

**MINUTES OF THE HAVEN TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**August 19, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Haven Town Board met at the Haven Town Hall on Monday, August 19, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Eric Meyer. Members present: Supervisor Eric Meyer, Supervisor Randy Linn, Supervisor Joseph Then, Supervisor Joseph Sexton, Treasurer Viki Monroe and Clerk Tammy Schefers. There were ten people who attended the meeting in person. There was no Zoom for this meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE**

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SHERBURNE COUNTY SHERIFF REPORT**

Sergeant Geoff Dowty sent out an e-mail report that stated there were 102 incidents for the month of July. He reviewed the report with the board members. The board discussed that there are 4 different 911 addresses at the buildings up on Highway 10 parcel #25-00006-2200. Supervisor Eric Meyer will work with Sergeant Dowty and e-mail him the 911 numbers and names of the businesses for future reference.

**OPEN FORUM (Time for Residents to Ask the Board Questions)**

Gloria Plombon made the comment to the board that she wishes there would be more communication to the residents. She has noticed that there are not a lot of people who attend the board meetings anymore. She feels that there might be a lack of transparency and communication with the board members and she also feels that everything is decided before the meeting. She wishes that there could be more involvement with the residents who do attend the meetings. Is it possible that more communication perhaps could be in the newsletters? Then maybe people will want to attend meetings. She feels that there has always been more discussion at the past meetings years ago, then the current meetings now. She asked if there was a way to get more residents involved.

Kari Watkins read a letter of her concerns to the board members. Letter is attached to the August 19, 2024 meeting minutes.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Supervisor Randy Linn made a motion to accept and approve the agenda. Supervisor Joseph Then seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

Supervisor Randy Linn made a motion to approve the July 15, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes and the rest of the consent agenda. Supervisor Joseph Sexton seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

**BUILDING PERMITS**

Just for reference; Sherburne County sends an e-mail report of permits each month to the Clerk for all the Townships. There were 12 permits for Haven Township this month.

**PUBLIC HEARING (Communication that the Board Notified Residents)**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Cemstone Gravel Pit IUP Amendment** – Supervisor Eric Meyer made the comment that they are still in the working progress with Cemstone. The Haven Township Planning Commission met on Monday, July 29, 2024. This will be on the agenda for September.

**Hwy 10 Study Funding** – Supervisor Eric Meyer made the comment that there are no new updates.

**Wet Hydrants** – Supervisor Eric Meyer made the comment that he has a meeting next week with Palmer Bus Service and Traut Wells to continue this project.

**Township Sign Replacement** – Supervisor Joseph Then reported that he has been working on the 911 signage and that he ordered more signs and they will be installed when they arrive.

**AED (Automated External Defibrillators)** – There will be four more AED machines installed this fall within the township. Supervisor Eric Meyer has been working with property owners for locations.

**Road Planning / Bonding Options –**

Supervisor Randy Linn made the comment that the township has received the bond money and he will get a copy of all the final paperwork. The board will plan the next phase of roads to be worked on.

**Driveway Permits** – Supervisor Eric Meyer is working on 6338 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE – Driveway Permit & Culvert. The board had discussion on if contractors need to get driveway permits for cutting into the road right-of-way when they work on private driveways. The board questioned what other townships do for this. After discussion on this, Supervisor Eric Meyer and Supervisor Joseph will make some phone calls to other townships and see how they handle situations like this. They will report back at the September Meeting.

**Neighborhood Meetings** – These meetings have been going well, the next one will be scheduled sometime in September for Elk River Estates and anyone who could not attend the other meetings that were held. Supervisor Eric Meyer will let people know of the date when it gets scheduled.

**Holcim-MWR, Inc.** – No New Updates; Still in Working Progress.



**Palmer Bus Service** – Supervisor Eric Meyer commented that they are working on the cost sharing of the wet hydrant project. He will meet with them next week.

**Knife River** – No New Updates; Still in Working Progress

**46<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE – Round Lake Septic Variance Request** – Jessica Elfmann represented the homeowner property at 6485 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE that is currently vacant. Parcel #25-00407-0215. They are requesting a 50-foot variance from Round Lake for the installation of replacement septic system where there is a 150-foot setback. The board had the packet of information that they had received from Sherburne County. The packet was reviewed and concerns and suggestions were given on how the Township would like to see the property. After more discussion, Supervisor Joseph Sexton made a motion to accept and approve the request only if these comments/suggestions are followed given by Haven Township. The comments are as follows; set back from road, Round Lake can be possible by moving the system west towards 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. Two trees are marked below that can be removed. The elevation should also be increased in this area protecting the drain field from street run off. This property edge backs up with rain water along the road. If any variance, it can be from 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. Road is not centered and is another 12-feet north of current location. Boat house or shed east of septic site is inside the township road right-of-way. Round Lake needs to have all protection possible from septic insulation. Soil correction should be performed where old tank was removed. Tank had lost entire bottom. Supervisor Joseph Then seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Done Right Contracting** – The board discussed the Interim Use Permit (IUP) for Done Right Contracting. Currently Done Right Contracting is working in a subdivision area that does not allow a contractors yard so the board has to consider denying this request based on ordinance of a platted area. He is also dealing with a wetland violation. Neighbors have also expressed concerns of his business being located in this residential area. The board discussed options of looking for outside council if needed. After discussion on this, Supervisor Joseph Then made a motion to have Supervisor Eric Meyer start the process to look into outside legal council if needed for this issue and to deny giving permission for this interim use permit due to based on ordinance of platted area. Supervisor Joseph Sexton seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

**Stantec Engineering Agreement** – The board discussed having and hiring an engineering firm to help with engineering, bid specs, surveying, township road issues and other professional technical services. After discussion on this, Supervisor Joseph Then made a motion to approve, accept and have Supervisor Eric Meyer sign the Master Services Agreement proposal that was given to the board by Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Engineering) Chuck Boser. Supervisor Joseph Sexton seconded the motion. Role



Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

## **BUSINESS FROM THE SUPERVISORS**

### **Supervisor (Chairperson) Eric Meyer**

Orderly Annexation with the City of St. Cloud – Supervisor Eric Meyer has been having Neighborhood Meetings to address the Orderly Annexation Process with the residents. He has been finding out that most residents do not want to be annexed into the city of St. Cloud. The board is working with the City of St. Cloud on updating the Orderly Annexation Agreement that comes due in 2025.

**Supervisor Randy Linn** – None

**Supervisor Mark Knowles** – None- Not in Attendance

**Supervisor Joseph Then** – Supervisor Joseph Then talked about the progress of the spray patching of the roads. The 18 loads (18 x \$5,200.00 = \$93,600) that were ordered at the start of the year/season have been completed. There still are lots of roads that need spray patching done on them within the township. After discussion on this, Supervisor Joseph Then made a motion that the board should continue with the spray patching needed to complete the unfinished township roads that are in need of the spray patching. The board should connect with Bertram Asphalt Company and schedule more loads to continue with the spray patching. The board will not exceed 10 loads. (10 x \$5,200.00 = \$52,000.00). Supervisor Joseph Sexton seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

Supervisor Joseph Then discussed the gravel roads 54<sup>th</sup> Street SE and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street SE are being worked on this month to get a nice base on them for grading and drainage. He mentioned that there is neighbor who owns property on the south side of 54<sup>th</sup> Street SE (east side). This property owner is upset with the township. He feels that the township is on his property. The township is only improving, fixing, grading, mowing what is the townships responsibility road right-of-way and not on this persons property. This person has left messages that his lawyer will be in contact with the township. Supervisor Eric Meyer has spoken with this person's legal council.

He also mentioned that 32<sup>nd</sup> Street SE has been surveyed and metal posts are in place for markers. He talked about road right-of-way brush & tree removal in certain areas such as 65<sup>th</sup> Street SE and 54<sup>th</sup> Street SE (west side). The board will be looking for and taking bids from contractors for tree trimming and removal of brush.

Mailbox posts are being installed and there are only a few left in the shed. After discussion on this, Supervisor Eric Meyer made the motion for approval to have Supervisor Joseph Then order more mailbox posts and hardware (50 sets) to have on hand for upcoming areas that will need them. Supervisor Joseph Sexton seconded the

motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

**Supervisor Joseph Sexton** – Supervisor Joseph Sexton is working on Fire Call invoices. He will continue to work with all the unpaid fire claims and update the board on the progress. He will also look into pricing on how much an addition would cost for the township hall to add on for the Mayo Ambulance. He will get back to the board next month on pricing.

#### **TREASURER UPDATE**

The Treasurer reviewed the July Cash Control Statement; Receipt Register and Disbursement Register with the Supervisors.

She mentioned to the board that a new fund was created for the bond.

#### **CLAIMS LIST FOR APPROVAL**

Supervisor Eric Meyer made a motion to accept and approve the claims 24145-24170 totaling \$102,002.56 as presented for the month of August. This motion will also include adding the banking service fees for the end of the month when the statements arrive. Supervisor Randy Linn seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

#### **CLERK UPDATE**

The Primary Elections went well. There were 161 Voters who voted on August 13, 2024.

The General Elections will be held at the Haven Township Hall on November 5, 2024.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

MN Association of Townships – Online Training / Newsletter Updates / Meetings

Sherburne County Planning & Zoning – Public Hearings

Sherburne County Association of Township Meeting Agenda

Sherburne County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Plan Steering Committee

Sherburne County Connect Agenda

Voice Mails

E-mails from Residents

Benton Solar, LLC – Future Route Permit

54<sup>th</sup> Street SE – Attorney Letter from Bronder

MN DOT – Updating Geographic Information and Mapping Section

#### **OPEN FORUM (Time for Residents to Ask the Board Questions)**

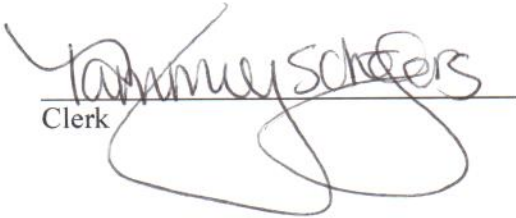
None

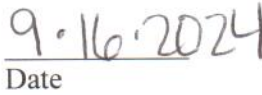
**ADJOURN**

It was moved by Supervisor Joseph Sexton seconded by Supervisor Joseph Then to adjourn the meeting. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

  
Chairperson

  
Date

  
Clerk

  
Date



Good Evening,

In July of 2022 the Haven township board decided to perform a hand count of the primary at the Township the evening of the primary after the polls closed. The County Attorney and the township attorney called and spoke to the board chair and the head election judge at the time and told them they could not do this. I do have an email from the township attorney and find that he does not cite any specific law they would be breaking, but to leave it to the judges, which the board was going to do. The hand count did not happen.

Unfortunately, the legislature has taken the authority away from municipalities from being able to stop the use of electronic voting systems. MS 206.58 AUTHORIZATION FOR USE. Subd. 1 Municipalities. "Once a municipality has adopted the use of an electronic voting system in one or more precincts, the municipality must continue to use an electronic voting system for state elections in those precincts." Notice it doesn't say they have to start using them if they don't already. The choice to start using the electronic voting systems still remains with the municipalities.

Also, in 2024, the Minnesota Legislature passed a bill that says ballots must be sealed immediately after polls close (possibly to deter hand counts by election judges).

But did you know there is still a way to legally hand count your votes in Minnesota?

It's called the Post Election Review (PER), this is done at the County Government Center using the precincts own election judges. Unfortunately it only includes a 3 precincts and only the top two or three offices.

Minn Stat 206.89 does not limit the number of precincts or offices that can be included, so your city or town can hand count as well if they are not chosen at random to be included in the postelection review.

I am asking this board to consider expanding the postelection review to include Haven Township's 2 precincts and as many contested races on the ballot as possible

2 cities have already passed resolutions to do this in 2024. Oak Grove and Ramsey in Anoka County.

Obviously you will want more information on the how, what and why of this request, so I am willing to bring a presentation at a future meeting to give more information on how this can all work, what it will entail and why it is so important.

*Hari Watkins* 8.19.24