

## MINUTES OF THE HAVEN TOWN BOARD MEETING November 20, 2023

### CALL TO ORDER

The Haven Town Board met at the Haven Town Hall on Monday, November 20, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Eric Meyer. Members present: Supervisor Eric Meyer, Supervisor Randy Linn, Supervisor Mark Knowles, Supervisor Joseph Then, Supervisor Joseph Sexton, Treasurer Viki Monroe and Clerk Tammy Schefers. There were several people who attended the meeting in person and none who attend via Zoom.

### PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE

### SHERBURNE COUNTY SHERIFF REPORT

Sergeant Geoff Dowty sent out an e-mail report that stated there were 91 incidents for the month of October. He reviewed the report with the board members. There was discussion that the school busses that were speeding have been better on slowing down in the residential neighborhoods. He also made the comment to promote that there are funding grants for school bus companies that can be used to purchase cameras for the busses.

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

Mark Skillrud addressed the board with concerns of two campers; a motor home and a travel trailer parked on the west side of Haven Road. They are located on the Living Waters Church property. They do not have access to power, water or sewer. He was wondering what is going on with them and if the board was aware of this. They have been at this site for about a week. Winter will be setting in and he feels that this could become a problem. Supervisor Eric Meyer will check it out and give Mark Skillrud a call back when he finds out what is happening.

Bruce Hentges address the board with his concerns for the high nitrate levels within Haven Township. He spoke about the EPA to Minnesota: Take Action to Protect People from Polluted Wells

1. Letter sent to MN Pollution Control Agency, MN Department of Agriculture, and MN Department of Health Commissioners regarding nitrate poisoning of wells in southeastern MN.
2. EPA told the State to "IMMEDIATELY" alert residents of the hazards and to clean up the farm pollution that has contaminated wells.
3. The Issue: Nitrate pollution, 90% of which comes from fertilizer from large scale agribusiness. (According to a recent MPR Report). a. Over 10 mg/L has been shown to be a significant health hazard to adults and has been proven to cause a potentially fatal condition in infants. b. According to the EPA letter, newer research links drinking water with even lower levels than the previously identified 10 mg/L of nitrate to colorectal cancer, thyroid disease, and neural tube defects.
4. The EPA directed the state to identify EVERY residence that gets drinking water from a private well within the eight southeastern counties. a. Voluntary private-well testing through the Department of Ag shows at least 12% of tests in



these eight counties failed to meet the federal nitrate standard. b. **IN HAVEN TOWNSHIP, THE DEPT OF AG INDICATES THAT OVER 30% OF WELLS DO NOT MEET THE FEDERAL STANDARD for Nitrate pollution-in 2019!!**

5. The EPA wrote that “the State agencies have collectively tried and largely failed, to reduce nitrate pollution in farming areas over the years through voluntary programs and educational campaigns”.
6. The EPA ordered the State of MN to test water from ANY private well owner in the region who submits samples AND TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE DRINKING WATER TO ANY THAT TEST HIGH FOR NITRATE AT NO COST TO THE OWNER. a. The EPA allows the State to pay for reverse osmosis treatment units – although, the World Health Organization and other agencies have already determined that reverse osmosis is no solution to the issue – and in fact, causes other health hazards!
7. The EPA ordered the State to maintain and regularly publish records so the public can understand the scope and severity of nitrate contamination in the region – and to measure the state’s progress.
8. If the State doesn’t get it done, the EPA may be forced to “exercise its independent emergency and enforcement authorities”.
9. I hope the State WILL “get it done” for Haven Township – before it’s too late. SE MN is obviously looking at DECADES to clean up their aquifers and drinking water. At least in % of private wells already polluted wit Nitrates, Haven is in worse condition than SE MN!
10. The starting point of this discussion should not be, “Is nitrate poisoning a problem in Haven Township” – it is, and as Supervisor Mark Knowles pointed out last month, the Township Board has known that for over 10 years. The starting point must be “HOW DO WE STOP NITRATE POISONING OF OUR AQUIFERS AND PRIVATE WELLS?!”

#### **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 Mark Knowles – 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 October 16, 2023 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 Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

**Del-Tone Liquor License Renewal** – The board discussed the Renewal of 3.2% License (1-1-2024 – 12-31-2024) for Del-Tone Inc. 3322 12<sup>th</sup> Street SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304. Supervisor Mark Knowles made the comment that he is not in favor of this facility, a gun club having a liquor license due to guns and liquor should not be mixed. He feels this is a



bad idea. The first thing they teach young adults is to not mix guns and alcohol. After discussion on this Supervisor Randy Linn made a motion to approve and fill-out the paperwork for this renewal. Supervisor Joseph Sexton seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Nay; Opposed; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

### **BUILDING PERMITS**

Just for reference; Sherburne County sends an e-mail report of building permits each month to the Clerk for all the Townships. There were 18 building permits for Haven Township this month.

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

Supervisor Mark Knowles at 7:16 p.m. made a motion to Recess the October, 2023 Board Meeting to have the Public Hearing for Jim & Janet Knoblach - Tree in Right-of-Way. Supervisor Joseph Sexton seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to provide proper notice per Minnesota Statute 160.22 that Haven Township plans to remove a certain tree along 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE at the approach to the Knoblach property. The resident did request this Public Hearing regarding the notice.

Jim Knoblach thanked the board for hearing from his wife Janet and him about the tree that is proposing to be cut down. He further states; “I know this is a small thing for you, so I will keep this brief. We did not plant this tree. However, a few years after we moved into our home the tree grew up on its own next to our mailbox. Since our driveway is out in the middle of a field, the tree serves as a nice marker for the driveway. If the tree was not next to our mailbox, marking our driveway, we would not be here tonight. We understand the tree is in the right-of-way, and accept you have the right to remove it. We understand from Supervisor Then, that the new snowplow company has requested it be removed. However, as proven by the picture we emailed you some weeks ago, and provided tonight, there is no way the snowplow company will ever hit this tree unless they also take out our mailbox. The tree is four feet off the road. I trust and hope the new snowplow company will not be so careless as to plow over our mailbox and then risk hitting the tree. In closing, you have the right to remove the tree. But we do not think it is right to remove the tree, since there is no reason the snowplow should ever hit it. We appreciate your consideration. Thank you”. Janet Knoblach also made the comment that their driveway is 1,800 feet long and it meanders so visitors could get lost. This tree has been a good marker for us and our guests who come to visit at or home.

Chairman Eric Meyer asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to speak on this issue for a public comment. Hearing none, he asked the board for discussion.



Supervisor Mark Knowles made the comment that the townships best practice throughout history is to keep our road right-of-way clean and cleared for the townships safety and Public Safety. Other board members commented that the Knoblach's mailbox will be moved to the west side of the road to match all the other mailboxes on that Avenue. The board discussed the trees roots; soil corrections; how people can Google for addresses now instead of having landmarks. The subject tree is located near the hard surface of 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and poses a safety risk to roadway users. Road improvements have been done on 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and this tree is of concern based on root growth under the road bed. The mailbox post is also not aligned with the west side of 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. Further consideration is the snow removal has been impacted due to location of this tree.

After the discussion, Supervisor Mark Knowles made a motion based on the findings of facts, to move that the tree be removed including the stump, roots and the soil be restored to protect the public and roadway. He also concluded that the mailbox shall be relocated to the west side of 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. The 911 sign will be relocated to correct location at the same time the work is performed. Supervisor Joseph Then seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

Supervisor Mark Knowles at 7:26 p.m. made a motion to close the Public Hearing and to re-open the October Board Meeting. Supervisor Joseph Sexton seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Water Nitrates in Haven Township** – The board had guest speakers from the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Sherburne County to talk about Water Nitrates. There was a slide presentation and hand-outs from the MN Department of Agriculture. Speakers who spoke were Nikol Ross (Hydrologist); Francine Larson (Sherburne Soil Water Conservation District); Miranda Wagner (Agricultural Conservationist); Dan Cibulka (Sr. Water Resource Specialist) & James Bedell (MN DNR Area Hydrologist). The presentation was on behalf of water nitrates within Minnesota, the County and the Townships. They discussed Nitrate Characteristics; Nitrates in Ground Water; Nitrate is Harmful to Infants; Ambient Monitoring Well Results; Township Testing Program Overview; Pollution Sensitivity of Near Surface Materials; Initial Township Testing Results; Sherburne County Township Testing Results; MN Department of Agriculture Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan; Groundwater Protection Rule; Sherburne Local Advisory Team; Soil & Water Conservation District (Sherburne SWCD); Cover Crop Demonstration on Monitoring Nitrate Levels; RCPP – Irrigation – USDA, MDA, SWCDs; We Are Water MN Exhibit; Effects in Lakes, Rivers & Streams. There was also conversation about Private Wells; Old Wells; Abandon Wells; Shallow Wells; Deep Wells; City Water; Public Water Supply; Effects in Different Areas; Osmosis Systems; Treatment Plants & Annual Testing Sites. The board thanked them all for attending the meeting and presenting a



good presentation for all to learn from. They will stay for the rest of the meeting to answer any questions people may have at the end in the Open Forum. They did make the comment that there are other programs that are ongoing & upcoming that people may want to take part in: Natural Resources Conservation Service EQIP & CSP-USDA; MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program; Nutrient Management Initiative; One Watershed One Plan; Soil Health; Drinking Water Protection & Groundwater Monitoring.

**Cemstone Gravel Pit IUP Amendment** – Supervisor Eric Meyer reported that he is still waiting for a response yet from them. No new updates.

**County Road 65 - 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Hwy 10 Realignment** – This is still in working progress. This project should be starting in the spring of 2024. No new updates.

**Wet Hydrants** – No new updates this is still in the working progress.

**Township Sign Replacement** – Supervisor Joseph Then reported that the signs are being replaced and will be continuing as long as the weather stays nice.

**AED (Automated External Defibrillators) Smart Monitored Cabinet Features** – Supervisor Eric Meyer made the comment that the AED Machine is up and running in River Haven. He also said that more options for training classes will be held in the future. He is working on getting Prairie Woods Addition two units for that area. He has one site already confirmed and in search of one more. Elk River Estates Addition will be after that. If there are any other areas in the township that may be a good place to have a unit installed please reach out to Supervisor Eric Meyer.

**Road Planning / Bonding Options** – Supervisor Randy Linn and Supervisor Joseph Then talked about future long term goals, the levy, bonding, reclaiming and overlaying future roads, priority roads, and a five year term pay-off. The board spent a nice amount of funding on the roads this year. Once again, Supervisor Mark Knowles made the comment that he would not like to see Haven Township borrow any money with bonding. He would rather see the levy be bumped up. Supervisor Randy Linn will get closer numbers and bring this back at the December Meeting.

**Sherwood West Drainage** – Supervisor Eric Meyer made the comment that the berm is in place and the driveway culverts and approaches have been removed and are out of the ditches for better drainage. The board talked about placing fabric and seed or an erosion control blanket to cover the berm. The weather has been nice; however it has been getting cold and not sure if the contractor can complete this yet for this year. After discussion on this, Supervisor Joseph Then made a motion to have the contractor who built the berm place fabric and seed or an erosion control blanket over the berm if there is time yet before the weather freezes. However, the price should not exceed in the amount of \$5,000.00 to do this project. Supervisor Eric Meyer seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark



Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

**Explore Next Door Property** – Supervisor Eric Meyer made the comment that this is still in the discussion stage and will keep it under the Old Business for another couple of months.

**US Solar IUP – Request for Application** – There were no new updates.

**Mayo Clinic Ambulance** – The Mayo Clinic Ambulance has been using the township hall for a posting station. They are still waiting for their recliners to be delivered. The hardware for the main door has been installed and the new self-closure, lock box and panic bar are completed. The east exit door is in need of a self-closure put on it so it can close automatically. After discussion on this, Supervisor Mark Knowles made a motion to have the clerk connect with the door company and place a self-closure on the east exit door. Supervisor Joseph Then seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

**6338 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE – Driveway Permit & Culvert Update** – Supervisor Eric Meyer has not had a chance to look into this yet. He will try to have this done for the December Meeting.

**Micah Kenyon 1701 49<sup>th</sup> Street SE** – (October) Micah Kenyon spoke with the board members about putting another driveway on his property on the east side of his yard. He owns a small business and he wants a driveway that will go up to his shed to park his equipment in. He spoke with Sherburne County and did not realize that he had to speak to the Haven Township Board. Since then he has filled out the driveway application on line with Haven Township and has paid the driveway application fee to the township. Once again the board discussed only one driveway access per property on these lots in Prairie Woods.

Collin Gau who lives at 1923 49<sup>th</sup> Street SE in the neighborhood is not for the idea of him having another driveway put in this area. This is a residential area. Not made for heavy truck equipment traffic. If he wants that type of a business, he should go to an industrial park or find a different property. He is very much opposed to the idea of another driveway put in this area. He has lived in this area for 33 years and this is a residential neighborhood not commercial area.

Bea Gau also made the comment that she is not in favor of this driveway being installed. This is becoming a non-residential area and a lot of younger people are coming into it and thinking they can do anything they want. There used to be covenants for this area and why are they not enforced. She asked to please stop all these new driveways coming into this area. These are only 2.5 acre lots, not 5 acre lots.



After more discussion on this, Supervisor Mark Knowles made a motion to table this until next month so the board can look into this more. Supervisor Joseph Sexton seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

(November) After the October Meeting the board looked into this more and found that in 2018 Supervisor Randy Linn had done research of driveway approaches that were extra in the Prairie Woods Addition. The Board researched this and found that the township has an ordinance that prohibits driveways from being close to each other limiting property in developments to one driveway approach per lot. This ordinance was passed in 2008. Most of the extra driveways that were in question in the Prairie Woods Addition were built before 2008 so they are grandfathered in. After discussion on this, Supervisor Mark Knowles made a motion to deny letting Micah Kenyon put in another driveway approach on his property due to the findings and the ordinance that was passed in 2008. He must remove the driveway he has put in. Supervisor Randy Linn seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried. Supervisor Eric Meyer will deny the Application for Access (Driveway) that Micah Kenyon has filled out online and see that the driveway approach he has placed in there is removed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Lynn Waytashek & Jerome Doede (June Sayers took his place)** – Lynn Waytashek Sherburne County Planning & Zoning Administrator gave a presentation on some Updates and Information that will be coming in 2024 for their department. They are in the working progress to update and adopt the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. She talked about how they are starting to offer online building permits and other online services for residents starting in January, 2024; Building Inspections; Environmental Issues; Public Hearings; Solid Waste Office; Septic Compliance; Recycling; Semi-Annual Violation Reports; She gave a summary of Haven Township and what they have dealt with in the past year. She also wants everyone to know they are here to help and willing to work with property owners. She also commented on how their office is unique in the way that they still answer the phones with personnel and not an automated service.

June Sayers (Hydrogeologist) gave her presentation on Hazardous Wastes; Household Hazardous Wastes; Contaminants; Garbage for Commercial, Residential and Industrial; Mobil Recycle Events; Landfill and Programs to Recycle. They are looking for another location for a collection facility besides the one in Waite Park, MN. Supervisor Eric Meyer suggested to her that Haven Township might have interest in being a collection facility, so please connect with him so they can talk about applying for that. She talked about Green Core Member; how to reduce waste and increase recycling especially in the school systems.

The board thanked them for the presentation, keeping everyone informed and working with them.



**Wetland Restoration – Elk River Estates – Eric Peterson-** The board has not had time to look at this request so they will place it on the Old Business for the December 18, 2023 Board Meeting. Property site is 1107 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304 parcel ID 25-412-0175. Requesting to excavate existing type 2 and 6 wetland area to create a shallow pond not to exceed 15,000 square feet in surface area, 6 feet deep at its deepest point with banks not to exceed 5:1 slope, all spoils to be removed from wetland area and deposited on an approved upland location, all disturbed soil to be revegetated with a native wetland seed mix suitable to the site. The purpose of this project is to enhance wildlife habitat. The construction of the project will take place December, 2023 through December, 2024 pending regulatory approval.

**Township Property – Land Lease Rate –** The board discussed rental prices for the property that they have with a License Agreement with Imholte and the Farm Land Lease they have with Kozak. They were discussing if the rental price should be raised or changed. The comment was made that it is not competitive pieces of property for anyone else and they both have been good neighbors all these years. After discussion on this, Supervisor Mark Knowles made the motion to leave well enough alone for now and not change a thing. Supervisor Randy Linn seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

#### **BUSINESS FROM THE SUPERVISORS**

**Supervisor (Chairperson) Eric Meyer –** Supervisor Eric Meyer made the comment that he would like to start in January, 2024 to start having neighborhood meetings. The agreement does expire in 2025 with the City of St. Cloud so it would be nice to plan now, for the future.

**Supervisor Randy Linn –** Supervisor Randy Linn was looking over the application grant for Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) Funding. He also contacted MAT (MN Association of Township) for advice. He feels this may not have to do with our township, however he started the process. Supervisor Eric Meyer also looked over this and made the comment to continue with the application and find feeder roads such as 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE; 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE; 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE; 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE & 40<sup>th</sup> Street SE; the roads from a County Road to a County Road. It doesn't hurt to apply, so keep moving forward on this and see what happens. Supervisor Randy Linn and Supervisor Joseph Then will get together and complete the application the best they can and go from there.

**Supervisor Mark Knowles –** Supervisor Mark Knowles made the comment that the Sherburne County Planning Advisory Commission meeting was cancelled so he did not attend.

**Supervisor Joseph Then –** Supervisor Joseph Then reported that the tree trimming and sign replacing is in the process. Pot holes need work on 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE.



**Supervisor Joseph Sexton** – Supervisor Joseph Sexton talked about the fire bills. After discussion on this, Supervisor Mark Knowles made a motion that Supervisor Joseph Sexton and the Clerk work on the 2023 fire bills together to decide which ones to pursue with for a final notice and which ones to move forward with for collection. Supervisor Joe Sexton seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

#### **TREASURER UPDATE**

Treasurer Viki Monroe reviewed the October Cash Control Statement; Receipt Register and Disbursement Register with the Supervisors.

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

Supervisor Mark Knowles made a motion to accept and approve the claims 23207-23223 totaling \$41,950.07 as presented for the month of November. This motion will also include adding the banking service fees for the end of the month when the statements arrive. Supervisor Joseph Sexton seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

Treasurer Viki Monroe made the comment that she has not received the credit card yet, but hopefully it will be here soon.

*Note: Monthly Pay-Out Claims* - Payroll and Mileage/Reimbursements Need to be turned into the Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer or Deputy Clerk by **the Tuesday before the Monthly Board Meeting Date by 6:00 p.m. in order to get paid for the month.**

#### **CLERK UPDATE**

**Election Funding Allocation** – Supervisor Mark Knowles made a motion to approve and accept the 2023 Election Funding Allocation of \$112.05 to stay at Sherburne County and use toward Haven Township upcoming election expenses. Supervisor Joseph Then seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried. The funds will be kept at Sherburne County and credited towards Haven Township when used.

**2023 Road Certification** – Sherburne County sent out the 2023 Road Certification for Haven Township and they had 29.46 Total Miles for Haven Township. Supervisor Joseph Then compared this to his data from Bogart Pederson & Associates and it is very close. So he gave the go ahead for the Clerk to confirm that this is correct for the County.

**Haven Township Annual Clean-Up Day** – Supervisor Eric Meyer made a motion to set the Haven Township Annual Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 4, 2024. Supervisor Mark Knowles seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.



**MAT – Sick & Safe Time Policy – Effective January 1, 2024** – Supervisor Mark Knowles made a motion to adopt a Resolution for Township Sick & Safe Time Policy and the Policy for Township Sick & Safe Time. Supervisor Joseph Then seconded the motion. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried.

**Minnesota Association of Townships Annual Conference** will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the St. Cloud Civic Center. So far Supervisor Eric Meyer, Supervisor Joseph Then, Supervisor Joseph Sexton, Treasurer Viki Monroe and Clerk Tammy Schefers are all signed up to attend.

### **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  
Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District – Nature Talks Newsletter  
Voice Mails  
E-mails from Residents  
Minnesota Association of Townships Annual Conference – St. Cloud, MN

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

Bruce Hentges once again made the comment that he appreciates the work everyone is doing on the nitrate issue however this continues to rise and it needs to stop. None of the speakers here tonight are in the position to regulate or prevent the nitrates in Minnesota. They may be working on best practices; however we need regulations that will be enforceable to stop the nitrates from increasing. He is requesting that the Haven Township Board works with the State of Minnesota and the EPA and with local farmers to find a solution to manage this problem. He is asking the Haven Township board to pass a motion to investigate and get more experts involved to find a solution and fix this problem before it gets way out of control. He also questioned if the presenters had read the EPA Letter that he was talking about. How this nitrate problem is happening in several areas within Minnesota. He stated let's solve this before it gets too late. We need to have good clean drinking water especially in Haven Township.

Ryan Peterson made the comment that he is a local farmer and we all take things very personally. He has been in the farming generation with his family for many years. Their farm started in 1884. He is the third generation. He also stated that the farmers take the best management practices that they can. They all go through programs and work with the County and State together on issues especially water issues. He is concerned on ground water also and every year they try to improve and do things better on their farm. He goes to meetings and is on several committees that are provided to benefit and work with farmers on best management practices.

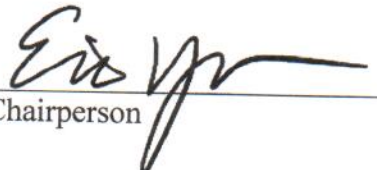


Tammy Schefers made the comment that this is not just about the farmers. She also has been on several committees such as the LAT meeting and went to meetings that have been offered on water issues. This goes way above more than just farmers. Take for instant Golf Courses who spray the greens with chemicals or homeowners that spray their yards for dandelions with chemicals. There are a lot of cities that have treatment plants to place chemicals in the water for residents to drink. She has been taking water nitrate samples at least twice a year at her home for over 20 years. The tests used to be zero nitrates for a long while and then went up to under 10 and more years later increased and at one point it has been up to 52 nitrates, but once again went down from there. She has some neighbors who have no nitrates in their water and other neighbors who do have nitrates. It doesn't matter if it is a shallow well or a deep well. Yes, she also has an osmosis system to take care of high nitrates in their drinking water. She made the comment that the changes of seasons, different crops that are planted around them, the time the nitrate tests are taken, if it is a rainy year or a dry year, underground water flow, granite edges, these all have impact on different nitrate levels. It is not just the farmers. This goes above and beyond the farmers. Everyone should be aware of what they do and take part in helping out the nitrate problem.

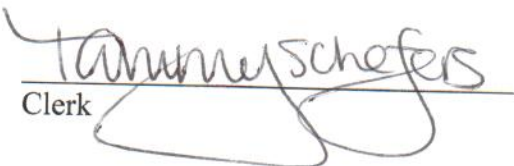
The board members also discussed that some people say to drink out of water bottles; however there are problems with micro plastics now. The board also discussed to continue to have water testing of nitrates available for residents in Haven Township at the Annual Clean-Up Day. Hopefully more residents will take part in that.

#### **ADJOURN**

It was moved by Supervisor Mark Knowles seconded by Supervisor Joseph Sexton to adjourn the meeting. Role Call was taken; Supervisor Eric Meyer – Aye; Supervisor Randy Linn – Aye; Supervisor Mark Knowles – Aye; Supervisor Joseph Then - Aye; Supervisor Joseph Sexton – Aye; the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

  
Chairperson

12-18-23  
Date

  
Clerk

12.18.2023  
Date