

MINUTES

**Town of New Independence
Board of Supervisors' Meeting
New Independence Town Hall
January 9, 2017**

Chairman: Kurt Johnson
Vice Chairman: Jon Olson
Supervisor: Mike Ruhland
Treasurer: Peter Olson
Clerk: Sandra Lee Olson

Following the Oath of Office for recently elected officers (Supervisor A, Kurt Johnson; Supervisor B, Jon Olson; Supervisor C, Mike Ruhland; and Treasurer, Peter Olson), Chair Kurt Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. He noted that all officers were in attendance (recently elected officers listed and Clerk Sandra Lee Olson).

After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all officers, Jon Olson made a motion, which was seconded by Mike Ruhland, to accept the printed agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

The Reorganization of the Board was the first item presented. Mike Ruhland made a motion to continue with the current chair, Kurt Johnson, and vice chair, Jon Olson. Jon Olson seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. In the past, each supervisor has overseen an area. Kurt Johnson made a motion, which was seconded by Mike Ruhland, that positions be filled in the following manner. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

- Supervision of Town Hall Operations—Jon Olson
- Supervision of Cemetery Operations—Kurt Johnson
- Overseeing of Road Operations (Road Foreman)—Peter Olson
- Representative on the Joint Powers Board—Kurt Johnson
- Noxious Weed Inspector for the Township—Mike Ruhland
- St Louis County Association of Townships Representative—all Board members as available and to receive meeting rate and mileage.

Compensation for meetings (regular meeting rate and extended meeting rate), monthly compensation, and the hourly rate for Supervisors, Treasurer, Clerk, and Road Foreman were the next item of business.

- Supervisors
 - A motion was made by Mike Ruhland and seconded by Jon Olson to keep the current \$80 for meetings under four hours and to increase the extended meeting rate to \$140/meeting and the hourly rate to \$25 for work done outside meeting hours for all supervisors. The motion carried unanimously.
- Treasurer
 - Kurt Johnson made a motion to pay the Treasurer at the same rates as the Supervisors. In addition, the Treasurer will receive a monthly stipend of \$75 per month for work done outside town meetings. Mike Ruhland second the motion, and a unanimous vote followed.
- Clerk
 - Mike Ruhland made a motion, which was seconded by Kurt Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote, to pay the Clerk the same meeting rates as other officers. In addition, the motion included a monthly stipend of \$330 for work done outside meetings and \$25 per hour for Clerk's Hours at the Town Hall.
- Road Foreman
 - Jon Olson made a motion, which was seconded by Mike Ruhland, to pay the Road Foreman at the same meeting and hourly rates as Supervisors—\$80 for regular

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meetings, \$140 for extended meetings, and \$25 hourly rate for work done outside meetings.

- Mileage
 - The mileage rate is set by Federal Government Guidelines for 2017. That rate currently is \$0.535 per mile.

Clerk Sandra Lee Olson read the minutes of the January 9, 2017, meeting. Mike Ruhland offered a motion to accept the minutes as read. Following a second by Kurt Johnson, a unanimous vote in favor of the motion was cast.

Following the read of the Treasurer's Report by Peter Olson, Mike Ruhland made a motion to accept the report—subject to audit. Jon Olson offered a second to the motion, and a unanimous vote in favor of the motion was cast. The report was placed on file with other documents of the meeting. The first page is shown below:

Cash Accounts						
			Statement Date	Interest	Previous Balances	Current Balances
Wells Fargo Business Checking xxxxxx1054 (EFT)			Online Balance as of December 31, 2016		\$3,000.00	\$22,923.06
Wells Fargo Business Checking xxxxxx3050 (Primary)			Online Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$ 0.17	\$ 30,131.86	\$ 16,749.01
			Total Balance for Checking Accounts		\$33,131.86	\$39,672.07
Wells Fargo Business Savings xxxxxx6624			Online Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$ 0.36	\$ 14,192.49	\$ 14,192.85
			Total Balance for Cash Accounts	\$ 0.53	\$ 47,324.35	\$ 53,864.92
Investments-CDs						
			Statement Date	Interest/ Penalty	Current Balance	Current Balance
WF CD1 xxxxxx8954 (matures 8/20/2018)	0.17%		Online Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$ 9.62	\$ 26,023.68	\$ 26,033.30
WF CD2 xxxxxx8962 (matures 8/20/2018)	0.17%		Online Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$ 9.62	\$ 26,023.68	\$ 26,033.30
WF CD6 xxxxxx0876 (matures 11/28/2017)	0.55%		Online Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$ 11.56	\$ 25,556.47	\$ 25,568.03
			Total of All CDs	\$ 30.80	\$ 77,603.83	\$ 77,634.63
			Total of CDs and Savings		\$ 91,796.32	\$ 91,827.48
			Total of all accounts with checks outstanding (Cash Accounts and CDs)			\$ 131,499.55
Receipts						
Dec 2 2016	St. Louis County Tax Apportionment			\$19,363.47		
Dec 2 2016	St. Louis County Tax Apportionment Advance			\$559.59		
	Total Deposit for SLC Tax Apportionment			\$19,923.06		

Following the reading of the Clerk's Report, Sandra Lee Olson asked the Board how much she should transfer from the EFT Checking to the Regular Checking. Kurt Johnson made a motion to accept the Clerk's Report—subject to audit, and to transfer the maximum possible to cover monthly checks. Mike Ruhland seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous vote. The complete report is filed with other documents from the meeting. The first page of her report, however, is shown on the next page.

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Town of New Independence Clerk		Cash Balance Statement			1/3/2017
As of 1/3/2017					
Fiscal Year: 2016					
Name of Fund	Beginning Balance	Total Receipts	Total Disbursements	Ending Balance	
General Fund	(\$7,459.57)	\$136,647.49	\$116,107.39	\$13,080.53	
Road and Bridge	\$29,450.41	\$10,658.57	\$24,870.84	\$15,238.14	
Sowle Cartway Bond Fund	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	
Total:	\$22,490.84	\$147,306.06	\$140,978.23	\$28,818.67	

The following items of Incoming Correspondence was presented to the Board:

1. State of Minnesota
 - Township Aid.....\$560.00
 - MV Credit-Ag....\$ 146.00
2. Lake Country Power...notice of upcoming meeting
 - South Ridge School
 - February 1, 2017
 - 5:00-7:00 pm
 - RSVP by January 25, 2017
3. PERA...monthly reporting for
4. McRae Land Improvements LLC...Christmas card and business card
5. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency...information regarding proposed amendments to Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7050 (Water Quality Standards for Protection of Water of the State) and 7052 (Lake Superior Basin Water Standards), relating to Tiered Aquatic Life Uses and Modification of Class 2 Beneficial Use Designations. Public comment period is open from December 19, 2016, to February 2, 2017
6. Wells Fargo...notification that Jon Olson was granted online access to New Independence accounts
7. Rodda Grading and Excavating...statement dated November 30, 2016, in the amount of \$1,056.00
8. Federated Co-ops...monthly statement showing a credit balance of \$1,226.86
9. Lake Country Power...monthly statement showing a credit balance of \$71.43
10. Minnesota Association of Townships...*Minnesota Township Insider*
11. St. Louis County (SLC)...invoice for 2016 proposed tax statement prep (\$89.27)
12. St. Louis County Fair...request for a donation
13. Frontier Communications...monthly bill for phone and internet services (\$66.02)
14. University of Minnesota...*Minnesota LTAP/Technology Exchange*
15. St. Louis County Association of Townships (SLCAT)...December 7, 2016, Agenda
16. Census Bureau...request for boundary changes
17. SLC...Statement of Outstanding Indebtedness
18. SLCAT...minutes of the December 7, 2016, meeting
19. Alborn Fire Department...minutes

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Kurt Johnson read the payroll into the record and then offered a motion to pay the payroll. Jon Olson seconded the motion, which was then approved by a unanimous vote.

3899. Payroll -----	\$36.94
3900. Payroll -----	\$74.84
3901. Payroll -----	\$74.84
3902. Payroll -----	\$145.00
3903. Payroll -----	\$665.74
3904. Payroll -----	\$149.68

Following the reading of the following Claims by Kurt Johnson, Jon Olson made a motion to pay the claims as presented. Mike Ruhland seconded the motion, which was passed by a unanimous vote.

3905. Peter Olson -----	\$13.91
3906. Public Employee Retirement Association -----	\$172.10
3907. US Treasury -----	\$547.15
3908. Minnesota Revenue -----	\$75.45
3909. Frontier Communications -----	\$66.02
3910. St. Louis County Auditor -----	\$89.27
3911. Lake Country Power -----	\$300.00
3912. Rodda Excavating and Grading -----	\$1,56.06
3913. Sandra Lee Olson -----	\$11.24
3914. Jon Olson -----	\$8.66

Unfinished Business

1. Cemetery
 - Kurt Johnson reported that he was contacted by Cloquet Funeral Home because Mr. Wark passed away. There are no burials during the winter so the funeral home will work with the family for a spring burial.
2. Roads
 - Road Foreman Peter Olson reported that the roads look good when he checked them.
 - Wally Kuczak would like to know where the Township Road 5741 ends. He has checked with the County and learned that part of the road was vacated in 1982 but the description was not clear. The Board encourage Peter to invite Mr. Kuczak to a Board meeting so his concerns can be addressed. As road foreman, Peter as to report and take direction from the Board.
 - Kurt Johnson also checked the roads and agreed they are in good condition.
3. Town Hall
 - There has been no word from Kyle Karpinnen about the storage closet remodeling project at the Town Hall
 - Shovels were purchased.
4. Weed Control
 - Mike Ruhland completed the weed control information for the County Weed Inspector. The clerk will submit the report before the January 15, 2017, due date.

The following items of New Business were presented to the Board:

1. 2017 Payroll Information
 - W-4s for all officers were completed.
 - Birthdate for Mike Ruhland was obtained
 - The clerk plans to have W2s out by the weekend.
2. Board of Audit will be held as part of the regular March meeting.
3. The Budget Meeting will be part of the February meeting
4. Clerk Sandra Lee Olson discussed the monthly hours allotted for the clerk to be at the Town Hall. The hours were set up in the hope that residents would use the opportunity to have questions answered. Since the hours were established, one person stopped at the Town Hall to meet with the Clerk. Sandra Lee requested that the hours be dropped. Kurt Johnson made a motion to discontinue the two days per month. Jon Olson seconded the motion, which was then passed by a unanimous vote in favor of discontinuing the clerk's hours at the Town Hall.
5. Kurt Johnson made a motion authorizing the Treasurer to purchase a virus protection program for \$200 or less. Mike Ruhland seconded the motion; a unanimous vote followed. Peter Olson will bring his computer in for the necessary protection.

There were no Officer Reports for the month of January.

At 8:59 PM, Kurt Johnson declared the meeting to be adjourned after a motion from Mike Ruhland, a second by Jon Olson, and a unanimous vote in favor of adjournment.

Minutes submitted for approval on _____

Clerk's Signature _____

Chair of the Board of supervisors' Signature _____

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board of Supervisors' Meetings for 2017

January 9	May 1	September 11
February 6	June 5	October 2
March 6	July 10	November 1
April 3	August 7	December 4

2017 SLCAT Calendar

January 25, 2017	Cotton Community Center	6:30 pm	(Megan Julin. Speaker)
February 22, 2017	Cotton Community Center	6:30 pm	(Philip Lobb-Speaker)
March 22, 2017	Cotton Community Center	6:30 pm	(Sue H. – Speaker)
April 26, 2017	<i>WHITE TWP.</i>	6:30 PM	<i>(White Twp – Speaker)</i>
May 24, 2017	Cotton Community Center	5:30 pm	Socializing
		6:00 pm	Meeting & Election of Officers
		6:30 pm	Dinner
		7:00 pm	Speaker