

New Haven Township

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA – EST. 1858
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New Haven Township Fall Road Inspection October 5, 2026

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ann Fahy-Gust called the Road Inspection Tour to order. Supervisors Dave Andrist and Dale Thomforde were in attendance as well as Clerk Kosmicki and Road-Maintenance Contractor Mike Wood. Those present were transported in Dave Andrist's personal vehicle. No member of the public was in attendance.

The first order of business was to review and approve Resolution 2026-11, Approval of Election Judges for the Midterm Election. This item was added to the road inspection agenda because it needed to be approved before the next regularly scheduled township meeting to meet the required election deadline. Thomforde made a motion to approve the resolution as written, seconded by Andrist. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

The 2026 Township Road Mileage Certification was received from Olmsted County and reviewed by the supervisors. The certified road mileage totals 31.68 miles, unchanged from the previous year. Thomforde made a motion to approve the certification, seconded by Andrist. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0. Kosmicki will submit the approved certification to the County.

Fahy-Gust provided a summary of a complaint previously received by the Township regarding parcel ID 851342082539, along with the findings of her research into whether involvement by outside agencies may be warranted. The complaint alleges potential noncompliance with applicable zoning requirements related to septic systems, electrical service, access to water, and generator noise that is reportedly causing a disturbance in the neighborhood. The individual occupying the property appears to have been residing in a camper full-time for several months. The complainant requested that the Township investigate the situation and determine whether the property owner is in compliance with applicable zoning and housing regulations. Fahy-Gust conducted extensive research and consulted with the County Sheriff's Office, City Assessor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and City Attorney. The Sheriff's Office indicated that it was not inclined to become involved, as there was no evidence of a dangerous situation. Health and Human Services is familiar with the individual but determined that there was insufficient public health justification for involvement at this time. Fahy-Gust was also advised that, provided no "No Trespassing" signs are posted, the supervisors may access the property via areas open to public access. The property currently does not have a mailbox or a designated address. Following this review and discussion, the property will be visited during the fall road inspection to further assess the situation and determine whether any intervention by the Township is necessary and appropriate. Below is a summary of the visit to the property

The following is a summary of discussion and items noted to be addressed and/or rectified.

1. Issue: Parcel ID 851342082539 – Complaint

Action: The supervisors visited the property in question and approached the camper. The property owner was home and spoke with Supervisors Fahy-Gust and Andrist. He explained that he operates a landscaping business, is recently divorced, resides in Rochester during the winter, and has been living in his camper on the property during the summer. He indicated that he intends to eventually build on the property and plans to obtain a mailbox. The supervisors identified no actionable issues, as the owner is

permitted to camp on his property. Fahy-Gust provided the property owner with her phone number should he have questions or need assistance. Fahy-Gust will follow up with the complainant to provide an update.

2. Issue: Keller Quarry

Action: Hauling into the pit continues, with fill currently being brought in from a project in Byron. The supervisors discussed options for disposing of concrete culverts that were brought onto the property several years ago. The culverts are not suitable for use in any Township projects, and no decision was made regarding their disposal.

3. Issue: Hidden Meadows

Action: The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) associated with Hidden Meadows is due for review. A CUP review letter will be sent to the property owner.

4. Issue: 120th Street Curve Sign

Action: The roadside sign warning drivers of an upcoming curve needs to be straightened to ensure it is properly positioned and clearly visible to approaching motorists.

5. Issue: New Haven Road

Action: Several trees that had fallen onto New Haven Road have been removed. One dead tree overhanging the roadway remains to be removed.

6. Issue: Illegal Dumping on Hope Farms Property

Action: The Township had received several complaints regarding illegal dumping on the Hope Farms property, including papers blowing onto adjacent properties. Fahy-Gust had previously notified the property owner of the complaints and received assurances that the site would be cleaned up. When complaints continued, Fahy-Gust advised the owner that the property would be inspected during the fall road inspection and that cleanup was expected. Before entering the property, the owner was contacted and invited to join the inspection. This invitation was declined however there was availability of staff presence if needed. The supervisors then drove onto the property and observed that the dumped materials had been sufficiently removed and that the site should no longer be a concern to neighboring properties.

7. Issue: Haackenson Mailbox – 9446 88th Avenue NW

Action: As discussed at the previous Township meeting, the supervisors inspected the location of the Hockenson mailbox. The mailbox had previously been damaged by a snowplow, and the Haackensons replaced it after the locking mechanism became inoperable. The residents did not request reimbursement from the Township, although the Township likely would have been responsible for the replacement cost had a request been made. The supervisors discussed concerns regarding the mailbox post, which is constructed of a 6-by-6 metal post and has been identified as a potential hazard to motorists if struck. Because the post is located within the road right-of-way, concerns were raised regarding potential Township liability. Extensive discussion followed regarding whether the Township should require the residents to replace the post with a breakaway or swing-away post. If such a requirement were established, similar inspections of all mailbox posts would be necessary. The

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supervisors also discussed whether replacement costs should be borne by the residents or the Township, including concerns that Township payment for one resident could lead to similar expectations from others. Thomforde offered to pay for the replacement post personally if Township funding was not approved. The discussion concluded with Thomforde agreeing to approach the Hockensons and offer a cost-sharing arrangement under which the Township would cover 50% of the replacement cost and the residents would pay the remaining 50%.

Adjournment: Thomforde made a motion to adjourn, Andrist seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am. A total of 29.6 miles was traveled.

Signed:

Signed:

/Signed copy on file/

Ann Fahy-Gust, Chair

Bonnie Kosmicki, Clerk

Date:

Date: