

MINUTES

**Town of New Independence
Board of Supervisors' Meeting
New Independence Town Hall
January 5, 2015**

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

The meeting was called to order by its chair, Mike Maish at 7:03 pm with all Board members present except Supervisor Jon Olson, who arrived 7:10 pm.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes of the December 2014 meeting were read and a motion was made by Kurt Johnson to approve the minutes. Mike Maish seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote in favor of accepting the minutes was cast.

Treasurer Peter Olson presented the final Treasurer's Report for 2014. Kurt Johnson made a motion, which was seconded by Mike Maish, to accept the report—subject to audit. A unanimous vote was cast in favor of accepting the motion. The first page of his report is shown below:

Cash Accounts							
			Statement Date	Interest Received		Previous Balances	Current Balances
Wells Fargo Business Checking xxxxxx3050			Online Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$ 0.15		\$ 7,879.05	\$ 21,524.62
Wells Fargo Business Checking xxxxxx1054			Online Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Total Balance for Checking Accounts							\$ 23,524.62
Wells Fargo Business Savings xxxxxx6624			Online Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$ 1.40	\$ 18.76	\$ 55,653.07	\$ 53,654.47
Total Balance for Cash Accounts				\$ 1.55	\$ 18.76	\$ 63,532.12	77,179.09
Investments-CDs							
			Statement Date	Interest Received	2014 Interest	Previous Balance	Current Balance
Wells Fargo CD xxxxxx8954 (matures 8/20/2018)	0.17%		Online Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$ 9.54	\$ 115.85	\$ 25,790.20	\$ 25,799.74
Wells Fargo CD xxxxxx8962 (matures 8/20/2018)	0.17%		Online Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$ 9.54	\$ 115.85	\$ 25,790.20	\$ 25,799.74
Wells Fargo CD xxxxxx0801 (matures 11/28/2019)	0.35%		Online Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$ 6.18	\$ 29.16	\$ 25,050.04	\$ 25,056.22
Wells Fargo CD xxxxxx0845 (matures 11/28/2019)	0.35%		Online Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$ 6.18	\$ 29.16	\$ 25,050.04	\$ 25,056.22
Wells Fargo CD xxxxxx0868 (matures 11/28/2016)	0.25%		Online Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$ 5.16	\$ 62.75	\$ 25,125.31	\$ 25,130.47
Wells Fargo CD xxxxxx0876 (matures 11/28/2017)	0.55%		Online Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$ 11.43	\$ 138.70	\$ 25,276.51	\$ 25,287.94
Total				\$ 48.03	\$ 491.47	\$ 152,082.30	\$ 152,130.33
Total of All Accounts (with checks/deposits outstanding)						\$215,614.42	\$ 229,309.42
Deposits made during December:							
12/17/2014	Transfer from Savings to Checking xxxxxx1054			\$2,000.00			
12/17/2014	Tax Apportionment			\$19,761.69			
		General Fund	\$12,785.99				
		Road & Bridge Fund	\$6,603.09				
		Not Identified	\$372.61				
12/28/2014	State of Minnesota			\$898.42			
		Township Aid	\$719.50				
		MV Credit-Agricultural	\$117.92				
		Disparity Reduction Aid	\$61.00				

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Clerk Sandra Lee Olson presented the Clerk's Report for the period ending December 31, 2014. Jon Olson made a motion to accept the Clerk's Report subject to audit. A second to the motion was made by Mike Maish, and a unanimous vote followed. Her report showed the year-end fund balances:

General Fund	\$ 102.89
Road & Bridge	\$21,617.55
<u>Sowle Fund.....</u>	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
Total in Checking Accounts	\$22,220.44

Incoming Correspondence

1. Lake Country Power...monthly power bill which shows a credit of \$216.91
2. St. Louis County Fair...request for donation
3. Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation...brochure for the Advance Program
4. University of Minnesota...workshop on Pavement Rehabilitation: Products, Processes, and Strategies to be held at three locations throughout the State
5. Alborn Fire Department...minutes of the November 26, 2014 Meeting
6. Federated Co-ops...statement showing a balance of \$1,528.09 unused prepaid credits
7. PERA...monthly reporting form
8. Federated Co-ops...delivery invoice of 222.9 gallons for \$412.14
9. PERA...newsletter related to 2015 Trustee Election
10. St. Louis County Association of Townships
 - Minutes of the December 3, 2014 meeting
 - Tentative agenda for the January 28, 2015 meeting
 - Dues Statement for County Association and MAT for 2015
 - SLCAT ----- \$149.40
 - Minnesota Association of Townships----- \$434.40
 - Charge for Annual Meeting Dinner ----- \$20.00
 - Total amount due ----- \$603.50
11. Minnesota Association of Townships...2015 calendar
12. Frontier...monthly phone and internet bill showing a balance of \$49.98
13. Randall's Heating and Cooling...invoice for work on furnace (\$272.00)
14. St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Department...information on the proposed revisions to St. Louis County Zoning Regulations
15. Titan Machinery...advertising newsletter for equipment
16. Gary Fredrickson (emails to Mike Maish, Road Foreman)...three emails were received from Gary Fredrickson related to snowplowing and speeders on his road.
17. Alborn Fire Department...calendar

Approval of Payroll/Claims

Payroll: Mike Maish made a motion to pay the payroll. Kurt Johnson seconded the motion, which was passed by a unanimous vote. Payroll claims were submitted to the treasurer for payment.

3494. Kurt Johnson	\$149.68
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3495. Michael Maish -----	\$74.84
3496. Jon Olson-----	\$102.90
3497. Peter Olson-----	\$121.61
3498. Sandra Lee Olson-----	\$495.53
3499. Michael Maish -----	\$18.71

Claims: Following the reading of the claims into the record by Mike Maish, Kurt Johnson made a motion to pay the claims as presented. Mike seconded the motion; a unanimous vote was cast; and the claims were submitted to the treasurer for payment.

3500. Michael Maish -----	\$30.53
3501. Sandra Lee Olson-----	\$237.65
3502. Frontier Communication-----	\$49.98
3503. St. Louis County Association of Townships-----	\$603.80
3504. Randall's Heating and Cooling-----	\$272.00
3505. PERA-----	\$137.76

Unfinished Business

1. Cemetery
 - Deeds have not been sent because the clerk is waiting for the ex-officio stamp.
 - No requests for lots have been received since the last meeting.
2. Roads
 - South Schelin Road was discussed at length during the correspondence section of the meeting. Gary Frederickson wrote three emails to Mike about the snowplowing and speeding on South Schelin Road. In response to the emails, Mike met with the County about the snowplowing and informed the sheriff's department about the situation of speeders mentioned in Mr. Frederickson's letters. To date, the County and sheriff did meet with Gary. Jon Olson also received contact from Gary by phone. The issues have been addressed and work will continue as needed.
3. Town Hall
 - Sensor unit
 - Randall Heating and Cooling installed the electronic thermostat at the town hall. Jon can remotely control the heat in the Town Hall.
 - Furniture for the Town Hall
 - Chairs and tables: Mike has been looking for chairs and tables. Tonight he brought the specifications for four chairs that are available through Office Max. Jon Olson made a motion to purchase five chairs at \$169.99 each. Mike will pick up the chairs for the Town Hall. He will continue to look for a suitable table.
 - Mike will continue also to look for fire-proof storage unit suitable for minutes.
 - Furnace repair: Jon reported that he met with Randall Heating and Cooling about the furnace repair. The repair men indicated to Jon that the furnace would not have made it through the winter in the condition it was.
 - Bathroom remodel
4. Web page
 - Letters: Letters have been sent to all landowners in New Independence informing them about the website.

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- Fire department page: A page has been started for the Alborn Fire Department. At this point, it includes a picture and names of firefighters. Additional content will be added in the near future.
 - Mailboxes for township officers do not have a lot of storage area. Sandra Lee showed board members how to access their mailboxes.
 - 5. Notary stamp for the clerk had to be reordered because a larger size was needed. Sandra Lee sent a personal check for the additional charge and was reimbursed from the township.
 - 6. Mileage rate for 2015 is \$0.575/mile
 - 7. MAT Township Officers Report is to be completed and returned by January 31, 2015. Because Sandra Lee could not find the form, she asked officers to verify information requested by MAT. The letter will be sent in lieu of the form.
 - 8. Leash law
 - Mike received a complaint from a resident because a neighbor's dog killed some turkeys. Since neither St. Louis County nor New Independence have dog leash laws in effect, Mike referred the resident to the sheriff's department.

New Business

1. Reorganization of the Board
 - Jon Olson made a motion to keep all positions the same. Mike Maish seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote. The positions will continue to be filled in the following manner:
 - Chair—Mike Maish; Vice chair—Kurt Johnson
 - Supervisor Responsible for Roads—Mike Maish, Supervisor Responsible for Cemetery—Kurt Johnson; Supervisor Responsible for Town Hall Operations—Jon Olson.
 - Joint Powers Representative—Kurt Johnson
 - Wages
 - Supervisors
 - ❖ Kurt Johnson made a motion to leave the meeting rates the same (\$80/\$100) and increase the hourly rate to \$20/hour. Jon Olson second the motion, which carried unanimously.
 - Treasurer
 - ❖ Mike Maish made a motion to leave the pay rates the same for the treasurer as they were in 2014. Kurt Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Current meeting rates are \$80 or \$100/meeting. The treasurer will continue to receive a monthly stipend of \$50/month.
 - Clerk
 - ❖ Kurt Johnson made a motion to leave the meeting rates (\$80/\$100) and monthly rate (\$330) the same, but increase the hourly rate for Clerk's hours to \$20/hour. Jon Olson seconded the motion, which was passed with a unanimous vote in favor of the motion.
2. Tax paperwork
 - W4 Forms for 2015 were completed by all officers.

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- The clerk asked each officer to verify the information on the W2s forms. The W2s will be sent within the next few days.
- 3. St. Louis County Fair donation will be included on the Annual Meeting Agenda.
- 4. Changes to zoning will be discussed at the February meeting. This will give officers a chance to review the information before making comments to the County. Mike took the packet with him after the meeting and will pass to another supervisor when completed.
- 5. Treasurer's computer is not working properly. A motion was made by Mike Maish, seconded by Kurt Johnson, and passed to bring the computer in for repairs. If the repairs will be excessive, the board authorized the purchase of a new computer for the treasurer.
- 6. 2015 Preliminary Budget numbers were presented and a tentative budget for 2015 was developed. The clerk will make the changes and will present the 2015 Budget at the February meeting.

Officer Reports

- **Joint Powers Meeting (Kurt)**
A lengthy discussion was held about the new building for the Fire Department. Sandra Lee will contact MAT about the situation so the Board can present the facts at the Annual Meeting.

Kurt Johnson made a motion for adjournment, which was seconded by Jon Olson. Mike declared the meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Minutes submitted for approval on _____

Clerk's Signature _____

Chair of the Board of Supervisors' Signature _____

Upcoming Meetings

Board of Supervisors' Meetings for 2015

January 5	April 6	July 6	October 5
February 2	May 4	August 3	November 2
March 2	June 1	September 14	December 7

St. Louis County Association Township Officers' Meeting (7:00 PM Meeting Time)

2015

January 28Regular MeetingCotton Community Center
February 25Regular MeetingCotton Community Center
March 25Regular MeetingCotton Community Center
April 22Annual Meeting	
	5:30 PM Meet and Mingle	
	6:00 PM Meeting	
	6:30 PM Meal	

Unofficial