



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

**HIRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 11, 2025**

Regular scheduled meeting of the month was called to order on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 9:33 am.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Present: Jim McGill (via ZOOM), Jim Zierhut, Dave Morris, Shelly Ganz, Mary Olson and Jon Bohn

M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut to approve Regular Township Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2025 with minor changes. Motion carried.

M/S/P: Morris/McGill to approve Board of Audit Meeting Minutes on January 14, 2025. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Treasurer Ganz reported that Microsoft and Zoom invoices are paid annually and that the previous Township Clerk paid for these memberships with his personal account. Ganz also informed the board that the new Consumer Cellular account was paid by Clerk Olson with her personal account. Discussion was conducted on how to proceed with the payment to Consumer Cellular, Microsoft and Zoom. Ganz suggested possibly acquiring a pre-paid credit card for the Township to use accordingly. The Township Board made the request for Ganz to explore further information and options.

M/S/P: McGill/Morris topic was tabled to be discussed further at the March monthly meeting. Motion carried

OTHER BUSINESS:

Hiram Township received a Land Title Summons on behalf of Daniel and Brenda Scherer. McGill reached out to Brad Pearson regarding this property; a Cass County parcel located in

Hiram Township for further clarification and information regarding this matter. The property owners are requesting to convert their property from abstract to torrens. There does not seem to be an issue with the request. However, Steve Baker, the Township Attorney is also the Cass County Title Examiner; and this could pose a conflict of interest.

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve contacting Steve Baker regarding the Land Title Summons. If the issue is a conflict of interest would like to contact Andy Shaw for guidance on this matter. Motion carried.

The donation requests that were received will be discussed at the Annual Meeting. Sourcewell will be offering a training day on April 3, 2025 for Open Meeting Law and Data Practices at the Crosslake Fire Hall from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. Weed Inspection Training will be held on May 2, 2025 from 9:00 am -11:30 pm at the Walker Area Community Center. Supervisors will be attending this training. The Hiram Township Rental Policy Agreement has been tabled until the next scheduled meeting. Olson will be contacting Mike Little at the County for further information regarding the 2025 Boundary and Annexation Survey.

Supervisors Reports:

Dave Morris – Supervisor Morris attended the Hackensack Fire/Rescue Budget Meeting on January 15, 2025. In 2024 Hiram Township had 19 EMS calls, in 2023 - 36 EMS calls, in 2024 -5 Fire calls, in 2023 - 10 Fire calls. Morris informed the Board of the operating budget formula that is recommended by the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT). Percentages relate specifically to each entity in relation to the entire territory to which the Hackensack Area Fire and Rescue Department provides fire and first response services. The MAT formula uses the number of service calls to participating entity over the last three years and considers total calls (Hiram (24), considers total population (Hiram 825) for 28.17% of the total; and the total property valuation in Hiram was considered to be \$406,762,732.00. A three year average Hiram utilized 12.64% EMS calls, 22.48% Fire calls, compare property value to 34% total of the seven entities that comprise the Joint Powers Agreement. With Hiram being one. The total cost of all seven entities for 2025 is \$217,100.00. Hiram's assessment for 2025 for EMS - \$11,993.99, Fire \$47,876.91 total is \$59,850.90. Hiram Township had 12.64% of the EMS calls in 2024 and 22.48% of the Fire calls. Hiram's population represents 28.17% of the people living in all 7 governmental entities and Hiram has 34% of the property valuation. Hiram's assessment represents 27.1% of what the other seven governmental entities will have to pay; according to Hiram's agreement made three years ago. The other six entities will join in sharing the calls for Birchview Care Center. Hiram Township made the decision to help offset Hackensack's; by absorbing some of the impact of the emergency calls. McGill had a question regarding the three year average calculation. Morris stated it is evaluated every three years to keep things moving forward.

The Hackensack Fire Department received a donation from the trust of Charlie Meyer. The Hackensack Fire Department raised around \$100,000.00 dollars in 2024. Jim Zierhut commented on the new ambulance district being created. Zierhut inquired about the funds that are given to EMT that goes to the Fire Department. Morris stated that the funds are shared between the Fire Department and EMT. Emergency Management meetings have been set for 2025: April 22, July 22 and October 28, 2025. Emergency Road Contact Information will be the City Clerk. Ice Rescue Training will take place March 14 and 15. Hackensack Fire and Cass Lake for practical. The group requested for 2025 trainings a refresher on Survey 123 for disaster. Morris informed the board that he has been trying to reach the contact person for Birchlake Association regarding the lake access, but has not received a call back. Morris informed the board that he will be out of town the month of March and will be available to Zoom the meetings on March 11 and March 18, 2025.

Jim Zierhut: Zierhut responded to a resident call regarding a culvert/pipe damage they thought was from the snowplow. Zierhut went out to the site to inspect and found a pipe laying in the ditch and the culvert was fine but covered with snow. Zierhut informed the board that in the Spring when the road inspection occurs staff will visit the site at that time to access the situation. Tanner Johnson agreed to complete work at the new Townhall on January 19. Work was completed and Mr. Johnson did a good job. The ceiling fans for the new building have been installed. The cabinets have been installed and appliances are ready to be ordered. Required inspections have also been completed. Zierhut requested Treasurer Ganz to contact the insurance company to let them know that the new building is ready to be occupied. Zierhut requested that the Township get an estimate for the paving of the parking lot, sidewalk, landscaping and putting in outside lights, so that this could be brought to the Annual Meeting for approval. The cost of the new building will be right at the estimated cost of \$250,000.00. McGill wanted to thank Jim Zierhut for all his hard work in the building process of the new Township Hall.

Jim McGill- Discussed the road inspections to take place in the Spring. The roads are in good shape and after inspection in the Spring discussion will take place on the scheduling of gravel and continued maintenance on the Township roads. McGill requested discussion on the 2026 proposed levy for the upcoming Annual Meeting.

M/S/P: McGill/JZierhut to approve the recommendation for the proposed levy for 2026 as follows: \$165,000.00 for Road/Bridge, \$48,000.00 for Fire, \$12,000.00 for EMT and \$65,000.00 for General. Total Levy amount \$290,000.00. Motion carried.

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to schedule the Annual Meeting for Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 5:30 pm with the regular monthly meeting to follow. Motion carried.

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McGill stated that he would like to try a practice ZOOM meeting to make sure that the internet was working at the new Township building. McGill and Olson will conduct a test meeting on Tuesday, March 4. There was discussion on taking some of the better wooden chairs from the old Township building to the new Township hall.

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve the purchase of five office chairs, five folding tables and 20 banquet chairs. Motion Carried.

CLAIMS: M/S/P: Zierhut/Morris to approve 25 checks: 6630-6654, 3 Electronic Transfers totaling \$73,677.21. Motion Carried.

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve Treasurer to transfer from First National Bank Savings to First National Bank Checking in the amount of \$27,000.00. \$10,000.00 Road/Bridge, \$14,000.00 Fire and \$3,000.00 EMT. Motion Carried.

M/S/P: Morris/Zierhut to approve Treasurer to transfer the balance from Edward Jones to First National Bank for townhall expenses. The account has a balance of \$19,795.15. Motion carried.

M/P/S: McGill/Morris to adjourn meeting at 11:33 am. Motion carried.

James W. McGill
Supervisor Signature

4-8-25
Date

Mary Olson
Township Clerk

4-8-2025
Date