



**HIRAM TOWNSHIP 5814 HIRAM 1  
HACKENSACK, MN 56452**

**HIRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

Regular scheduled meeting of the month was called to order on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 9:33 am.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

**Present:** Jim McGill (via ZOOM), Jim Zierhut, Dave Morris, Shelly Ganz, Tim Scouton, Mary Olson, Charlie Swenson and Mark Gossman

**M/S/P: McGill/Morris** to approve Regular Township Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2024. **Motion carried.**

**M/S/P: Morris/Zierhut** to approve to keep assignments the same as 2024. Jim McGill as Chair, Jim Zierhut, Road Supervisor/Vice Chair and Dave Morris Fire and Emergency Management. **Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mark Gossman from the Cass County Land Department addressed the Board regarding the purchase of a 40 acre parcel PID#16-022-4400 in Section 22 in Hiram Township North of County Road 40 , East of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street N.W. This property is privately owned. The landowner approached the Cass County Land Department regarding an easement. The Cass County Land Department inquired about the possibility of purchasing the property. Mr. Gossman stated that the reason for the interest in purchasing this parcel of land is because this property is located in the middle of public and state land; and that the property is landlocked. Mr. Gossman stated that before the County can pursue the purchase of the property, the purchase would need to be approved by Hiram Township Board. One of the requirements the Cass County Board requires of the Land Department, is to make sure that the purchase of this property is tax neutral. This does not mean that the Cass County



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Land Department can not purchase the property, the Cass County Board wants to know how this would impact the levy. According to last year's County records, \$290.00 were paid towards taxes and the property was valued at \$91,700.00. The annual tax received was distributed to the Land Department and other funds going to Townships and schools.

Mr. Swenson presented the question to Mr. Gossman regarding where the funds to purchase this property will come from. Mr. Gossman explained that he will be working with Northern Waters Land Trust; they receive donations and have also applied for a Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund grant. These tax dollars promote wild life habitat, public land and water policies; which aligns with the work of the Cass County Land Department. The cost to Cass County will be to update the abstract and have a new survey completed. This is to ensure a clear and clean title to the property. The estimated cost for these services is \$1,500 - \$4,000. The Cass County Land Department will also be obtaining an appraisal on the property. Mr. McGill indicated to Mr. Gossman that the primary purpose of purchasing the property is to provide continuity of the property and for conservation purposes. Mr. Gossman agreed stated that one of the goals of the Cass County Land Department is to consolidate the County properties and fill in the ownership gaps. This is more efficient for the department to own this parcel; less property lines and maintenance. Gossman also mentioned demolition services of the old township building. Morris stated that they will try to sell the building before they make a decision to demolish the building.

**M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve Cass County Land Department to purchase the 40 acre parcel PID# 16-022-4400. Motion carried.**

**2025 Compensation for Hiram Township**

Monthly Meeting, Chair: \$170, all others: \$150.00

Other Meeting Attendance: Same as the above rates

Clerk Monthly Salary: \$467.00

Treasurer Monthly Salary: \$353.00

Skilled Labor with tools: \$49.00/hour

Skilled Labor: \$37.00/hour

Head Election Judge: \$29.00/hour

Other Election Judges: \$24.00/hour

Supervisor Annual Stipend: \$335.00

Skilled Labor Annual Stipend: \$268.00 Divided equally between two maintenance employees

IRS Rate for Mileage for 2025: Mileage reimbursement at current IRS rate

**M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve the 2025 Compensation for Hiram Township. Motion carried.**



**TREASURER'S REPORT:** (Tim Scouton and Shelly Ganz reconciled December, 2024).

Starting Balance: \$451,482.30

Receipts: \$99,458.58

Expenses: \$25,367.39

CD Adjustment: +\$558.00 (General Revenue)

CD Adjustment: +\$395.80 (Road/Bridges)

Leaving a month end balance of \$525,974.87

**M/S/P: Morris/McGill to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Certificate of Appointment: Hiram Township Deputy Clerk/Treasurer – Oath of office was read by Shelly Ganz. **M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut to approve the appointment of Shelly Ganz as the Hiram Township Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Motion carried.**

Consumer Cellular, Microsoft Office 365 and ZOOM payment methods and changes.  
To be tabled until February, 2025 meeting for further discussion.

Local Board of Equalization Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 14, 2025. This will be a virtual meeting. Look for more information regarding this meeting in the upcoming weeks.

**Supervisors Reports:**

**Jim McGill** – McGill reported that he had completed the Board of Equalization Training. Jim McGill informed the board that two residents from the Community had passed away, Dane Peterson, Hackensack Fire Department and Burton Woock. McGill requested the Clerk to send sympathy cards to their families. McGill wanted to table the discussion for the February, 2025 meeting regarding banquet tables, chairs, office furniture and conference equipment. Received the Road Contractor Services Agreement/Road Maintenance for review. This information will be discussed at a future meeting.

**M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve sending out sympathy cards. Motion carried.**

**Jim Zierhut** – John Bohn will be building the vanity tops for the two bathrooms and the top for the sign-in table for the new Township building. The estimated cost for the counter tops will be \$1,100.00. Discussion regarding the tile for the walls in the bathrooms have been put on hold until the Township building is completed and this can be revisited. Counter tops and cabinets will be installed as well as wainscoting. Contacted finished carpenters to complete the new building. Waiting for contractors to respond back. The floors are completed in the building; protective covering will be in place during the completion of the



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construction work on the inside of the building. Still working with Danny Soukup Construction, LLC to complete block-outs. Door knobs need to be purchased; will use \$300.00 rebate from Menards to purchase these items. Mill work will be delivered to site on Thursday, January 16, 2025. Left message for a local beaver trapper to take care of beavers that are damming up two new culverts on Variety Lake Drive that were installed last Spring. **M/S/P: Zierhut/McGill to approve Northern Star to keep LP tank filled. This is cheaper and can be changed at anytime. The bulk of heating the new building will be the electric boiler that will be installed. Motion carried.**

**Dave Morris** – Not much to report. Will be attending the Joint Powers Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at the Hackensack Fire Hall. Will also attend the Emergency Management meeting on January 28, 2025. Will contact Birch Lake Association regarding the access point off Woodland Drive before Spring.

**Claims:** **M/S/P: McGill/Morris to allow Jim Zierhut to sign checks in Jim McGill's physical absence. Motion carried.**

**M/S/P: Morris/Zierhut** 18 Checks, 2 Electronic Transfers, Check Numbers 6612-6629 totaling \$33,633.88. **Motion carried**

**M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut** to approve Treasurer to transfer funds from First National Bank Savings to First National Bank Checking in the amount of \$15,000.00, \$5,000.00 General Fund, \$10,000.00 Town Hall. **Motion carried.**

**M/S/P: McGill/Morris** to approve the transfer of funds from the Edward Jones Account to First National Bank Checking Account in the amount of \$63,000.00. \$30,000.00 Town Hall, \$20,000.00 General Fund, \$10,000.00 Fire, \$3,000.00 EMT. **Motion carried.**

Jim McGill thanked Tim Scouton for his years of service with Hiram Township.

**M/S/P: McGill/Morris to adjourn meeting at 11:14 am**

  
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Supervisor Signature

2-11-2025  
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Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Township Clerk

2-11-2025  
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Date