



**HIRAM TOWNSHIP
5895 – 36th STREET N.W.
AKELEY, MN 56433
HIRAM TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2025**

Regular scheduled meeting of the month was called to order on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 9:30 am.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

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

Guests: Jon Bohn, Charlie Swenson, Amanda Semmler and Mike Schmitt

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve regular Township Meeting Minutes from June 10, 2025 with a minor correction. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike Schmitt an Independent Communications Contractor addressed the Council regarding providing better internet service in the new Town Hall building. Mr. Schmitt suggested that the Council purchase and install a Signal Repeater Booster to provide a stronger signal for service. The cost and installation would be approximately \$500.00; \$25.00/hour for labor and installation and \$350.00 for the purchase of the unit.

M/S/P: Morris/McGill to approve, on the recommendation of Mr. Schmitt, to purchase a Signal Repeater Booster for \$330.00 with installation at \$25.00/hour for an approximate cost of \$500.00 for internet service at the new Town Hall building. Motion carried.

Treasurer Ganz will purchase the new unit through Amazon. Mr. Schmitt informed the Council that the turn-around time for installation of the unit would be approximately two weeks.

Council member Jim Zierhut has been contacted by Justin Sawyer of Sawyer Timber Logging in regards to hauling pulp loads on one of the Township roads: Variety Lake Drive. Zierhut informed Mr. Sawyer that it would be okay as long as his company agrees to repair any damages that may be caused by the hauling and would like it in a written agreement between Hiram Township and Sawyer Timber. Zierhut stated that the more movement on the road would effect the culvert system. It was stated that Cass County encourages logging. Zierhut will reach out to Mark Gossman at Cass County for further clarification and to find out if Hiram Township receives any type of funding to allow logging trucks to use the

roads. Council discussed implementing a damage deposit; as well as the roads not to be used for hauling until winter. Mr. Sawyer would like to start late summer. Council suggested that further information and discussion is needed regarding this matter.

Amanda Semmler from RAS Excavating addressed the Council regarding a Weed Inspection Report she did for the Township at no charge. They would provide weed control solutions for road right-of-ways within the Township. Ms. Semmler stated that it would be approximately 10 hours of targeted spot spraying using an adjustable hand sprayer at a cost of \$150.00 an hour. Their goal is to spray less and less each year to reduce costs. The Council discussed possibly mowing this year and spraying next year 2026.

M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut motion to table discussion until next months meeting, August 12, 2025 to do further research regarding spraying vs. mowing. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

M/S/P: Morris/Zierhut to approve Treasurer's report as presented: Beginning Balance: \$390,502.09, Receipts: \$111,592.85, Expenses: \$24,529.08, CID Adjustment of \$167.12. Current Balance: \$477,732.98. Motion carried.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Supervisor McGill - Dave Morris will attend the Variance Hearing on July 14, 2025 at 10:15 am for Michael Coughlin, 2613 - 201st Avenue N.W., Cedar, MN 55011-9393.

PID #16-385-0030 for the construction of an Accessory Dwelling Unit.

Supervisor McGill received information from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) a total of \$11 million from the Clean Water Fund is available for the following opportunities: Re-invest in Minnesota (RIM) Drinking Water Easements; description: private landowners who meet requirements can enroll land in perpetual conservation easements held by BWSR. Drinking Water Protection Partner Agreement; description: funding is available for local governments to purchase land that protects drinking water sources. For more information, see BWSR's website. This information will also be forwarded on to Mike Tauber who addressed the Council at the June 10, 2025 meeting regarding concerns of these issues. McGill will be attending the Invasive Plant training on July 18, 2025. The Open House for the new Township Building will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2025 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. Refreshments of cookies, fruit, water and soda will be provided. Event will be posted in the Pine Cone and the Walker Pilot newspapers as well as posted at the Hackensack Post Office and Mark's Market. Invitations will be sent out to the contractors that were involved in the construction process of the building, Josh Stevenson, County Commissioners, Hackensack Chamber of Commerce, Ten Mile and Birch Lake Association.

Supervisor Zierhut informed Council that the Township did not receive a lot of storm damage; mostly branches and small debris. Will go ahead and order the signs that were approved at the June 10, 2025 meeting; with the addition of a stop sign at 39th Street N.W. and

72nd Avenue. Supervisor Zierhut and Charlie Swenson drove around and looked at the concerns that were brought up at the June 10, 2025 meeting. The Hiram Loop culverts and catch basins. Mr. Swenson will install a concrete catch basin at the furthest west location. Grading will also be completed with 1 ½ inch of rock. The remaining two catch basins will get a fabric liner and rock. The cedar T&G at the entrance canopy gable end of the new Township building, has been sealed and is ready for the new sign. The flag pole is set. The wiring for the flag ground lights are installed. Supervisor Zierhut suggested that a long-term plan is needed for Hiram 1 for future improvements. Supervisor Zierhut wanted the Council to be aware that Mr. Bohn will be going out and cutting brush away from the signs.

Supervisor Morris informed the Council that the new sign for the Township building will be completed by the middle of July. Landscaping is completed. Mr. Swenson will be coming back to hard rack and re-seed due to the heavy rain we have been receiving. Discussion regarding what material to use on the parking lot area. Suggestion to leave the parking lot the way it is for one year and re-visit the topic at a future meeting. Supervisor Morris provided information to the Council from three local real estate agents; Bill Hanson, Kris Biessener and Pat Moran for the sale of the old Township building and property. Discussion regarding the process and legality of selling the property was conducted. The clerk will contact Minnesota Association of Townships for further information on this process. A Special Meeting will be scheduled for July 26, 2025 immediately following the Open House to discuss the process of selling the old building and property.

CLAIMS:

M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut to approve the claims as presented 21 checks 6743-6763, two Electronic Transfer (ETF), one credit card charge, total \$118,178.00. Motion carried.

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve the request to transfer funds from First National savings account to the checking account; \$28,000.00 - General Fund, \$80,000.00 - Road/Bridge, \$24,000.00 - Fire and \$6,000.00 EMT for a total of \$138,000.00. Motion carried.


M/S/P: McGill/Morris to send out an invoice to Shingobee Township and White Oak Township for payment portion of gravel on township roads. Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE: Clerk provided an example of a Rental Agreement for the Council to review.

M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut to adjourn meeting at 12:17 pm. Motion carried.


Supervisor Signature

8-12-25
Date


Township Clerk

8-12-2025
Date