



**HIRAM TOWNSHIP
5895 – 36th STREET N.W.
AKELEY, MN 56433
HIRAM TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES
November 11, 2025**

Regular scheduled meeting of the month was called to order on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 9:24 am.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Present: Jim McGill, Dave Morris, Jim Zierhut, Shelly Ganz and Carla Baker

Guests: Jon Bohn, Ron Bray (WSB), Charlie Swenson, Julie Maag

Moment of silence in honor of Veteran's Day was observed.

M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut to approve regular Township Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2025 with a couple of amendments to words used. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

M/S/P: Morris/McGill to approve Treasurer's report as presented: Beginning Balance: \$405,173.54, Receipts: \$4,677.46, Expenses: \$16,132.96, CD Adjustment of \$+29.12. Current Balance: \$393,747.16. Motion carried.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Supervisor McGill - Shared the estimate that Mike Schmitt provided of all the equipment, parts, wiring of OWL installation.

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to retain services of Mr. Mike Schmitt pursuant to the quote. Motion carried.

Discussed mail in ballot voting to give residents options where to vote. We can do voting in town hall without internet, as confirmed with Ms. Pamela Smith. It is cheaper to do mail in. Discussed Board of appeal training for Supervisor Morris and Supervisor Zierhut that is due February 1, 2026.

M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut to go from a four-year gravel rotation to a six-year gravel rotation. Mr. Zierhut to put a schedule for over the next six years. Motion carried.

Supervisor Zierhut: Discussed beaver trapper that costs \$65/ beaver. Also discussed signs for Woodland Drive blind approach sign on existing post. Proposing to add two advisory 15mi/hr speed limit signs on Forseman Point Drive - one on each end. Discussed with Mr. Jon Bohn regarding patch on siding on the old town hall. Supervisor Zierhut will stake the old town hall building parcel.

M/S/P: Zierhut/ McGill to approve payment to Mr. Jim Ojanon, the beaver trapper, for 3 beavers removed. Motion carried.

Supervisor Morris: Discussed the correspondence with Julie Maag who lives on Whispering Pines Lane who is not sure whether this is township road or not. Supervisor Morris suggested that Ms. Maag will need property owners from the 8 home sites to agree with Mr. Swenson about maintenance work. Supervisor McGill recommends cost share basis for the road with the other homeowners and talk to a private attorney to get advice on what her rights are.

CLAIMS:

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve additional 2 checks from the previous month, 1 check 6826 and credit card charge 1,049.25. To approve the claims as presented 19 checks 6827-6845, Two Electronic Funds Transfer, 1 credit card payment total of \$16,989.61. Motion carried.

M/S/P: Zierhut/McGill to approve transfer FNB savings to checking \$7,800 from general fund and \$1,000 from road and bridge for a total of \$8,800. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: Mr. Ron Bray will work with the town board and residents to identify what the real issues are for the Forseman Point Drive and work on solution for both parties. Recommendation for rocks to be removed and replaced with earthen berm. Loose dirt being put on the boulders to stabilize is okay. Mr. Charlie Swenson will do whatever the town board will ask him to do in terms of graveling. Supervisor Zierhut is opposed to giving gravel to any citizens. Mr. Swenson suggests putting excess gravel on the remaining portion of Forseman Point Drive. Supervisor Morris suggests coming up with a policy to grade Forseman Point Drive and Mr. Bray recommends grading Forseman Point Drive twice a year in the spring and grade upon request. Supervisor McGill agrees to a minimum maintenance road. Mr. Bray reminded that we could claim to maintain a portion of the roadway because of prescriptive rights regardless of whether we have platted right of way or not.

Foresman Point Drive proposal file that was sent through email was discussed. Item #7, Grading, needs to be amended from once to twice.

M/S/P: McGill/Zierhut to approve the Forseman Point Drive maintenance proposal attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Motion carried.

Storage building services from the Amish; flyer was presented by Supervisor Zierhut. Supervisor McGill also discussed banning guns in the townhall, which we cannot do unless the State changes pre-emption law. Supervisor Morris brought up rental policy for the town hall but no figure has been approved yet. Supervisor McGill and clerk to work on rental policy.

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to adjourn meeting at 11:57 am. Motion carried.

**HIRAM TOWNSHIP
MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL
FORSEMAN POINT DRIVE**

1. Maintain Forseman Point Drive from the eastern intersection with Cass County #6 to fire number **4095** (just east of crest of hill adjacent to Petersen property) in accordance with existing Hiram Township standards for gravel roads.
2. Designate that portion of Forseman Point Drive from fire number **4095** to the curve just east of the western intersection of Forseman Point Drive and Cass County #6 as a Minimum Maintenance Road to be maintained as follows:
 3. **CALCIUM CHLORIDE:** None
 4. **WEED CONTROL SPRAY:** None
 5. **MOWING:** None
 6. **GRAVEL ROTATION:** None. Spot gravel only as needed. To be determined by Town Board.
 7. **GRADING:** Twice, following spring thaw. Thereafter, only upon request of mail carrier, or emergency services, or 3 owners of separate parcels along the said minimum maintenance portion of the roadway, and subject to Town Board approval.
 8. **SNOW PLOWING:** In accordance with existing policy regarding snow plowing, 3" of snow or more. To the extent safe and feasible, snow to be plowed towards non-lakeside side of road along minimum maintenance portion of the roadway.
 9. **SALT/SAND APPLICATION:** None, however, subject to Board discretion.
 10. **SPEED LIMIT:** Post 15 mph advisory speed limit for minimum maintenance portion of roadway.
 11. **ADDMONAL PROVISIONS:**
 - A. From fire number **4095** to Hoppe driveway, erect earthen berm along northside of roadway right of way adjacent to hill and maintain grade of road sloped to non-lakeside side of roadway.
 - B. From Hoppe driveway west to fire number **4055** (Rhodes cabin) remove crown in roadway and grade flat.
 - C. From fire number **4055** west to curve just east of County Road #6 intersection, remove 1"-2" of gravel from roadbed surface and relocate said gravel to a location to be determined by Town Board. Thereafter, regrade said roadbed with no crown and slightly sloped to non-lakeside side of the roadway to minimize run off to the lakeside of the road.
 - D. Erect state compliant Minimum Maintenance Road signs and advisory speed limit signs at each end of that portion of Forseman Point Drive designated as minimum maintenance road and contract with Cass County Highway Dept. to

install said signs, given state posting guidelines for Minimum Maintenance Road signs.

12. TIMELINE: Implementation of the above provisions, with the exception of winter snow plowing and imitating the process for designating portion of Forseman Point Drive as a Minimum Maintenance Road shall be stayed until the spring thaw of 2026. Erection of the earthen berm along the hill by Petersen property shall be further stayed until the 2026 spring road inspection and a torrential rain so the town board has an opportunity to further assess the current situation regarding rain run-off and possible washouts.