

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
January 8, 2024

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present except Bill Smith and Danielle Wolfe. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

County Commissioner George Bailey was present at our meeting as well as Sheila Salmon. The affects of Solar Farms was discussed at length.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the December meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
- Nicole Whitmore moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$5,352.13 for General Fund, \$7,884.48 for Sewer Maintenance and \$2,176.67 for Cemetery General. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Nicole Whitmore moved to approve the Budget Amendments as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2024

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roger Kimmel and TJ Thompson (DTE) were present at our meeting.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- Nicole Whitmore moved to approve the minutes from the January meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$5,882.09 for General Fund, \$5,074.43 for Sewer Maintenance, \$3,201.68 for Cemetery General and \$879.04 for Roads. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heidi Drowley moved to set the Budget Public Hearing for Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7:30pm. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to renew the Gratiot County Road Commission Maintenance Contract for 2024. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to approve the Budget Amendments as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman offered a Poverty Exemption Guideline Resolution for 2024. Second by Heidi Drowley. Upon a roll call vote, the Resolution passed unanimously.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Monday, March 11 from 9AM – 3PM and Wednesday, March 13 from 3PM – 9PM

- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
March 11, 2024

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the Budget Hearing to order. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 was presented and discussed. John Hardman moved to close the Budget Public Hearing. Second by Bill Smith. The Budget Public Hearing was closed. Supervisor called the regular meeting to order.

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

County Commissioner George Bailey, Joe Vozar and Mark Rich were present at our meeting. Joe Vozar wanted to introduce himself and let the board know he was running for Sheriff in the upcoming election. George informed the board that the County is working on updating the Blight Ordinance.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$22,473.88 for General Fund, \$1,762.99 for Sewer Maintenance, and \$2,207.67 for Cemetery General. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Hardman moved to approve the North Star General Appropriations Act. General Fund Revenues are estimated at \$267,179 and Expenditures at \$152,082. Cemetery General Fund Revenues are estimated at \$35,800 and Expenditures at \$35,800. Fire and Rescue Revenues are estimated at \$10,000 and Expenditures at \$0. Sewer Operating Revenues are estimated at \$90,544 and Expenditures at \$55,415. Roads Fund Revenues are estimated at \$204,057 and Expenditures at \$167,877. Second by Bill Smith. Upon a roll call vote, the Act passed unanimously.
- John Hardman moved to approve Budget amendments as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley offered Resolutions to increase the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer salaries to \$12,000 per year and increase the Trustee salaries to \$2,500 per year plus \$20 per meeting. Second by Bill Smith. Upon a roll call vote, the resolutions passed unanimously.
- John Hardman offered Resolutions approving Partial Release from PA 116 for the following:
 - Marsha Beck – Agreement #29-016053-123126
 - James Falor – Agreement #29-25259-123171Second by Heidi Drowley. Upon a roll call vote, the resolutions passed unanimously.
- Our existing METRO Act Permit with Point Broadband will be expiring on April 8, 2024. Heidi Drowley moved to extend our Permit for an additional five (5) year term. Term will be from April 8, 2024 and expire on April 8, 2029. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

SPRING CLEANUP DAY – will be scheduled for the first Saturday in June which is:
June 1st from 8am – 11am.

- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Heidi Drowley Clerk

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
April 8, 2024

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

County Commissioner George Bailey was present at our meeting as well as Joe Vozar, Brett Baublitz and John Gingrich. Brett Baublitz wanted to inform the board that he is running for Sheriff and answered questions.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the March meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$8,673.54 for General Fund, \$682.95 for Sewer Maintenance, \$2,401.63 for Cemetery General and \$879.04 for Roads. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the following Gratiot County Road Commission contracts for 2024-2025:
 - Chloride contract for 4 full applications in the amount of \$67,978
 - Gravel contract for 10.19 miles in the amount of \$92,322
 - Fillmore Road – Chip/Fog Seal (split w/Ithaca) total of \$8,500Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to renew the following contracts for fiscal year 2024-2025:
 - Sewer Maintenance contract with Jason Akers
 - Assessor contract with John Hardman
 - Hall Caretaker contract with Stephanie Lamey
 - Grave Digging & Foundation contracts with Jeremy McAllister
 - Brady Cemetery mowing contract with Grant Reeves (renewed for 2 years)Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley offered a resolution to keep our Regular Monthly Board Meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7:30PM for fiscal year 2024-2025. Second by John Hardman. Upon a roll call vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

Discussed removing several large trees @ the cemetery with an estimated cost of \$20,500 from Greg Weinert's Tree Service and several small trees & stumps by Thomas Stump Grinding with an estimated cost of \$3,400.

- Nicole Whitmore moved to approve the Budget Amendments as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley -with updates to accommodate tree removal @ cemetery. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
May 13, 2024

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

County Commissioner George Bailey and Mayor Brett Baublitz were present at our meeting.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the April meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Danielle Wolfe moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore prior to the board meeting. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.

Discussed buying crushed concrete from the City of Ithaca for \$30 per yard to fix the potholes in front of driveways @ the cemetery.

- Bill Smith moved to pay the bills for the month as presented w/additions of PRE adjustment (\$7.92) + crushed concrete for cemetery (\$900). Approved amounts are: \$5,637.94 for General Fund, \$3,033.17 for Sewer Maintenance, \$3,247.66 for Cemetery General and \$16,994.45 for Roads. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Hardman moved to approve two (2) property splits for parcel #11-031-009-00 Cindy (Beck) Dumond. There is a 2-acre split w/house and a ½ acre lot. Second by Heidi Drowley to approve the splits. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to engage Yeo & Yeo for consulting services on year end balances for fiscal year 3/31/2024 for a fee of \$1,500 to \$2,000 as well as preparing the annual Form F-65 for a fee of \$775. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley made motion to approve amending the budget to accommodate the increase in the F-65 assistance fee. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.

Discussion took place regarding donating up to \$5,000 toward the cleanup of property @ 209 N. Main St. in North Star. We will reach out to our auditor and/or township attorney to see if this is a legitimate expenditure of township funds.

- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Drowley Clerk

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
June 10, 2024

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 10, 2024 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

County Commissioner George Bailey and some family members of Clarence Evitts were present at our meeting. The Evitts family voiced some concern over Clarence's stone in the cemetery.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore prior to the board meeting. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented with the addition of a downpayment to KCI for postage for Summer Tax Bills of \$510. Approved amounts are: \$28,196.53 for General Fund, \$1,766.06 for Sewer Maintenance and \$2,007.67 for Cemetery General. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Hardman moved to adopt the Blight Ordinance as amended on May 1, 2024. Second by Bill Smith. Upon a roll call vote, the Ordinance passed unanimously.
- Heidi Drowley made motion to approve amending the budget to accommodate the increase Dues and Memberships. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Drowley Clerk

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
July 8, 2024

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 8, 2024 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present except Danielle Wolfe. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

County Commissioner George Bailey and Dave Rapacz, Gratiot County's Central Dispatch Director. Dave wanted to inform the Board of the 911 System Ballot Proposal coming up on August 6 in the Primary Election. Central Dispatch is asking for 0.60 of one (1) mill (\$0.60 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of six (6) years, 2024 through 2029. They need it for technology upgrades and the overall operation of 911 services including hiring more employees. They are in hopes that after the 6 years they can renew and ask for less than 0.60 next time.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore prior to the board meeting. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented with the addition a KCI bill for the remainder of postage & fees for Summer Tax Bills. Approved amounts are: \$2,365.97 for General Fund, \$338.26 for Sewer Maintenance and \$2,812.07 for Cemetery General and \$879.04 for Roads. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Hardman moved to accept the Revised July 3, 2024 Beebe Renewable Energy Agreement. This has been an ongoing dispute of almost \$1.4 million between Emerson, Hamilton & North Star Townships. By signing the revision, 1/3 of this amount is forgiven immediately. The revision also implies that the remaining 2/3 of the \$1.4 million will be forgiven as well by agreeing to allow the Constellation to re-power Beebe with necessary variances down the road. Second by Bill Smith. Upon a roll call vote, the Revised Agreement passed unanimously.

Continued discussion took place regarding the use of our ARPA funds for Hall improvements. The first bid has come in at \$119,613 from Shaw Construction. Another bid is expected by next month's meeting.

- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley Clerk