



**HIRAM TOWNSHIP
5895 – 36th STREET N.W.
AKELEY, MN 56433
HIRAM TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2026**

Regular scheduled meeting of the month was called to order on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 9:32 am.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Present: Jim McGill (via Zoom), Dave Morris, Jim Zierhut, Shelly Ganz and Carla Baker

Guest: Ralph Neil

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve regular Township Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2025, as corrected. **Motion carried.**

M/S/P: Morris/ McGill to approve to keep assignments the same as 2025. Jim McGill as Chair, Jim Zierhut, Road Supervisor/Vice Chair and Dave Morris Fire and Emergency Management Supervisor. **Motion carried.**

2026 Compensation for Hiram Township

Monthly Meeting, Chair: \$200, all others: \$180.00

Other Meeting Attendance: Same as the above rates

Clerk Monthly Salary: \$481.00

Treasurer Monthly Salary: \$400.00

Skilled Labor with tools: \$50.50/hour

Skilled Labor: \$38.10/hour

Head Election Judge: \$30.00/hour

Other Election Judges: \$25.00/hour

Supervisor Annual Stipend: \$400.00

Skilled Labor Annual Stipend: \$276.00 Divided between two maintenance employees: 75% Jon Bohn and 25% James Etzel

IRS Rate for Mileage for 2026: Mileage reimbursement at current IRS rate

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve the 2026 Compensation for Hiram Township. **Motion carried.**

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve 2026 applicable meeting rates will be applied to the supervisors and the clerk and the treasurer's attendance at the annual meeting. **Motion carried.**

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve the Annual Meeting on March 10, 2026 at 5:30pm and Regular meeting will follow. Board of Audit meeting on February 10, 2026 at 5:30pm and Regular meeting will follow. Board of Equalization will be when the County sets it. Clerk and Treasurer to attend in person and Supervisor McGill to attend via Zoom. **Motion carried.**

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve to continue using First National Bank of Walker as the official depository of township funds. **Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

M/S/P: Zierhut/Morris to approve December Treasurer's report as presented: **Beginning Balance: \$377,400.03, Receipts: \$112,392.03, Expenses: \$13,524.71, CD Adjustment of \$+39.20. Current Balance: \$476,306.55. Reconciled with Clerk for November. Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

The Board discussed getting more information regarding alternative website, also discussed the sale of the old town hall with Supervisor McGill presenting the pros and cons and recommending to sell.

M/S/P: Zierhut/Morris to approve selling the old town hall building and listing it with Mr. Patrick Moran. **Motion carried.**

The Board also addressed the need to contact Mr. Steve Baker regarding legal fees for the sale and to ensure a proper release for the hazardous waste. Additionally, there was an update on delivery and set up of additional town hall and office furniture, installation of the Owl System - which will be handled by Mr. Mike Schmidt, and a discussion about waiting for a check from Source Well, which has not arrived yet.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed the new town hall rental policy in the interim. They also reviewed the upcoming Board of Audit process, with the Treasurer agreeing to send out email details on receipt and claim ranges. Supervisor McGill proposed a resolution for Forseman Point Drive to be designated as a minimum maintenance road, and the Board also discussed the upcoming levy submission, which is typically done in September. The Board will seek new quotes for snow plowing and grading services in the fall, with Supervisor McGill collaborating with Carla to create a standardized quote request sheet. The Board also discussed adopting a resolution for paid leave premiums.

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve new town hall rental rate of \$50 plus a \$25 cleaning deposit until formal policy is established. **Motion carried.**

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to approve the road maintenance plan for 2026, which includes Mr. Zierhut's 6-year gravel rotation cycle as a guideline with Board discretion to modify it based on inspections. **Motion carried.**

M/S/P: Morris/ Zierhut to approve the new town hall as the voting site for the 2026 election, with Carla to prepare and submit a resolution to the county election coordinator. **Motion carried.**

M/S/P: Zierhut/McGill to approve township to cover both the employee and employer portions of the paid leave premiums. Two yays and one nay. **Motion carried.**

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Supervisor Zierhut: Informed everyone that the boiler leak in the town hall is finally fixed. He is also going to contact TDS to confirm whether fiber connection is coming this summer or not.

CLERK'S REPORT

Received an email from a title company and confirmed with the Board on how handle such emails.

CLAIMS:

M/S/P: Zierhut/Morris to approve the claims as presented 12 checks 6863-6874, two electronic funds transfer for total of \$9,598.04. Supervisor Zierhut to sign checks in Supervisor McGill's physical absence. **Motion carried.**

M/S/P: McGill/Morris to adjourn meeting at 11:42 am. **Motion carried.**