



HIRAM TOWNSHIP 5814 HIRAM 1, HACKENSACK MN. 56452

HIRAM REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from: September 10th, 2024

Guests: Brandon Basel, Mark Larison, Heidi Auel, Corey Terres, Dave Born, Ralph Neil

Board: Jim McGill, Jim Zierhut, Dave Morris, Shelly Ganz, Tim Scouton

Call Meeting to Order: Jim McGill

Pledge of Allegiance: recited.

Minutes: M/S/P McGill/Zierhut to approve the August 12th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.

M/S/P McGill/Morris to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes of 08-20-24.

Additions, corrections, discussions: Guests to speak in order, Brandon Basel, Mark Larison, Heidi Auel, Correy Torres and Dave Burns.

Brandon Basel. Bradon asked the Board to consider signage, "Children at Play", "Speed Limit", or something to get the traffic slowed near him on Ford Drive. The Supervisors agreed to look at the situation during their upcoming Road Inspection.

Mark Larison. Mark represents the Birch Lake Association, he came to speak of Hiram's, Roads to the Lakes. Birch Lake Association would be in favor of improving the access with non-wooded plants. They would not like to see these as Boat Launches as they are not manned with Inspectors for AIS. The Board agreed to pursue the idea of Natural Native non-wooded plants to be planted. Mark will discuss the idea with Cass County Officials.

Heidi Auel. Heidi is here in place of Joel Haskard who could not attend this morning. Heidi is from CERTs, (Clean Energy Resource Teams), she informed the Board of various possible funding needed by Hiram Township. She will Email more information to all later.

Corey Torres. Corey represents AVX, Audio Visual Extreme a technology company and is here to discuss the needs Hiram Township has for the new Townhall. Corey will look at the new Townhall and Email a quote ASAP.

Dave Born. Dave represents Wolf River Electric, a Solar installer. Dave asked questions to better understand Hiram's needs, he did provide a quote based on another company's proposal. After rebates/incentives both quotes are relatively close.

Treasurer report: M/S/P Zierhut/Morris to approve the report as presented by Shelly Ganz, starting balance of \$688,133.42, receipts totaling \$12,091.06, expenses of \$81,787.76 and a CD adjustment of a positive \$1556.50 Road & Bridge and positive \$334.91 General, leaving a month end balance of \$620,336.17. Tim & Shelly reconcile for August 2024.

M/S/P McGill/Morris to approve having the Edward Jones 50K CD roll into Edward Jones Money Market.

M/S/P McGill/Morris to have Shelly Ganz to transfer \$75,000 from Edward Jones Money Market to First National Savings.

M/S/P Zierhut/McGill to have Shelly Ganz transfer \$20,000 from First National Savings to First National Checking, \$14,000 for Road & Bridge and \$6000 for General.

Supervisor Reports: Jim McGill prepared a response to the Brandt's, on their request to the Hiram Board. Jim read the response, (attached at end of Minutes). M/S/P Morris/Zierhut to approve the response to the Brand request.

M/S/P McGill/Morris to approve Road Inspection dates, 09-14-24 and 09-21-24, 9:30 am, also the Technology quotes from Best Buy and Audio Visual Extremes to be discussed. Tim Scouton will post the Special Board Meeting dates.

M/S/P McGill/Morris to authorize Treasurer to execute a check to Audio Visual Extreme, not to exceed \$2000 and Shelly Ganz to be the single signer of the check.

Other Business: Tim Scouton informed the Board that the Levy must finalized and sent in soon (before the next scheduled meeting). Tim suggested an increase in the Levy based on expenses to date. At the current rate, expenses for this year would be \$279,500, levy for 2025 was set at \$256,500. After discussion it was decided to increase the 2025 Levy by \$16,000, as follows:

EMS to remain at \$11,000

Fire to remain at \$48,000

General to increase from \$40,500 to \$43,000

Road & Bridge to increase from \$157,000 to \$170,500

A total Levy for 2025 at \$272,500.

M/S/P McGill/Morris to approve 2025 Levy changes.

Claims: M/S/P McGill/Zierhut to approve 33 checks, #'s 6495-6527, and 2 EFT's totaling \$83,918.25.

Other: Jim McGill had leave for another meeting, he suggested that the Pete Roberts issue wait until the Road Inspection and to table discussion on the Administrative Policy Resolution and the Townhall Rental Resolution.

Certificates of Liability, Tim Scouton gave Jim Zierhut a list of those needed and those received, Jim will work on getting the Certificates to Tim.

Stop signs, will determine all signs needed during Road Inspections.

Terry Freeman is still looking to receive legal description, will discuss during Road Inspections.

Dave Morris will come early and open the Townhall on 09-17-24 for the County's Summer Road Show meeting.

Jim Zierhut will discuss the Flagpole move with Jon Bohn and Al Lindberger.

Shelly Ganz will call MATIT and discuss insurance needs for the new Townhall.

Correspondence: MAT District 4 Commissioner resigned, effective immediately. Walker Outdoor Hockey asked for a donation, Supervisors said they can only donate at the Annual Meeting.

Adjournment: M/S/P Morris/Zierhut

Respectfully submitted by Tim Scouton, Clerk

Response to Brandt request, below:

Mr. Severson:

The Hiram Town Board received and reviewed your letter of August 2nd at a special town board meeting on August 20th, 2024, and voted to deny your requests that:

- ° Hiram Township claim jurisdiction over the causeway by exercising its power of condemnation;
or
- Hiram Township obtain a permanent easement from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources over the causeway

The basis for the township's actions includes the following:

1. Brandts have legal access from CSAH #71 to the causeway.
2. Brandts have practical access across the causeway to their property (Angel Island).
3. No one ever has or is currently denying the Brandts access to their property.
4. Consequently, Brandts have access to their property.
5. The Township cannot condemn, the state will refuse an easement, and it would be a complete waste of town time and resources to pursue either option.
6. Moreover, such action would entangle the township in potentially extensive litigation at the direct expense to the township which would be an inappropriate use of taxpayer's dollars.