoming cash-flow needs. The next property tax payment is expected in December, and no major expenses are anticipated before that payment. The Board also discussed reviewing expenses incurred from August through December of the previous year. For the CD that matures at the end of July, the Board agreed to reinvest the funds in a 12-month CD. Hawkins will conduct additional research and report back regarding the best option for the second CD. Thomforde made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-08. Andrist seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. Resolution 2026-08 was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution 2026-09 for Fahy-Gust Election Judge – The resolution authorizes Fahy-Gust to perform election judge duties. Thomforde made a motion to approve the resolution. Andrist seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote, with Fahy-Gust abstaining and Thomforde and Andrist voting in favor. Resolution adopted by majority vote.

Primary Election - The list of individuals interested in serving as election judges includes Dale Thomforde, Bonnie Kosmicki, Ann Fahy-Gust, Ginger Roberts-Carson, Dave Andrist, Jeff Lee, Bob Madsen, Larry Mattson, and Stephanie Whitmer. The three designated head judges are Kosmicki, Thomforde, and Fahy-Gust. Fahy-Gust will complete the required training next week. Four election judges are required per shift to comply with current election requirements. Thomforde made a motion to authorize the list of election judges, appoint Kosmicki as the head judge, and designate Fahy-Gust as the backup head judge. Andrist seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Reports –

Road Report – Kosmicki reported receiving a request from a resident regarding a washout near her mailbox. M. Woods inspected the area and did not find anything of concern but will inspect the area again. Other washouts had been noted, and the affected roads have been repaired. The current road maintenance contracts are in effect through April 15, 2029.

TCPA – Thomforde reported attending two TCPA meetings since the last Township meeting. The number of permits issued is comparable to last year; however, fewer homes are being constructed, resulting in reduced revenue. TCPA is now able to accept credit card payments, with the credit card processing fee paid by TCPA. A representative from CMS attended the TCPA meeting and reported that CMS is now performing commercial plumbing inspections. At this time, there is no need for commercial plumbing inspections in New Haven Township.

OCTOA – Next meeting is scheduled for July 23rd. Kosmicki will post a notice. All supervisors indicated they intend to attend.

Rural Fire Association Meeting – The Pine Island Fire Department currently serves a large area, including the City of Pine Island and the townships of New Haven, Milton, Roscoe, and Pine Island. The department has also recently assumed full responsibility for serving Oronoco Township. The City and the Rural Fire Association (RFA) have expressed concerns that the current organizational structure may need to be assessed and evaluated to ensure optimal operations. Capstone Public Sector Solutions has been hired to conduct the assessment. Capstone provided a presentation at the RFA meeting outlining the review process and providing an overview of its services. Interviews have been conducted with representatives from the city, fire department volunteers, and members of the RFA. The ultimate goal of the review is to define a best-practice model for the Pine Island Fire Department. The consultant will determine whether the current organizational model is sufficient or make recommendations for improvement. There are other opportunities for volunteer duties including administrative responsibilities and data entry.

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

Frandsen Bank and Trust Accounts		Principal Balances	
Checking Account		\$	5,435.34
MMDA Account		\$	137,817.11
Minus Outstanding Checks		\$	
Total Bank Balance		\$	143,252.45
Investments	Int Rate Maturity Date		
Bank of America	4.15% 7/30/2026	\$102,000.00	LPL Financial
Wells Fargo Bank	3.90% 9/9/2026	\$103,000.00	LPL Financial
Total Investments		\$205,000.00	
Total Deposits		\$348,252.45	

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

Review/Pay Bills – Bills for the month totaled \$33,684.31, including the chloride bill, which is being paid this month. Thomforde made a motion to approve payment of all bills. Andrist seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. Thomforde requested approval to transfer \$50,000.00 from the General Fund to the Road and Bridge Fund. The transfer is primarily an accounting matter and requires a unanimous roll-call vote of the Board, as the Clerk cannot complete the fund-to-fund transfer without Board approval. Thomforde made a motion to approve the transfer of \$50,000.00 from the General Fund to the Road and Bridge Fund. The motion carried 3-0, with Fahy-Gust voting aye, Andrist voting aye, and Thomforde voting aye.

Mail/Miscellaneous – A thank you card was received from St. Michael’s Church for the donation to the cemetery maintenance fund. As of July 1st 2026, the standard federal mileage reimbursement increased to \$0.76 per mile. There is a District 1 meeting scheduled for August 3rd, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm for anyone interested in attending. A notice will be posted. Thomforde plans to attend.

Adjournment Thomforde made a motion to adjourn, Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 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**

June 2026

Ending Balance of 5/29/2026 statement

\$13,157.52

Income

Date	Check #/Cash	Description	Amount
6/10/2026		June MMDA Transfer	\$119,000.00
06/12/26		Hall Rental	\$100.00
06/30/26		Hall Rental	\$75.00
06/30/26		Interest	\$3.00

Total Deposits: \$119,178.00

Debits

Date	#/Online	Description	Amount
6/10/2026	Online	Bevcomm	\$78.40
6/24/26	Online	Culligan	\$63.95
6/25/26	Online	Peoples Coop Elect	\$212.13
6/11/2026	4938	Michael Wood, LLC	\$14,867.36
6/11/26	4939	Northstar Property Solutions	\$4,632.00
6/11/26	4940	Dale Thomforde	\$84.83
6/11/26	4941	Daivd Andrist	\$74.20
6/17/26	4942	Riverside Outdoor Services	\$280.00
6/17/26	4943	Herman Grover and Co	\$155.00
6/16/26	4944	Brueniing Rock Products	\$72,747.71
6/22/26	4945	Pine IslandFire District	\$30,754.00
6/29/26	4946	Couri Ruppe PLLP	\$315.00
6/1/26	20775	Wages	\$392.34
6/11/2026	20778	Wages	558.51
6/16/26	20779	Wages	\$438.50
6/12/26	20780	Wages	\$692.36
6/12/26	20781	Wages	\$553.89

Total Debits: \$126,900.18

Ending Balance of 6/30/26 statement

\$5,435.34

Outstanding checks

None

TOWNSHIP MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
MMDA ACCOUNT

June 2026

Ending Balance as of 5/29/2026 statement

\$135,008.79

Income

Date	Decription	Amount
6/29/2026	Olmsted County Tax Receipt	\$121,728.47
6/30/2026	Interest	\$79.85

Total Deposits: \$121,808.32

Debits

Date	Description	Amount
6/10/2026	Online Transfer to Checking account for June Exoenses	\$119,000.00
	Online Transfer	

Total Debits: \$119,000.00

Ending Balance as of 6/30/3036 statement \$137,817.11