



**HIRAM TOWNSHIP
5895 – 36th STREET N.W.
AKELEY, MN 56433
HIRAM TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2025**

Regular scheduled meeting of the month was called to order on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 9:30 am.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

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

Guests: Jon Bohn, Ralph Neil, Mike Tauber and Wendy Holsapple

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve regular Township Meeting Minutes from May 13, 2025 with corrections. Motion carried.

M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut to approve the minutes from the Special Township Meeting from May 28, 2025 with corrections. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Ralph Neil addressed the Board regarding an increase in semi-truck traffic on Hiram 1 using the road as a detour due to the construction on 371 in Hackensack. The Council informed Mr. Neil that there was not much they could do, being the road is a public road. Suggestion was made of reaching out to the contractor doing the road work and informing them of the concerns. Mr. Neil also addressed the Council regarding the culverts on Red Maple Road/Hiram 1. There are two holes by the lakeside of the culvert and the road seems to be washing away. Supervisor Zierhut will reach out to Swenson Excavating regarding the culverts on Red Maple/Hiram 1 to address this issue. Mike Tauber was invited to address the Board regarding his concerns of Factory Farm Development as well as Data Centers, Irrigated Agriculture and Feed Lots. These developments all require a DNR Water Appropriation Permit. Mr. Tauber wanted to know if the Township had any ordinance in place regarding land use for industrial developments that could impact the water quality. Mr. Tauber stated that we do not have these development problems/issues yet, but would like the Township to be aware and be pro-active. All three of the developments have massive water usage requirements.

Mr. Tauber agreed to work with Hiram Township to create a land use ordinance that pertains to these issues as well as other development issues that could possibly present itself in the future. The Township will explore what other neighboring townships have for land use ordinances. Supervisor McGill requested that Mr. Tauber keep the Board informed if he has any ideas or suggestions of what the Township could do. Supervisor McGill stated that the Township Board could possibly contact a representative from the Cass County Environmental Services to discuss these issues at a future meeting with Mr. Tauber present. Supervisor McGill informed Mr. Tauber that the Township is having an open house in July, and would it be possible to have some information regarding this issue available to the public at the time of the open house. Supervisor McGill also stated that it would be beneficial to attend a County Board meeting to express the concerns of the Township regarding this issue.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve Treasurer's report as presented: Beginning Balance: \$420,954.94, Receipts: \$713.38, Expenses: \$30,784.73, CD Adjustment for Road and Bridge -\$381.50. Current Balance: \$390,502.09. Motion carried.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Supervisor McGill - with regards to Hiram 1, during the road inspections Supervisor McGill spoke with Swenson Excavating to inquire about how long the road will last. Information provided was approximately five to ten years. Supervisor McGill suggested getting an estimate from a contractor to see how much it would cost to get a new road, so that the Township could start budgeting now for this future expense. Also, discussion regarding the current road graveling cycle. Roads are currently on a four year graveling cycle. If the Township would change to a five year graveling cycle this would save money; and the savings could be put towards the new road fund. Supervisor McGill provided the Council with an updated road grid. **M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut to approve road grid as the Township Roadway Maintenance plan for 2025. Motion carried.**

Discussion regarding open house planning scheduled for Saturday, July 26, 2025 between 9:00 am until 11:00 am. refreshments will be served during this time. Formal invitations and the posting of the event will be sent out and posted. Supervisor McGill informed the board that the trees that are going to be saved should be marked in the next few days. Supervisor McGill attended the Township Law Review Training; the Township will create personnel policies and an employee handbook. Supervisor McGill and the Township Clerk will work to create the policies and handbook. Supervisor McGill stated that in regards to Pete Roberts grading issues, he would like himself, Supervisor Zierhut and Swenson Excavating to schedule a time to discuss these issues when Mr. Roberts is back in town. Discussion to replace the new flag pole and purchase new flags. **M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut to purchase a new flag and new state flag. Motion carried.**

Supervisor McGill suggested a six foot landscaped circle around the flag pole along with some decorative plants. Discussion regarding the implementation of a Renal Policy for the new Township building. Hiram Clerk is working on this policy. Supervisor McGill discussed signs needed; three Stop signs, two Caution Children at Play two 15 MPH advisory speed, two Handicap parking signs for the Township parking lot. Supervisor McGill talked with Butch Moore regarding the office furniture; he will be going on vacation and with existing orders it would be late September or the first part of October before the Council table would be completed. Table for the office area will be 12 feet long 2 ½ feet deep with pedestal at each end with three drawers and a middle pedestal which will be a fire proof cabinet. Supervisor McGill discussed the ordering of the new Cass County Plat Book that is now available. Supervisor McGill informed the Board that the 30% tax credit on solar energy will be eliminated. The solar panels that were discussed at a prior meeting for the new Townhall building, will be placed on hold for now. Hiram's old townhall sign and picture of the old building will be removed and displayed in the new building. Supervisor McGill asked the Board their thoughts about selling the old townhall building. Supervisor Morris will be reaching out to a realtor to get a market analysis.

Supervisor Zierhut meet with the DNR Hydrologist regarding a complaint received for the two culverts on Variety Lake Drive. Swenson Excavating dug the old culvert up and replaced it with a new culvert. There is an issue with the length of the culvert, the culvert was made a little longer to try to discourage the beavers. The DNR measured the elevation of the two culverts. Supervisor Zierhut removed any debris from the culvert and the water is flowing good. There is no sign of any beaver activity. Supervisor Zierhut is waiting for paperwork from the DNR for a permit for the culvert work. Supervisor Zierhut met with Tanner Johnson at the new Townhall to discuss adding additional wainscotting in the meeting room and trim board for the top of the existing wainscotting. The Board discussed just adding the baseboard. **M/S/P: McGill/Morris to not do the wainscotting west of the kitchen cabinets and to complete the baseboard trim on the floor. Motion carried.** Supervisor Zierhut informed the board that Jon Bohn will change out the installed cabinet to accommodate the new appliances.

M/S/P: Zierhut/ McGill to have Leech Lake Electric install an LED light on the new flag pole after installation with the possibility of installing a pedestal. Motion carried.

Supervisor Zierhut addressed the Board regarding Jon Bohn's regular maintenance duties. The duties will include sweeping of the Town hall, empty any trash, putting salt in the softener and cleaning of bathrooms and other miscellaneous duties as they arise.

Supervisor Morris: Steve Johnson did the calcium chloride treatment on May 28, 2025. Board had no questions or concerns. Nothing further to report.

Supervisor Zierhut provided information regarding the new sign for the Town Hall building. **M/S/P: Morris/McGill to have Chris Kuen to create a new township sign and Jon Bohn to put up the cedar on the gable. Motion carried.**

Wendy Holsapple presented to the Township Board an estimate for the mowing services for the 2025 season. **M/S/P: Zierhut/McGill to approve Levi Holsapple mowing services for the 2025 season at the hourly rate of \$125.00 an hour after July 1, 2025. Motion carried.**

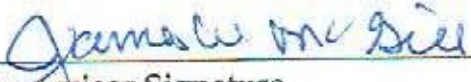
The Township will continue the current lawn mowing service for the old Township property and possibly mowing services at the new Townhall.

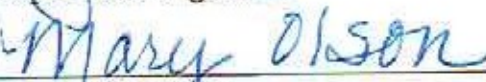
Shelly Ganz wanted to know if the internet at the old building can be disconnected. Internet will continue until something can be done to connect internet in the new building. The decision to disconnect will be decided at the July meeting. Ms. Ganz purchased a pre-paid credit card for \$300.00. Hiram Township Clerk will provide a rough draft of a Petty Cash ordinance and email the draft to the Board members for their review and input.

CLAIMS: One voided check 6722, 20 checks 6723-6742, Two electronic funds transfers for a total of \$24,529.08. \$15,809.00 is remaining in the Town Hall Budget. Plumber has not been paid. **M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve the claims as presented one voided check number 6722, 20 checks 6723-6742, two electronic funds transfers for a total of \$24,529.08. Motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE: The Hiram Township Clerk passed out Minnesota Association Township Membership Cards to the Board and Treasurer. Received a flyer regarding a Loon Presentation at the Salem Lutheran Church in Longville on Saturday, July 12 at 1:00 pm. Four Things You Should Learn About the Loons.

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to adjourn meeting at 11:58 am. Motion carried.



Supervisor Signature


Township Clerk

7-8-2025

Date
7-8-2025

Date