

# MINUTES

**Town of New Independence  
Board of Supervisors' Meeting  
New Independence Town Hall  
June 12, 2017**

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

The Board of Supervisors' Meeting was called to order by its chair, Kurt Johnson, at 7:00 PM. Kurt noted that Supervisor Jon Olson and Treasurer Peter Olson were not in attendance. There was a quorum of officers present because Supervisors Kurt Johnson and Mike Ruhland were both in attendance. In addition, the clerk was in attendance.

After the officers and audience members recited the Pledge of Allegiance, Kurt asked for a motion to accept the Agenda and noted a change in the order of business was made to accommodate the Kuzcas. Mike Ruhland made the motion to accept the Agenda. Following a second to the motion by Kurt Johnson, the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The first item on the agenda was the North Johnson Road. A brief discussion was held on the end of North Johnson Road. The clerk met prior to the last meeting with the County Offices at Pike Lake Tool House and determined that according to the road orders, which were filed with the County, the end of the road ended at the corner of four sections—7, 8, 17, and 18. If the township road ended at that point, there would be no available turnaround. The Kuzca did go to a notary public and signed a document allowing the Town of New Independence to use an additional 125.6 feet (a point marked by the second driveway) to maintain a turnaround for snowplows and grading. A motion was made by Kurt Johnson and seconded by Mike Ruhland to accept the additional 125.6 feet for the purposes of maintaining the North Johnson Road. The motion carried unanimously. A paper will be drawn up for the Town of New Independence indicating the additional footage and will be registered with St. Louis County. A copy will be sent to Mr. Kuzca when the paperwork is completed.

Following the reading of the minutes from the June 10<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors' Meeting, Kurt Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mike Ruhland seconded the motion, which was passed by a unanimous vote.

Because the treasurer was not at the meeting, the clerk read the Treasurer's Report. Kurt Johnson made a motion to accept the report, subject to audit. After a second to the motion by Mike Ruhland, the motion was passed by a unanimous vote. The entire report was filed with the clerk with other documents from the meeting.

Clerk Sandra Lee Olson presented the Clerk's Report for the month ending on May 31, 2017. Mike Ruhland made a motion to accept the report as presented. Following a second to the motion by Kurt Johnson, the motion was passed by a unanimous vote. The printed report was placed on file with other documents from the meeting.

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

1. St. Louis County (SLC) Public Works Department...town road inspections for winter
2. Alborn Fire Department

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- Minutes of the April 26, 2017, meeting
- Notification for Alborn Fire Department Calendar
- 3. Frontier Communications...monthly phone and internet service invoice (\$69.26)
- 4. Alborn Fire Hall Expansion Open House...invitation to attend the open house on June 16, 5:00-8:00 pm
- 5. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency...public notice of intent to reissue the permit for Voyageur Disposal and Processing for a term of 10 years
- 6. United States Department of Commerce/US Census Bureau...request to update contact information and form to be completed (estimated time 21 hours)
- 7. Public Employees Retirement Association...monthly reporting form
- 8. Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT)
  - Registration for Sandra Lee Olson.....\$50.00
  - Registration for Mike Ruhland .....\$50.00
- 9. Federated Co-ops, Inc...monthly statement showing a credit balance of \$878.71
- 10. Lake Country Power...monthly statement showing a credit balance of \$18.62
- 11. MAT...information on the upcoming short course
- 12. MAT...membership cards for officers
- 13. Lake Country Power...notice of capital credit allocation
  - Lake Country Power .....\$40.21
  - Great River Energy .....\$25.88
- 14. Saint Louis County (SLC)...invoice for AutoMark machine and firmware maintenance (\$80.00)
- 15. Young & Associates...certificate of liability insurance for McRae Land Improvements, LLC
- 16. Minnesota State Demographer...2016 Population and Household Estimates
  - 2016 population estimate .....290
  - 2016 household estimate.....122
- 17. SLC...assessment for signs...\$282.83

The following items of Unfinished Business were discussed by the Board:

1. Cemetery
  - Kurt reported that the cemetery looks well maintained. He had a concern about a dead tree that need to be removed. Kurt Johnson made a motion to have Jim Witkowski remove the tree so it does not cause a problem. Mike Ruhland seconded the motion, which was then passed by a unanimous vote in favor of the motion.
  - Kurt also noted that the Wark headstones are no longer in the aisle.
  - Concern was expressed about a headstone that is tipping. The concern is that the headstone will tip. A number of years ago, a discussion was held about the same concern. At that time, the Board decided not to attempt to correct the situation for fear of breaking the headstone.
2. Roads
  - Road Foreman's Report
    - The road foreman was not in attendance at the meeting but sent message that the roads are in good repair. He did complete his monthly inspection of all town roads.

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- The County has requested to complete a road inspection of township roads that they snowplow or grade. The concern is due to the increase weight of the equipment that the County has purchased. Road Foreman will need to meet with the County during the month of June. If he is not able to meet with the County, Supervisor Kurt Johnson said he would be available.
  - North Johnson Road was discussed earlier in the meeting to accommodate the Kuzca family.
  - Kurt did drive the South Schelin Road but Gary Fredricksen was not home at the time. Kurt will try again to make contact with him regarding concerns about the brushing and the turnaround signs.
3. Town Hall
- The interior of the town hall is in need of fresh paint especially after the storage area was built. Kurt Johnson made a motion to post for the painting job with the township paying for paint and other materials as needed. Mike Ruhland seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous vote. The clerk will post for the painting position so the Board can act on hiring someone at the July meeting.
4. Weed Control
- The MAT magazine had a section of the latest edition that dealt with weed control. Mike will also attend the MAT Short Course where additional information will be given.
5. Microsoft Office for Treasurer's computer
- The computer program will be ordered.
6. Joint Powers Meeting
- The Board discussed the recent Joint Powers Meeting that was held at the New Independence Town Hall. As a result of the meeting, a new Joint Powers Agreement will be drawn up by Alborn and submitted to the New Independence Board for its signature. The only addition or change to the contract is that New Independence will contribute \$100/month to help with the accounting costs that are associated with the Fire Department.

New Business

1. Request for use of tables and chairs
  - Sandra Lee Olson asked to use the tables and chairs for a family reunion to be held on July 8. Kurt Johnson made a motion to let her borrow the tables and chairs. Mike Ruhland seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous vote.
2. Short Course
  - A reminder was given to all officers that the Annual MAT Summer Short Course will be offered on June 29, Black Bear, 1:30-8:00. A motion was made at the May meeting authorizing all interested officers reimbursement for registration, mileage, and meeting rate if an officer attended.
3. Alborn Fire Department Calendar
  - A motion was made by Mike Ruhland, seconded by Kurt Johnson, and passed to buy advertising on the Alborn Fire Department's calendar. The check was included on tonight's claims but will be sent after the Board approves meeting dates for 2018 at its next meeting.

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Approval of Payroll/Claims

Mike Ruhland made a motion to pay the Payroll claims as read into the record by Kurt Johnson. The motion was seconded by Kurt and passed with a unanimous vote.

3980. Payroll -----	\$259.60
3981. Payroll -----	\$70.16
3982. Payroll -----	\$34.63
3983. Payroll -----	\$379.75
3984. Payroll -----	\$149.68

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

3985. Sandra Lee Olson -----	\$53.25
3986. Town of Alborn -----	\$500.00
3987. Jim Witkowski-----	\$815.00
3988. Kurt Johnson-----	\$10.70
3989. Alborn Fire Department-----	\$200.00
3990. Frontier Communications-----	\$69.26
3991. Public Employees Retirement Association-----	\$119.85
3992. Minnesota Association of Townships-----	\$100.00
3993. Lake Country Power-----	\$300.00
3994. St. Louis County Auditor-----	\$180.00
3995. St. Louis County Auditor-----	\$282.83
3996. Peter Olson-----	\$13.38

Officer Reports

- Joint Powers (Kurt Johnson)

At 8:23 pm, Mike Ruhland made a motion for adjournment, which was seconded by Kurt Johnson, and passed with a unanimous vote in favor. Kurt declared the meeting to be adjourned.

Minutes submitted for approval on \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of the Board of supervisors' Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Board of Supervisors' Meetings for 2017**

July 10	September 11	November 1
August 7	October 2	December 4

**2017 SLCAT Calendar**

No meetings during the summer

Unofficial