

# Helena Township Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

## Minutes of September 3, 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 directed 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** Steve Herman, Brandon Hall and Jeff Klehr
- Minutes** On a motion by Deutsch/Nytes the August Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes and Workshop Minutes were approved as presented; carried as follows: Wermerskirchen – yes; Deutsch – yes; Nytes – yes.
- Clerk Authorization** On a motion by Deutsch/Wermerskirchen the Clerk is authorized to sign all documents related to teleconference meeting so they may be executed; carried unanimously Wermerskirchen – yes, Nytes – yes, Deutsch – yes.
- Broadband Update** After COVID -related expenses are paid, the balance remaining is over \$24k. Steve Herman was available to answer any further questions by the officers.
- On a motion by Wermerskirchen/Nytes "Resolution 090320-A to Transfer Excess Cares Act Funds to Another Government Entity" was approved unanimously, Wermerskirchen – yes, Nytes – yes, Deutsch – yes to approve the transfer of \$20,000 to Scott County for the broadband enhancement project.
- Clerk will send Mr. Herman of NetWave Broadband the information being gathered by the Minnesota Broadband Coalition.
- Township residents who have questions, may contact NetWave Broadband by email at: [info@netwavebroadband.net](mailto:info@netwavebroadband.net) or by phone – 952-209-0900
- Variance** Brandon Hall discussed his plans to build a home on a lot consisting of 1.95 acres. The previous owner received approval but allowed the variance to expire.
- On a motion by Deutsch/Nytes the township gave favorable recommendation to Hall to build a home on 1.95 acres at 725 240<sup>th</sup> Street West, with the following conditions: Project meets all setback requirements, taxes are current, and landowners are aware of the township's Right to Farm Ordinance; carried unanimously Wermerskirchen – yes, Nytes – yes, Deutsch – yes. [#4 was removed as 240<sup>th</sup> is a county road.]
- Soderlund Beaver Dams** The board was provided details related to the closure of Alton Avenue. The property owner is Pat Soderlund, who was notified Sunday August 23, 2020 by Chairman Wermerskirchen that water was backing up likely due to beaver dams on his property. Soderlund was unwilling to remove the dams. The city and county were notified. On Monday August 31, 2020 the road was closed.
- In a conference call with Attorney Ruppe, Wermerskirchen and Croatt, Ruppe discussed three options:
1. Close the road until the water resides
  2. Remove the beavers and the dams in a shared cost agreement with the property owner and the city

# Helena Township Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

## 3. Pursue the issue in District Court

On a motion by Wermerskirchen/Nytes Resolution 090320 "Resolution Temporarily Closing Alton Avenue" was adopted; carried unanimously Wermerskirchen – yes, Nytes – yes, Deutsch – yes.

Clerk will invite Pat Soderlund and Bob Ruppe to a Work Shop Teleconference September 17, 2020 at 5:00 PM; alternative dates include September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and may be held any time between 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM to accommodate Soderlund's and Ruppe's schedules.

Nearby property owners will report when barriers are moved illegally. Jersey Barriers will be installed Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup>. Perkins will add a "Road Closed Ahead" sign at the south end of Alton Avenue. Officers and Road Overseer will monitor the area until the Jersey Barriers are set in place.

On a motion by Nytes/Deutsch the board authorizes Chair Wermerskirchen to act on behalf of the township as the Project Manager for Alton Avenue; carried unanimously Wermerskirchen – yes; Deutsch – yes; Nytes – yes.

### Road Maintenance (Klehr)

Klehr reported they conducted two gradings and worked on the 250<sup>th</sup> Street West cartway. Klehr is available if needed for work on Alton Avenue.

270<sup>th</sup> by FaithPoint was difficult to grade because of the equipment parked on the roadway. FaithPoint was doing the driveway so that may help remove obstacles on the roadway.

### Road Overseer

1. Joe Wiita contacted Road Overseer Perkins to discuss work needed by Scott County in relation to WCLD and Juniper
2. TJ cut 270<sup>th</sup> and Alton corner brush/trees
3. County will patch WCLD and Juniper
4. Removed brush on St. Benedict Road and 250<sup>th</sup> Street West
5. Brush removed on Xanadu and CR64
6. Closed Alton

## Old Business

### 2021 Levy

The Clerk provided historic information on the proposed levy; the Treasurer discussed budgeting and loan payoff for RSP2/3 it was determined the following levy will be certified to the county:

General	\$ 96,000
Road & Bridge	\$214,000
Road & Bridge Reconstruction	\$103,000
New Prague Fire	\$ 77,325
Jordan Fire	\$ 69,238
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$559,563</b>

On a motion by Nytes/Wermerskirchen Resolution 090320B was adopted; carried unanimously Nytes – yes, Wermerskirchen – yes, Deutsch – yes.

### WCLD

Cost considerations and next steps were discussed, including how to encourage residents to cooperatively work with one garbage hauler. The appraiser recommended an assessment \$7-10K for lakeshore properties, and \$5-8k for non-lakeshore properties – with consideration given for market value of each property. The methodology used took all factors into account.

# Helena Township Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

<b>FaithPoint</b>	FaithPoint's Superintendent Aaron Sebold will work with Township Engineer Andrew Vistad on a timeframe for improvements to 270 <sup>th</sup> Street West. Once all heavy equipment and machine work is completed, the road work will start, estimated to be prior to the end of September.
<b>Hunters Ridge</b>	Schobert moved the boulders. Hansen and the new home have not yet complied. Perkins will meet with each of the property owners.
<b>Statements</b>	Clerk can stop mailing assessment balance reminders annually.
<b>Primary Tabulation</b>	With 88 Primary Election Day voters, the results were in favor of Jason Lewis and Tina Smith for US Senator. Once the absentee ballots are added, and the canvas board meets, a new tabulation will be sent to the township.
<b>Xcel Energy</b>	Ruppe asked Scott County Townships to work uniformly when approving the agreement with Xcel Energy related to the rebuilding of the 345kV transmission line. Once the agreement is finalized, Helena's Board will take action.

## New Business

<b>5-Year Road Plan</b>	Andrew Vistad and Chair Wermerskirchen viewed roads. Recommendations for the 5-year plan may be available at the September Work Shop.
<b>MAT Conference Call Updates</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. MAT's Township Tuesday teleconference calls are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month</li><li>2. MAT wants all officers to take the speed test for high speed internet</li><li>3. L &amp; R teleconference meetings are Monday – Wednesday, September 21-23; registration required</li><li>4. New class available "Re-Organizing the Township"</li><li>5. MAT does not recommend social security deferral for township officers</li><li>6. SOS Brainstorming Session – new judges can train online right up to November 1st, can us "Sergeants at Arms" for entry and hallways, encouraged clerks to swap townships, party balance may be relaxed</li><li>7. MMB – new reporting form – resubmitted July Report</li></ol>
<b>Election Judges</b>	<p>Clerk asked the board to appoint Laura Blue and Matthew Schoenbauer.</p> <p>On a motion by Wermerskirchen/Nytes Blue and Schoenbauer were appointed Election Judges for the General Election; carried unanimously Wermerskirchen – yes, Nytes – yes, Deutsch – yes.</p>
<b>Lehman</b>	Trustee's Deeds were recorded for the administrative subdivision in section 10
<b>Jordan Fire</b>	The 2020 fire contract invoice will be sent shortly and is \$33,329.40, with the amount to levy for 2021 very similar.
<b>Pub. Health Ordinance</b>	Lezlie Vermillion distributed the final adopted "Public Health Ordinance".
<b>Road Salt</b>	Art Johnson Trucking will work with Scott County for salt at \$90/ton.
<b>Couri &amp; Ruppe</b>	Notification was received that rates will increase to \$220 for general legal work, and \$240 for development work, effective January 1, 2021
<b>Utility Permit</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. GMG for a permit to run gas service to 1051 270<sup>th</sup> Street for FaithPoint Lutheran Church.</li><li>2. GMG for a permit to run gas service to 775 Silver Maple Drive</li></ol>
<b>Building Permits</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Plumbing for FaithPoint on 270<sup>th</sup> Street West</li><li>2. Septic for FaithPoint on 270<sup>th</sup> Street West</li></ol>

# Helena Township Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

3. Garage extension for Gerold on 230<sup>th</sup> Street West
4. Fire damage repair for Kuchman on 280<sup>th</sup> Street West
5. Kitchen and bathroom remodel for Novak on Redwing Avenue
6. New roof for Eckstein on Drexel
7. New roof for Hendricks on 260<sup>th</sup> Street West
8. New roof for Pauly on Indian Avenue
9. New home for Bailer on Willow Lane
10. Swimming pool for Hansen on Hunter Ridge Circle
11. Window replacements for Cahill on 220<sup>th</sup>

**Admin Permit** Any resident who owns more than four adult dogs must have an Administrative Permit. The new Scott County Compliance Officer is Tim Serafina.

## Other Business

**Jordan Fire Calls** There were two fire calls billed:  
 1. \$250 for a lightning strike (Hagness) on 230<sup>th</sup> Street  
 2. \$250 for a medical/accident (Koenig) on Aberdeen

**Ballot Proof** The ballots are going to the printer

**Bills Paid** On a motion by Nytes/Wermerskirchen checks # 6197 — 6229 for a total of \$50,688.81 were approved for payment; carried unanimously Wermerskirchen – yes; Deutsch – yes; Nytes – yes.

Allen Sticha	\$	157.50	Election Judge Training and Primary	6197
Darryl Perkins	\$	150.00	Election Judge Training and Primary	6198
Jody Deutsch	\$	300.00	Election Judge Training and Primary	6199
Peter Croatt	\$	206.25	Election Judge Training and Primary	6200
Robert Yost	\$	135.00	Election Judge Training and Primary	6201
Shirley Schoenbauer	\$	127.50	Election Judge Training and Primary	6202
Patricia Lambrecht	\$	235.00	Election Judge Training and Primary	6203
Judith Pauly	\$	165.00	Election Judge Training and Primary	6204
Rhonda Sandey	\$	172.50	Election Judge Training and Primary	6205
Karen Juchemich	\$	120.00	Election Judge Training and Primary	6206
Dave Minar	\$	150.00	Election Judge Training and Primary	6207
Florence Minar	\$	127.50	Election Judge Training and Primary	6208
Pamela Caselius	\$	157.50	Election Judge Training and Primary	6209
Cathy Joubert	\$	90.00	Election Judge Training and Primary	6210
Nagell Appraisal	\$	900.00	WCLD Letter Appraisal	6121
MATIT	\$	2.00	RSP2 Park	6212
SW Newsmedia	\$	83.12	Public Notice Filing Period	6213
Town & Country Turf	\$	278.84	Targeted weed spraying	6214
Employees/Officers	\$	12,364.42	Quarterly payroll and reimbursements	6215-21
US Treasury	\$	3,612.08	Quarterly federal taxes	ACH
Dept. of Revenue	\$	749.58	Quarterly state taxes	ACH
PERA	\$	1,291.00	DCP	ACH
Hakanson Anderson	\$	230.00	RSP2/3	6222

# Helena Township Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

Nathan Hutton	\$ 142.50	Election Judge Training and Primary	6223
Klehr Grading	\$ 6,048.00	Road grading and maintenance	6224
Scott County Treasurer	\$ 20,000.00	CARES Act Broadband Contribution	6225
Jon Hendricks	\$ 168.75	Election Judge Training and Primary	6226
Samantha Solheid	\$ 149.87	Labor for signs, brush, paint, hauling	6227
TJ Deutsch	\$ 2,055.00	Cut/remove tree/ditch mowing	6228
Steve Rynda Landscape	\$ 320.00	Mow RSP2 Park	6229

**Receipts**

New Receipts:

8/30/2020	\$ 10,694.03	Scott County	Tax Settlement
8/30/2020	\$ (4,165.00)	First Bank and Trust	Loan Service
8/30/2020	\$ 79.16	First Bank and Trust	Interest
8/30/2020	\$ 208.63	Riverland Bank	Interest
8/14/2020	\$ 4.00	Croatt/Deutsch	Filing Fees

**Treasurer's Report**

On a motion by Wermerskirchen/Deutsch the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented and the Treasure is authorized to transfer \$50k to checking; carried unanimously Wermerskirchen – yes; Nytes – yes; Deutsch – yes

**Continuation**

At 9:33 pm on a motion by Wermerskirchen/Nytes the meeting was continued to September 17, 2020 at 5:00pm for the September Work Shop; carried unanimously as follows: Deutsch – yes; Nytes – yes; Wermerskirchen - yes.

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John Wermerskirchen, Chairman

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DeAnn Croatt, Clerk