



**HIRAM TOWNSHIP
5895 - 36th STREET N.W.
AKELEY, MN 56433
HIRAM TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES
August 12, 2025**

Regular scheduled meeting of the month was called to order on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 9:30 am.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

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

Guests: Al Linberger, Bob Horn, Rich Blomme, Craig Seibert, Jon Bohn, Bill Hanley, Jerre Petersen, Kari Ann Petersen, Ralph Neil, Jim Etzel, Charlie Swenson

M/S/P: Morris/Zierhut to approve regular Township Meeting Minutes from July 8, 2025 with a minor correction. Motion carried.

M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut to approve Special Meeting Minutes from July 26, 2025 with minor corrections. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Sale of old Townhall Building. McGill spoke with Attorney Steve Baker regarding the possibility of selling the old Town Hall building. Mr. Baker will work on providing an estimate of what the legal fees will be selling the property without a realtor and also using a realtor. As of the date of this meeting, McGill has not heard back from Mr. Baker on this matter. Mr. Baker did inform the Board that if the Township sells the property a disclosure statement would have to be provided as well as securing any waivers needed. Supervisor Morris informed the Board that this time of year is prime selling time and he feels the Board should make a decision soon. Supervisor Morris reached out to Jeff Woodward, Cass County Environmental Services, regarding the outhouse located on the old Township property. Morris informed the Board that Mr. Woodward stated Hiram would not need an inspection on the outhouse. However, Hiram would need to obtain and complete a Septic Abandonment form. Mr. Woodward advised to disclose the outhouse; and that there is no holding tank. Moving the outhouse would just require filling in the hole. Supervisor McGill stated that the question that needed to be answered is with the sale of the land and building, is a site evaluation needed that will accommodate two septic systems. Morris will contact

Mr. Woodward regarding this matter. Supervisor McGill agreed with Morris regarding the fact this is the right time of year to sell. McGill also feels that more information is needed and that next Spring would be a better time without feeling rushed to sell. Northern Star Propane contract was presented for renewal and signature for the upcoming year. Sawyer Timber wanted to use Variety Lake Drive to haul several loads of pulp. Hiram Township was not comfortable with Sawyer Timber hauling across Variety Lake Drive. Portion of this road goes through a wetland area. Hiram Township established a contract agreement to be signed by Sawyer Timber to be responsible for any damage to the road made by Sawyer Timber due to hauling. Supervisor Zierhut discovered that Cass County requires Sawyer Timber to take the road out to the west which is through the Forest Road out to County Road 41. Supervisor Zierhut presented Sawyer Timber with Hiram Townships contract agreement to sign, Sawyer Timber decided to use the route for hauling put forth by Cass County. Sawyer Timber will not be signing the contract agreement and their hauling on Variety Lake Drive will not be an issue. Supervisor McGill provided information on the Minnesota Statute 181.9446 Earned Sick and Safe Time. This topic of information will be discussed at a future meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

M/S/P: Morris/McGill to approve Treasurer's report as presented: Beginning Balance: \$477,732.98, Receipts: \$55,153.47, Expenses: \$118,237.27, CD Adjustment of \$-96.24. Current Balance: \$414,552.94. Motion carried.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Supervisor McGill - Minnesota Association of Townships District 11 Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27 at 6:00 pm at the Arvig-Walker Area Community Center, Walker, MN. All Supervisors will be attending. McGill reached out to a former contact with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture regarding the chemical chaparral for weed control. McGill was informed that any type of spraying for weeds should be done next year as opposed to this year. Hiram has been mowing ditches to keep the weeds down. Jim Etzel addressed the Board regarding this chemical and stated that contrary to the information Supervisor McGill received the chemical is harmful. Mr. Etzel suggested the Township pull the weed, replace it with prairie flower seeds and native plants. Continue to mow and seed. Spring time is the best time to cut the weeds and spread the seeds. Once the soil starts to improve, the flowers and plants will start to take over. Supervisor McGill requested Mr. Etzel develop a "cheat sheet" to help with developing a course of action and educate the Township residents on what to look for and how to prevent the spread of the weeds. Buck thorn has been a big issue; as they turn into trees. Supervisor Morris suggested experimenting on a nap weed for starting the elimination process for next year. Supervisor McGill would like to send an informal informational letter to residents of Hiram Township in Spring of 2025 educating them on weed control. Mr. Etzel stated that he would be willing to attend a future meeting sharing this information with residents.

M/S/P: Morris/McGill to approve Jim Etzel to identify three patches 80-100 square feet and order seed to measure success for next summer weed control. Motion carried.

A group of concerned citizens residing along Forseman Point Drive presented the Board with a petition requesting the Board to stop any additional class five or road base material being added close to lakeside homes, grassy areas and near driveway entries. Resident inquired about calcium chloride being sprayed in the ditches. Supervisor Morris informed the resident that Hiram has not sprayed this product in the last four years. Supervisor McGill thanked the residents for attending the meeting and stated that the Board would take all their concerns under advisement.

Supervisor Zierhut - Supervisor Zierhut attended the Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative Powered Up Energy Solar Solutions on Friday, August 8, 2025. The benefits of solar power would not be cost effective, would be a very expensive start-up and the 30% tax break will be eliminated at the end of this year. Supervisor Zierhut suggested that Hiram contact a surveyor to get an estimate on the cost to survey the road in front of Jerre Peterson's property on Foresman Point Road, as well as contact the County Engineer for some guidance on this matter. **M/S/P: McGill/Morris for the approval of a survey for the road in front of Jerre Peterson's property. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Morris: Supervisor Morris attended the Variance meeting for Michael Coughlin, PID #16-385-0030 on July 14, 2025 for the construction of an Accessory Dwelling Unit. Cass County approved variance. Supervisor Morris attended the Emergency Management Meeting on July 22, 2025. There was no significant damage in Hiram Township from the June 21, 2025 storm. Cass County total damage was estimated at \$30,000.00. Sourcewell has money available for Townships needing certain equipment. Clerk Olson informed the Board that a new copier is needed, the old one is not working. A completed application is needed for funds to be approved. Hiram Township board will discuss any equipment needed at a later scheduled meeting. Cass County is trying to secure funds for a new droan to be used by the Cass County Sheriff's department. NOAA is a new application for weather notifications. Another emergency training is going to be scheduled in Pine River. This training will be six hours. Volunteers are needed. Food will be provided.

CLAIMS:

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve the claims as presented 19 checks, 6764-6782, Two Electronic Funds Transfer \$14,512.87. Motion carried

Treasurer Ganz informed the Board that the internet service to the old Townhall building has been cancelled.

CLOSED MEETING AT 11:35: The Board convened a close session to review the advise of legal counsel regarding the Petersen matter. Regular meeting reconvened at 12:01 pm.

M/S/P: Zierhut/McGill to adjourn meeting at 12:01 pm. Motion carried.

James W. Nelson
Supervisor Signature

9-9-2025
Date

Mary Olson
Township Clerk

9-9-2025
Date