

**HAVEN TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022**

The Haven Township Annual Meeting was held at the Haven Township Hall on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Deputy Clerk Tammy Schefers. The Board members present were Supervisor Eric Meyer, Supervisor Mark Knowles, and Supervisor Michael Pesch. There were others who attended in person and four residents who virtually zoomed in for the meeting. There were a total of 29 people who attended the Annual Meeting.

SELECTION OF MODERATOR

Mark Knowles nominated Jeff Skumautz to be the moderator for the meeting. The nomination was seconded by Michael Pesch. The motion carried.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 9, 2021 Annual Meeting were handed out in the packet for the residents to review. It was moved by Mark Knowles and seconded by Michael Pesch to accept the March 19, 2021 Annual Minutes as printed. The motion carried.

CLERK/TREASURER’S REPORT

Eric Meyer gave the Clerk/Treasurer’s Report and referred to the handout in the packet that was presented to the residents to review. After discussion on this, Gary Kiffmeyer made a motion to accept and approve the presented Clerk/Treasurer’s Report as stated. Mark Knowles seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FIRE REPORT

Eric Meyer reported that the Township is in a new contract period renewal for 2022 and 2023 with the Sauk Rapids Fire Department. He shared on the screen that there were two options that the Township could choose from. He explained both Exhibit A (Cost per Year Plus Pay per Call) and Exhibit B- Alternative Option (Cost per Year that Includes Call Fee). The board has chosen to go with Exhibit B- Alternative Option. This will be less cost per year for the Township. The cost of the Fire Contract for the first year 2022 will be \$59,501.00 and for the seconded year 2023 will be \$59,501.00. Eric Meyer is also working with the Sauk Rapids Fire Department on billing out invoices directly to the homeowner or personal parties who are involved in the rescue call(s). After discussion on this, Gary Kiffmeyer made a motion to accept, approve and add the billing to the Fire Report that was submitted. Mark Knowles seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE REPORT

Mark Knowles reported on the Road & Bridge Funds. He talked about how the last big road project they have completed was in the Sherwood Shores West area. The board is going to work on River Haven area next. This will be spending down the Road & Bridge Funds; however the board will not spend it all for they still want to keep a cushion to fall back on.

BUDGET

Eric Meyer talked to the residents about the budget and what the Haven Township Board Recommends for the 2023 Levy. After this discussion, it was moved by Mark Knowles to accept the budget and accept and approve the recommended levy. Michael Pesch seconded the motion. The motion carried 100% to set the following levy for 2023, payable in 2024:

Revenue:	\$ 70,499.00
Road & Bridge	\$420,000.00
Fire	<u>\$ 59,501.00</u>
Total Levy	\$550,000.00

SERVICE AWARD - SPECIAL FUNDS

Eric Meyer talked about how the board would like to present service awards to residents and businesses within the township that have spent a lot of years working with Haven Township. After discussion on this, Greg O’Brian made a motion to set aside special funds of \$500.00 for Service Award Giving. Brad Pauley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

GOPHER BOUNTY

It was recommended by Mark Knowles and seconded by Greg O’Brian that the gopher bounty stays the same as last year. The price was \$4.00 per pair of feet, so it will stay the same, \$4.00 per pair, for the year 2022. The recommended motion carried.

CLEAN-UP DAY

The Annual spring clean-up day will be Saturday, May 7, 2022 at the Haven Township Hall. The hours will be from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. It worked out very well last year with the self-unloading that the board will continue the same process for this year. A Spring Newsletter will be sent out for more details.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Richard Rauenhorst had concerns of the snow removal. He lives on Haven Road and he made the comment that when the County had this road the snow removal was done better than what the township has done. Last year he spent three hours cleaning gravel out of the ditches on his lawn. He is not happy with the snow removal this year. How can it be improved? Mark Knowles replied that he will talk to the snow removal contractor and make sure that he is aware of this.

Gary Kiffmeyer stated that he also lives on Haven Road and that there are trees that take part in shading and the roads can’t stay clean.

Michael Pesch asked if the township has a reimbursement process for if someone’s mailbox post gets hit, is it replaced or fixed? Mark Knowles made the comment that if the post is damaged and hit by the contractor who snow plows we can certainly come to see the damage and see what the township or contractor can do to fix it.

David Brinkman asked who is responsible for the apron and highway 10 by the railroad tracks on 52nd Street SE for there are potholes and loose gravel there. Mark Knowles said that he was unaware of this and he will see that it gets taken care of.

Greg O'Brian asked about the snow fences and how and where they are chosen to be up every year and some have fallen down. Mark Knowles replied that he talks with the owner of the farm land which the fence gets put up on. They replace the fence every 4-5 years and they are probably due to be replaced next year.

Dan Ellis had concerns about the snow drifting and wind on County Road 8 where the trees were all taken down by a farmer to farm the land. There is a lot more wind that goes across that area now since the trees are out. Is there another option for a wind break in that area? Mark Knowles made the comment that he has seen where some Counties will put snow berms up to help with the wind.

Dan Ellis also had a question about the status of a bridge coming across into Haven Township. Eric Meyer made the comment that he was on the board ten years ago and now back on the board again and the Area Planning Organization (APO) has not really moved on it for the past ten years. Mark Knowles made the comment that he would be surprised if he sees it in his life time. One way to keep tabs on it would be to stay connected to MNDOT and their calendar. Also go to the City meetings and get involved if you want to keep in the loop and attend the Haven Monthly Meetings.

Meg Lewis was questioning also where the bridge was coming into Haven Township and she read it in the Star & Tribune. She was also wondering how they could be kept more informed. She asked if updates could be put on the township website.

Brad Pauley asked about solar farms and he is not opposed to them but he is wondering how many will be able to come into Haven Township. Are there a limit and what the policy is for them? He lives on 37th Street SE and there are several around him. Eric Meyer made the comment that the board currently has a moratorium in place for these and the board is currently working on a process and direction for solar farms within our township.

Nancy Pauley made the comment that she gets phone calls all the time from these solar farm companies and they make the comment to her that the township has no say in what and where they can put them.

Michael Pesch made the comment that at one point the board had a zoom call with the APO and an engineering firm about the bridge study. He too feels that there needs to be more public awareness for the residents on what will be happening with this study. Once again, it was stated that the residents should be involved if they want to be in the loop. Come to the monthly Haven Board Meetings, e-mail or phone a Supervisor and ask questions, go to the city council meetings, just get involved.

Dan Ellis questioned if there are different types of zoning for these solar farms? What about the maintenance of them. Is Haven Township “ok” with these? Do we want our township to be all solar farms? Once again, currently a moratorium is set for now and more discussion on these will be at the monthly board meetings.

Richard Rauenhurst had also commented about the solar farms.

Joline Molstad had commented about the solar farms and the moratorium.

It was stated that everyone is welcome to attend the monthly board meetings for discussion on the solar farms or any other questions that anyone may have.

SET TIME & DATE FOR NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

2023 Annual Meeting – David Brinkman made a motion to set the time and date for the next Annual Meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 and start at 7:00 p.m. Julie Molstead seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Gary Kiffmeyer seconded by Mark Knowles that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Clerk / Deputy Clerk

Moderator / Chairman