

Helena Township Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

Minutes of August 6, 2020 | Helena Teleconference Meeting

*Until further notice Helena Township Meetings will be held by teleconference. On March 13, 2020 Gov. Walz declared a public health emergency related to the COVID-19 infectious disease. As of March 20, 2020, MN Department of Health guidelines allow teleconferencing. On March 23, 2020 Resolution 032320 "Establishing the Ability to Conduct Open Meetings by Telephone" was unanimously adopted. This is in alignment with COVID-19 CDC guidelines, Executive Order 20-01 "Declaring a Peacetime Emergency and Coordinating Minnesota's Strategy to Protect Minnesotans from COVID-19", and in an effort to protect the safety of township officers, employees and citizens. Helena Township Meetings are held the first Thursday each month and will start at approximately 7:00 PM. The Chair will ensure a quorum prior to calling the meeting to order. When a Workshop is needed, it will be set at the Regular Monthly Meeting, and will be the third Thursday of the month. **To participate please call 425.436.6313. When prompted enter the Access Code: 413491#.** Thank you and stay safe!*

Call to Order Regular Monthly Meeting was called to order by Chairman Wermerskirchen at 7:00 PM and asked the clerk to introduce the topics and take a Roll Call Vote for each motion.

Roll Call Chairman John Wermerskirchen, Supervisor Duane Deutsch, Supervisor Ed Nytes, Treasurer Nathan Hutton, Road Overseer Darryl Perkins, Deputy Clerk Jody Deutsch and Clerk DeAnn Croatt.

Others Perry Mulcrone and Jeff Klehr

Minutes On a motion by Wermerskirchen/Deutsch the July Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes and Workshop Minutes were approved as presented; carried as follows: Wermerskirchen – yes; Deutsch – yes; Nytes – yes.

**Broadband
COVID
CARES Act** Perry Mulcrone was present to further discuss bringing broadband into underserved areas of Helena Township. The current coverage is approximately 80% of residents who have adequate speeds; the proposed antennas and Micro-Pops would bring Helena up to 93-95%. The county negotiated a 5-year price fix for new customers of NetWave. The county is contributing up to \$1M and townships have already committed over \$475k. In Helena, underserved areas are near St. Benedict, and north and east of New Prague. The main purpose of this project is to bring high speed internet to the underserved areas so students may be involved in distance learning, to support work-from-home, and to bring affordable service to low income families during the current pandemic. The work will be completed by December 1, 2020. There would be a one-year contract; thereafter members may terminate service if another provider is available.

On a motion by Wermerskirchen/Nytes the Township of Helena will participate in the Broadband Program; carried unanimously as follows: Wermerskirchen – yes; Deutsch – yes; Nytes – yes.

After further discussion and review by the Treasurer, on a motion by Wermerskirchen/Nytes Helena will contribute \$20k to the Scott County Broadband Program; carried unanimously Wermerskirchen – yes; Deutsch – yes; Nytes – yes.

If at the end of the year, the township is required to turn in unspent CARES Act funds to Scott County, the township may designate allocating more funds toward broadband expansion in an effort to cover 100% of the township.

**Road
Maintenance
(Klehr)** Klehr has been exceedingly busy in areas west of Helena due to washed out roads from an earlier storm. Helena's roads will be graded as soon as it rains, noting some of the roads are getting rough and washboard-like.

**Road
Overseer
Report**

1. Perkins reported a few rough areas to Klehr, including hills that are washing out on 270th, Zumbro and Naylor
2. Klehr clarified issues with 270th in a effort to maintain dustcoating near the Niedermeyer property
3. Picked up two recliners on 257th; two days later a love seat was dropped in the same location
4. Trees at the intersection of 270th and Alton are interfering with site lines and will be cleared immediately
5. Fall road viewing will be discussed at the August Work Shop, noting some known specific locations are Alton/270th and St. Benedict
6. Perkins will obtain tree clearing quotes prior to the Work Shop
7. Perkins will direct TJ Deutsch to schedule fall mowing
8. Nytes noted WCLD potholes are getting bad again; Perkins will ask if the county can patch before freeze-up. Work may include Juniper also

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Old Business

- WCLD** The Letter Appraisal will be available NLT September 3, 2020. Once received, the Clerk will Distribute to officers.
- 5-Year Road Plan** Engineer Andrew Vistad will have the five-year road plan available for board review NLT September 3, 2020; it may be available by the August 19th Work Shop.
- Filings** The filing period opened July 28 and runs through August 11, 2020 at 5:00 PM. Thus far Duane Deutsch filed for a Supervisor 4-year term, and DeAnn Croatt filed for a Clerk 4-year term.
- RSP2 Park** Cheryl and Jon Mourning offered to donate playground equipment to the park in Raven Stream Plat Two. A Volunteer Service Statement and Agreement was signed and pictures of the equipment were provided to the board.
- On a motion by Deutsch/Wermerskirchen the playground equipment was accepted; carried unanimously as follows: Deutsch – yes; Wermerskirchen – yes; Nytes – yes. Clerk will send information on equipment to MATIT for coverage.
- District 4 Meeting** The MAT District 4 meeting will be held by ZOOM Teleconference on Wednesday August 12, 2020 at 7 PM. Dial in to 312.626.6799 and enter passcode 5827281212.
- LBAE Training** Supervisors may be certified for the LBAE by taking the class online through the Department of Revenue: www.revenue.state.mn.us. (Governments/Tax Administration/Property Tax Administrators/Education and Manuals/Education and Training/Board of Appeal and Equalization Training/Online Training and Certified Members/Local Board Trained Member Roster). Once you register a user name and password will arrive within five days.
- MAT Conference** The 2020 MAT Conference will be held via ZOOM, as is the Fall L & R Meeting.

New Business

- Webmaster** After a review of a proposal by Donald Rowe, and on a motion by Nytes/Deutsch RowesWork Media was hired as Helena Township's Webmaster; carried unanimously as follows: Nytes – yes; Deutsch – yes; Wermerskirchen – yes. Clerk will work with Rowe and Lubinski for the migration to be complete by September 30, 2020.
- Election Judges** Barb Wermerskirchen will be certified as an Election Judge in the event additional judges are needed. EJ Barten is not available for the Primary.
- Building Permits**
1. Cell Tower for Vertical Bridge on Koeper
 2. Water Heater for Schobert on Hunter Ridge Circle
 3. New Roof for Hogen on 230th Street West
 4. Vinyl Siding for Olson on St. Benedict Road
 5. New Roof for Herrmann on Helena Blvd.
 6. New Home for Larson on 230th Street West
 7. Septic System for Hodge-Mannie on Lavonne Street
 8. Windows for Cogger on WCLD
 9. Patio Door for Schmitz on 250th Street West
 10. Windows for Christenson on Lavonne
- Assessment Information** Scott County delivered a new assessment report. Helena's total parcel count is 1,056. The estimated market value increased by 3.16% and the net capacity increased by 4.03%.

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Other Business

Bills Paid On a motion by Nytes//Deutsch Checks # 6185 — 6196 for a total of \$46,607.83 were approved for payment; carried unanimously Wermerskirchen – yes; Deutsch – yes; Nytes – yes.

6185	\$	1,032.00	EnviroTech Services, Inc.	Extra Dustcoating
6186	\$	465.00	TJ Deutsch	Trees and mowing
6187	\$	1,580.18	Hakanson Anderson	RSP2/3 \$266.80/General \$1313.38
6188	\$	4.00	New Prague Mini Storage	Rent increase through Dec 2020
6189	\$	175.00	Mary Lubinski	Web maintenance
6190	\$	640.00	Steve Rynda Landscape	RSP2 Park
6191	\$	120.00	Suel Printing	Election Legal Notice
6192	\$	1,348.92	DeAnn Croatt	Reimbursements election/general
6193	\$	7.00	MATIT	Commercial Package Addition
6194	\$	3,132.00	Klehr Grading	Grading maintenance
6195	\$	37,893.73	New Prague Rural Fire	First half fire contract
6196	\$	210.00	Couri & Ruppe	West Cedar Lake Drive

Receipts New Receipts:

7/31/2020	\$	586.52	Scott County	PILOT (DNR)
7/31/2020	\$	121.33	First Bank and Trust	Optima Plus Savings
7/31/2020	\$	208.42	Riverland Bank	Interest
7/1/2020	\$	500.00	Holzer	Jordan Fire
7/15/2020	\$	33.33	State of MN	ORI
7/20/2020	\$	905.00	State of MN	LGA
7/27/2020	\$	219.30	Tasto	Extra Dustcoating
7/28/2020	\$	150.00	Solheid	Mailbox Post
7/29/2020	\$	46,725.00	State of MN	COVID-19 CARES Act

Treasurer's Report After a discussion of COVID expenses and budget YTD, and on a motion by Wermerskirchen/Nytes the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented; carried unanimously Wermerskirchen – yes; Nytes – yes; Deutsch – yes

Continuation At 8:45 pm on a motion by Wermerskirchen/Nytes the meeting was continued to August 19th, 2020 at 5:00pm for the August Work Shop; carried unanimously as follows: Deutsch – yes; Nytes – yes; Wermerskirchen - yes.

John Wermerskirchen, Chairman

DeAnn Croatt, Clerk