

MINUTES

**Town of New Independence
Board of Supervisors' Meeting
New Independence Town Hall
September 12, 2016**

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

Chair Kurt Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with all board members present—Supervisor Kurt Johnson, Supervisor Jon Olson, Treasurer Peter Olson, and Clerk Sandra Lee Olson.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Jon Olson made a motion to accept the agenda. That motion was subsequently seconded by Kurt Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote.

The first item on the agenda was the appointment of Mike Ruhland to fill the open Supervisor C's Position. Kurt Johnson made a motion, which was seconded by Jon Olson, to appoint Mike to the open supervisors position with the position being filled in January by whomever is declared the elected supervisor at the upcoming township election. A unanimous vote was cast in favor of the appointment, and the Oath of Office was administered to Mike Ruhland. Being duly appointed and sworn in, Mike was able to participate in the September Board of Supervisors' Meeting.

Minutes of the August meeting were read by Clerk Sandra Lee Olson. A motion was offered by Kurt Johnson and seconded by Mike Ruhland to accept the minutes as read. The motion carried with a unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

Following the Treasurer's Report, which was given by Peter Olson, Mike Ruhland made a motion to accept the report as read—subject to audit. Jon Olson seconded the motion, which was passed by a unanimous vote. The entire report is filed with other documents from the meeting.

As part of the Clerk's Report, Sandra Lee Olson indicated that she had completed the following items during August/September:

1. August 2, 2016: Letter sent to the Minnesota Management and Budget notifying them that Peter D. Olson is the treasurer for New Independence
2. August 4, 2016: Hand delivered check after water softener and iron filter were installed
3. August 4, 2016: Transferred \$10,000 from the EFT Account to the Checking Account
4. September 2016: Submitted 2017 Levy and Election Plan

She also gave paperwork to Mike Ruhland as a newly appointed officer and requested a birthdate for Kurt Johnson. Jon Olson made a motion, which was seconded by Mike Ruhland, to accept the clerk's report, which is filed with other documents from the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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

1. St Louis County (SLC) Public Works Department...Private Winter Maintenance Turnaround Agreement for Salo Road
2. SLC Planning and Development Department...information on Fiscal Year 2017 Program Open Houses and Public Meeting on Fiscal Year 2015 Program Accomplishments

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- Wednesday, September 14, 2016—Proctor City Hall/Community Center
 - 1:00-3:00 PM
 - 100 Pionk Drive, Proctor
 - Thursday, September 15, 2016—Mountain Iron Community Center
 - 1:00-3:00 PM
 - 8586 Enterprise Drive South, Mt. Iron
3. Couri & Ruppe, P.L.L.P.... reminder regarding the upcoming Township Legal Seminar to be held on October 1, 2016, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Cotton Town Hall
 4. Federated Co-ops...invoice showing a credit of \$1,226.86 (two notices)
 5. Lake Country Power...monthly statement showing a credit of \$94.62
 6. Lake Country Power...information on rebates
 7. Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA)...monthly reporting form
 8. Frontier Communications...monthly phone service for \$57.34
 9. Alborn Fire Department...minutes of the July 27, 2016, meeting
 10. Minnesota Revenue...notice of 2017 Town Aid Notice (\$1,048)
 11. PERA...Member Information Change Report for Mike Maish
 12. Minnesota Revenue...notice that New Independence received the full Disparity Aid Reduction instead of half.
 13. South Ridge School...request for donation to the fifth grade to finance Wolf Ridge Trip
 14. SLC Auditor Elections...SLC Election Plan and request for New Independence's Plan
 15. Minnesota Association of Townships Agency (MATIT Consolidated Renewal invoice (\$1,669.00), declaration pages, and notice of optional changes
 16. State of Minnesota...Disparity Aid Reduction (\$122)
 17. Federated Co-ops...propane pre-buy program
 18. Rodda...work on North and South 4744 (\$198 and \$176 respectively) and 5741 (\$176.00)
 19. Anvid Tree Service...invoice for cutting trees at the cemetery
 20. Jim Witkowski...monthly billing for mowing services
 21. Jon Olson...bill for certificate of insurance in the amount of \$137

Approval of Payroll/Claims

Election Claims were read into the record by Chair Kurt Johnson. Jon Olson made a motion to pay the claims as presented. Following a second by Mike Ruhland and unanimous vote in favor of the motion, the claims were submitted to the Treasurer for payment.

3782.	Joyce Greer-----	\$217.50
3783.	Jim Witkowski-----	Void
3784.	Karen Olson-----	\$150.00
3785.	Karen Witkowski-----	\$150.00
3786.	Christopher Olson-----	\$75.00
3787.	Jim Witkowski-----	\$75.00
3796.	Rose Ann Buttrick -----	\$217.50

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Following the reading of the Payroll claims, Jon Olson made a motion to pay the Payroll as presented. Mike Ruhland seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote in favor of the motion followed. The Payroll claims were submitted to the Treasurer for payment

3788. Payroll -----	\$205.81
3789. Payroll -----	\$149.68
3790. Payroll -----	\$186.72
3791. Payroll -----	\$722.30
3792. Payroll -----	Void
3793. Payroll -----	\$74.84
3794. Payroll -----	Void
3795. Payroll -----	\$73.88

An adjustment will be made on Peter's check for next month because he was paid for a Meeting Rate II (\$100) instead of the Monthly Treasurer's Rate (\$75).

Mike Ruhland made a motion which was seconded by Jon Olson to approve the claims as read by Kurt Johnson. The motion carried with unanimous support, and the Claims were submitted to the Treasurer for payment.

3828. Kurt Johnson -----	\$12.65
3829. Anvid Tree Service -----	\$988.59
3830. Frontier Communications -----	\$57.34
3831. Jon Olson -----	\$675.00
3832. Public Employees Retirement Association -----	\$201.80
3833. Lake Country Power -----	\$300.00
3834. MATIT Consolidated Coverage -----	\$1669.00
3835. Jim Witkowski -----	\$370.00
3836. Sandra Lee Olson -----	\$136.28
3837. Peter Olson -----	\$80.35
3838. Rodda Grading and Excavating -----	\$550.00

Unfinished Business

1. Cemetery
 - Kurt Johnson reported that 2-3 oaks, a pine tree, and a poplar were removed by Anvid Tree Service. The trees presented a dangerous situation after being downed during the July storm.
2. Roads
 - Peter Olson, Road Foreman, reported on work done since last meeting:
 - Peter inspected the roads
 - The culvert on Nelson road had not been replaced as of the meeting. Rodda will order the culvert and install it in the near future. Gravel will then be applied.
 - Mr. Kuzca called about the North Johnson Road. Peter did inspect the road and tried to meet with Mr. Kuzca, but Mr. Kuzca did not show. Peter will contact Rodda to grade the road.

- The turnaround on South Johnson looks fine. It is possible that no additional gravel will be needed.
 - The turnaround on Schelin needs to be addressed while the turnaround on Nelson Road appears to be okay.
 - Rick McRae will be starting the brushing soon.
 - Right-of-way Mowing
 - Jon Olson completed the mowing of the township right of ways and submitted his certificate of insurance for payment.
3. Town Hall
- Water Softener was installed by Arrowhead Water. The Clerk will see that a key is given to Arrowhead Water so the salt can be delivered.
 - A plumber that worked on the bathroom remodel has been contacted and is scheduled to fix the problem on Thursday or Friday, September 15 or 16.
 - The painting of the front and back decks and railings is in process.
 - Kurt has not had a chance to look for a cabinet for files yet. Sandra Lee Olson will look when she goes.
 - Clean up Day at the Town Hall will be scheduled in October so the Town Hall looks presentable for the November election.
 - A new flag bracket was purchased and will be installed before the election.
4. Elections
- Primary Election was completed successfully. There were no problems reported.
 - The Clerk reported that the General Election and Township Election are scheduled for November 8, 2016, with polls open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. The Board was reminded that the Board of Canvass is November 14 at 7:00 pm
 - The Clerk submitted an Election Plan to the County Election Department. The plan included names of individuals who would be available to run the election in case the Clerk is not able to complete her responsibility.
5. Email Update
- Addresses have been put in place for the Town Board. Each board member will have to finalize his/her own account. Beginning passwords can be changed by each individual officer to whatever the officer chooses to use.
 - The emails are as follows:
 - newindependence.supervisorA@gmail.com
 - newindependence.supervisorB@gmail.com
 - newindependence.supervisorC@gmail.com
 - newindependencetreasurer@gmail.com
 - newindependenceclerk@gmail.com
 - In addition, the new email addresses have been added to website. Officers can go to the website and click the icon on the officers' page. It will take you to the gmail.com sign-on site
6. A reminder was given that the Couri & Ruppe Legal Seminar Reminder (authorization already approved) will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2016, at the Cotton Town Hall. Officers interested in attending can register directly on the website (www.couriruppe.com) on the "Township Legal Seminar" or by calling Kathy at (763) 497-1930

New Business

1. A motion was made by Jon Olson, seconded by Kurt Johnson, and passed by a unanimous vote to apply the current balance to Federated Co-ops Pre-buy Program.
2. A motion was made by Mike Ruhland and seconded by Jon Olson to send \$250 to the South Ridge Fifth Grade to assist with the costs associated with the upcoming learning adventure at Wolf Ridge. The motion carried unanimously.

No additional Officer Reports were give.

At 8:47 PM Kurt Johnson offered a motion for adjournment, which was subsequently seconded by Mike Ruhland and passed by a unanimous vote. 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 2016

October 3, 2016

November 1, 2016

December 5, 2016