



**HIRAM TOWNSHIP
5895 – 36th STREET N.W.
AKELEY, MN 56433
HIRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 13, 2025**

Regular scheduled meeting of the month was called to order on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 9:25 am.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Present: Jim McGill, Dave Morris, Jim Zierhut, Shelly Ganz and Mary Olson

Guests: Jon Bohn, Ralph Neil, Allan Linberger, Kendall Swenson–Swenson Excavating and Derek Jensen-Edward Jones

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve regular Township Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2025. Motion carried.

M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut to approve the minutes from April 14, 2025 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Township received a letter from Cass County Highway Department regarding Chloride Placement for 2025. Supervisor Morris will contact Steve Johnson to provide this service for the Township. Morris stated that chloride application will be limited; due to applying new gravel on other township roads this year.

M/S/P: Morris/Zierhut to approve Steve Johnson to provide chloride placement on 63rd, Windsong, Whispering Pines and 64th. Motion carried.

Derek Jensen of Edward Jones provided the Council with updates needed for 2025. Informed the Council that if there were any changes to any financial accounts, these changes needed to be received and completed before September of this year (2025).

TREASURER'S REPORT:

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve Treasurer's report as presented: Beginning Balance: \$433,446.09, Receipts: \$782.97, Expenses: \$13,377.44, CD Adjustment +103.32. Current Balance: \$420,954.94. Motion carried.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

Jim McGill– Supervisor McGill addressed the Council regarding scheduling an office day to clean out the old Town Hall building. The scheduled day would be Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 9:30 am. This will be posted on our website and the new Townhall bulletin board. McGill also suggested that the Council schedule an Open-House at the new Townhall. This event will be scheduled for Saturday, July 26, 2025 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. A discussion regarding Township hours. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. The Township hours would be extended after the regular meeting was conducted. Additional discussion is needed.

Supervisor McGill reported that comparisons were made for the appliances for the new Townhall between Home Depot and Ace Hardware. McGill is recommending to the Council the purchase of a chrome/black refrigerator, stove and microwave for \$1,797.00 at Home Depot. **M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve the purchase of a refrigerator, stove and microwave in the chrome/black color at Home Depot for the new Townhall in the amount of \$1,797.00 up to \$2,000.00. Motion carried.**

Supervisor McGill wanted to discuss the \$4,500.00 estimate that was received from Butch Moore regarding the build and installation of a 10 foot Council table, desk table and two three drawer pedestals with a counter top for the office. McGill suggested to extend the Council table two feet making it a 12 foot table. This would increase the cost.

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to go forth with the build and installation of the office furniture and the Council table with the understanding of the additional cost in regards to the two foot extension to the Council table. Motion carried.

Supervisor McGill received a call from a resident on Alder Lane regarding an eight to nine inch drop between their driveway approach and the road. McGill informed the resident that the homeowner is responsible for the grade between the driveway and the road. The Council also received a suggested request that a 15mph sign also be installed. Supervisor McGill will contact the resident regarding this request. McGill informed the Council that he would like to attend the Town Law Review 2025 hosted by the Minnesota Association of Townships on Friday, May 30, 2025 in Otsego, MN. **M/S/P: Zierhut/Morris to approve Supervisor McGill to attend the Town Law Review on May 30, 2025 in Otsego, MN. Motion carried.**

Supervisor McGill addressed the correspondence received from Mike Tauber regarding Factory Farm Developments. McGill suggested that the Council reach out to Mr. Tauber and invite him to attend the next Township meeting. Supervisor McGill received a name of a

contact person he will be reaching out to for help with our internet issues at the new Townhall building.

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Jim Zierhut: Supervisor Zierhut addressed the Council regarding the landscaping and the completion of the area around the building. Kendall Swenson from Swenson Excavating was present to walk the perimeter of the building with the Council and address the scope of the work to be completed as well as any questions or concerns. Council would like the completion of the work done by mid-June. Supervisor Morris and Zierhut requested an estimate be provided by Swenson Excavating. Zierhut addressed the Council with the gravel needs that were discussed during the road inspections; H10 Boone Point, H7 County Line Road and H9 Foresman Point. The Township will move forward with gravel for these roads. The crack sealing has been completed. Mr. Ojenan, the beaver trapper, has trapped 25 beavers and the culverts are open. Supervisor Zierhut wanted to know if the Council wanted to continue with trapping; it was suggested that they discontinue his service at this time. Discussion regarding the hiring of a weed inspector. It was proposed that the Cass County Environmental Department be contacted for a reference list of possible contractors. This discussion will be continued at the June meeting. Supervisor Zierhut addressed the outside building gable. Council discussed the gable area of the new building; installing cedar shakes to the gable area were suggested. Zierhut suggested that they reach out to Jerri Peterson to create a Township sign for the gable area. An email was received from a resident regarding a County sign that is unable to be read on the corner of Towering Pines Trail N.W. and Whispering Pines Trail N.W. Zierhut reached out to Cass County regarding this issue. Cass County informed Zierhut that they have been replacing the weathered signs over the past few years; but possibly have not gotten to this location yet.

Dave Morris - Supervisor Morris stated that he had completed The Community Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment Survey and submitted it to the Hackensack Fire Department. Morris attended the Emergency Management meeting held on April 22, 2025. They will be conducting another Train/Bus derailment exercise in September, 2025. Volunteers are needed. Additional information will be provided as the date gets closer. The Federal Hazard Litigation Planning Policy Guide has changed. Eliminated from the guide were Climate Change, Equity Issues and BRIC Funding (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities). The Ice Rescue Training held on March 14 in Hackensack and March 15 in Cross Lake was a success. Supervisor Morris informed the Council that the National Weather Service out of Duluth will be using satellites to establish potential fire hot spots and individuals who are burning during high fire risk warnings. Local fire departments will be notified and individuals could face possible fines. Supervisor Morris provided an updated construction map of the area in Hackensack on 371 where the new round about is being created. The Preliminary Damage Assessment Training is scheduled for May 21, 2025 at the Walker Area Community Center.

CLAIMS: M/S/P: Morris/McGill to approve 24 checks; 6696-6720, one voided check 6719 and 2 Electronic Funds Transfer in the amount of \$29,008.73. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE: Received correspondence from Cass County Environmental Services regarding a webinar scheduled for September 16, 2025 to provide education for property owners on The Basics of How Their Septic System Works. Received a copy of paperwork from Cass County for the Filing Order/Entry of Judgement for Daniel and Brenda Scherer. Discussion to purchase a pre-paid/renewable credit card to pay for Consumer Cellular and office supplies. **M/P/S: McGill/Zierhut to approve a prepaid/renewable credit card with a \$500.00 limit. Motion carried.**

M/P/S: McGill/Zierhut to adjourn meeting at 11:43 am. Motion carried.

Supervisor Signature

Date

Township Clerk

Date