

North Star Township  
Regular Meeting  
January 13, 2020

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present except Bill Smith. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Brett Fidler moved to approve the agenda. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Ben Drowley was a visitor to our meeting.

He was observing a Township Meeting for a class in school.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the December meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$1,576.76 for General Fund, \$5,851.47 for Sewer Maintenance, \$1,127.44 for Cemetery General and \$11,017.25 for Fire Fund. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the Road Maintenance Contract from Gratiot County Road Commission for 2020. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.

BOR dates have been set:

Tuesday, March 10 from 9am – 3pm

Thursday, March 12 from 3pm – 9pm

Discussion took place regarding getting Internet at the hall to accommodate Elections and BOR sessions. We will look at this again next month. We need to install it before March.

- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Drowley, Clerk

North Star Township  
Regular Meeting  
February 10, 2020

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the January meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$12,037.47 for General Fund, \$2,356.33 for Sewer Maintenance, \$2,025.36 for Cemetery General and \$879.04 for Road Fund. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

**Website update:**

The website for North Star Township will be <http://www.northstartownship.com>

The registration cost for this domain will be \$30 per year.

The web hosting fee will be \$9.95 per month, billed on a yearly basis. (\$119.40 per year)

So, the cost per year of the web site will be \$149.40 per year.

The initial setup of the web site is estimated to be around \$250 total. This will be done by FMD Network (Eric McGill). North Star Township will be responsible for updating the website from then on.

**Hall Internet update:**

Heidi will check into Internet options for the hall.

- John Hardman moved to choose a plan with a cost per month of up to \$50. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heidi Drowley offered Resolution #2020-1, an Amendment to adjust North Star Cemetery Rates and Fees. The main reason for the amendment is to split up the weekend grave opening rates. Second by Bill Smith. Upon a roll call vote, the resolution passed unanimously. The split will be as follows:

**Grave openings** will be as follows:

**Adult/Child**

Weekday \$500

Saturday \$700

Sunday/Holiday \$1000

**Baby**

Weekday \$350

Saturday \$500

Sunday/Holiday \$700

**Ashes**

Weekday \$150

Saturday \$250

Sunday/Holiday \$500

- John Hardman offered a resolution to approve the 2020 Poverty Exemption Guidelines set by the State of Michigan. Second by Brett Fidler. Upon a roll call vote, the resolution passed unanimously.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Drowley, Clerk

North Star Township  
Regular Meeting  
March 9, 2020

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 9, 2020 @ 7:30PM at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the Budget Hearing to order @ 7:30PM. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 was presented and discussed. Heidi Drowley moved to close the Budget Public Hearing. Second by Brett Fidler. The Budget Public Hearing was closed @ 8:01PM. Supervisor called the regular meeting to order.

VISITORS:

County Commissioner Chairperson, George Bailey, was a visitor to our meeting. He wanted to update us on happenings at the County level and ask us if we had any questions.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$13,158.63 for General Fund, \$387.86 for Sewer Maintenance, and \$525.36 for Cemetery General. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the North Star General Appropriations Act. General Fund Revenues are estimated at \$180,055 and Expenditures at \$121,212. Cemetery General Fund Revenues are estimated at \$17,600 and Expenditures at \$24,800. Fire and Rescue Revenues are estimated at \$47,000 and Expenditures at \$51,381. Sewer Operating Revenues are estimated at \$105,800 and Expenditures at \$55,110. Roads Fund Revenues are estimated at \$154,000 and Expenditures at \$115,511. Second by John Hardman. Upon a roll call vote, the Act passed unanimously.
- Heidi Drowley moved to approve 2020-2021 budget amendments as presented. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the 2020-2021 Ithaca Fire amounts of \$34,896 and Ithaca Rescue amount of \$8,918. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the 2020-2021 Ashley Fire and Rescue amount of \$7,567. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the Brine contract with the Gratiot County Road Commission for 3 full applications in the amount of \$42,897, with an additional amount of \$500 for one application on the cemetery driveways to help hold it together. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the Gravel contract with Gratiot County Road Commission for 10 miles of gravel in the amount of \$56,880. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the Culvert Replacement contract with Gratiot County Road Commission for Dean Road in the amount of \$4,964. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley move to approve the Chip & Seal contract with Gratiot County Road Commission for Fillmore Road from State to Croswell. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman offered Resolutions to increase the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer salaries to \$10,000 per year. Second by Brett Fidler. Upon a roll call vote, the resolutions passed unanimously.
- Heidi Drowley offered a Resolution to place a renewal of the Fire/Rescue Millage proposal on the August ballot. Second by Bill Smith. Upon a roll call vote, the resolution passed unanimously.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted, Heidi Drowley Clerk*

North Star Township  
Regular Meeting  
April 13, 2020

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 13, 2020 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to approve the minutes from the March meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$2,795.94 for General Fund, \$338.58 for Sewer Maintenance, \$950.36 for Cemetery General and \$18,584.20 for Fire and Rescue. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heidi Drowley offered a resolution to set our Regular Monthly Board Meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7:30PM for fiscal year 2020-2021. Second by Brett Fidler. Upon a roll call vote, the resolution passed unanimously.
- John Hardman moved to renew the Sewer Maintenance contract with Jason Akers for fiscal year 2020-2021. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to renew the Assessor contract with John Hardman for fiscal year 2020-2021. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to renew the Brady Cemetery Mowing contract with Grant Reeves for the fiscal year 2020-2021. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to renew a contract with Stephanie Lamey as Hall Caretaker of the Township Hall for fiscal year 2020-2021. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to approve the mowing/plowing bids from Mow N Snow for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the Cemetery and the Township Hall properties. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried. Searles Lawn Care was offered a renewal on his contract to mow/plow at the Township Hall only, but chose not to renew with us.
- Heidi Drowley moved to renew the Grave Digging Agreement with Jeremy McAllister for the fiscal year 2020-2021. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to transfer \$100,000 from the General Fund into a CD with Isabella Bank. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to change the date due on the Sewer Statements from the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month due to the 30<sup>th</sup> of the due month. This will allow more time for residents to pay their bill without penalty. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.

Spring Clean-up will be set for Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 8am – 11am. Postcards will be sent.

- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township  
Regular Meeting  
May 11, 2020

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the April meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$3,758.39 for General Fund, \$357.11 for Sewer Maintenance, and \$2,892.96 for Cemetery General. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Spring cleanup has been postponed until later this summer due to COVID-19. In the meantime, we will do some research to see which trash service will be the best option for making trash day run smoothly and efficiently.

We may try having trash day on a Wednesday evening instead of on a Saturday.

NEW BUSINESS:

We would like to purchase new appliances for the hall kitchen. These appliances have been here since it's construction and are showing some wear.

- Heidi Drowley moved to research for a new refrigerator, electric stove and microwave for hall kitchen as well as purchase and have delivered. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township  
Regular Meeting  
June 8, 2020

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

County Commissioner, George Bailey was in attendance at our meeting to update the board on what's happening at the County level and offered to answer any questions we might have.

- Brett Fidler moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$20,874.55 for General Fund, \$1,210.27 for Sewer Maintenance, \$3,508.56 for Cemetery General, and \$70,667.17 for Road Fund. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

New appliances have been purchased and installed in the hall kitchen. Looking at having trash day early in the Fall. Hall rentals have been postponed due to COVID until the Governor allows more than 10 people inside a building for social gatherings.

Discussed again having some trees cut down @ the cemetery. Carman Tree Service currently has no crew. May have to find another Tree service.

- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township  
Regular Meeting  
July 13, 2020

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

County Commissioner, George Bailey was in attendance at our meeting to update the board on what's happening at the County level and offered to answer any questions we might have.

- Brett Fidler moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$1,858.50 for General Fund, \$2,697.26 for Sewer Maintenance, \$4,314.96 for Cemetery General, \$14,299.09 for Road Fund and \$10,953.50 for Fire/Rescue Fund. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stephanie has a few hall rentals lined up for the next couple of months. We will get some signage regarding the Executive Order requiring masks to post in the hall and ask renters to abide by the order set in place.

Discussed getting some other bids to cut down trees at the cemetery since Carman's is not available right now. Will look at bids at next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Hardman moved to have North Star Township become an Incorporating Municipality within the new Ithaca Area Fire Authority. We would pay property taxes to the Authority at a rate set by the levied millage of the Authority. The Authority would then contract with the other Fire Departments who have coverage within our Township. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
  
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Bill Smith. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township  
Regular Meeting  
August 10, 2020

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present except Supervisor John Hardman and Brett Fidler. Clerk Heidi Drowley called the meeting to order.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to approve the minutes from the July meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Nicole Whitmore moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$2,318.73 for General Fund, \$374.16 for Sewer Maintenance, \$2,530.96 for Cemetery General and \$879.04 for Road Fund. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Still checking on someone to cut down at least 4 trees in the cemetery.

- Heidi Drowley moved to adjourn. Second by Bill Smith. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*



North Star Township  
Regular Meeting  
September 14, 2020

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the August meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$15,425.44 for General Fund, \$592.25 for Sewer Maintenance, \$3,710.86 for Cemetery General and \$26,013.09 for Road Fund. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Carman Tree Service is scheduled to cut down 5 trees in the cemetery as well as 2 old stumps. The cost will be approximately \$8,000.

- John Hardman moved to amend the budget and approve this expenditure. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.

The annual Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 8am – 11am @ Cemetery. We will be using Discount Dumpster this year. They have given us a bargain @ \$475 per 30 yd dumpster. They will have 3 dumpsters @ the Cemetery by 7:30am and bring another one by 8:30am.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gary Parling wishes to put a headstone @ the Cemetery on a space which he believes to be his. His mother bought 4 spaces in a plot in 2006. The deed for the spaces is in her name. The only proof we have that he is to be buried in one of those spaces is his name penciled into the former sexton's Cemetery book. Gary's mother now has dementia and is unable to tell us her wishes for the spaces. Her guardian is Gary's brother, Thomas.

- John Hardman moved to have Mr. Parling contact his brother Thomas and obtain a notarized letter giving him permission to be buried in the space noted in the book. Without this notarized letter, we do not feel it is in the best interest of the Cemetery to allow the placing of the headstone. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township  
Regular Meeting  
October 12, 2020

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 12, 2020 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present except Nicole Whitmore and Brett Fidler. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the September meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore (prior to meeting). Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$4,512.75 for General Fund, \$653.98 for Sewer Maintenance, \$3,382.15 for Cemetery General and \$10,953.50 for Fire Fund. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Stephanie from Mow & Snow was a visitor to our meeting. She came to discuss the mowing of the cemetery. They mow another cemetery and have greater expectations there and feel we need to mow and weed whip more often. We do not want to do a weekly mowing at the Cemetery, it would be way to costly. They are going to work on a bid for next year which can be presented to us in two different ways...a monthly rate for the year and a per mowing/trimming rate.

OLD BUSINESS:

The annual Clean-up seemed to go well. Dumpsters were there the night before, which seemed to work out well as we were busy. However, we'd like to make a few changes next year. We'd like to encourage residents to get out and dump their own trash and limit the loads brought to one truckload size load as well as encourage trash being bagged and not loose. Discount Dumpster was also extremely slow about getting all the dumpsters removed from the Cemetery. As of meeting date (two days after clean-up), there were still dumpsters there. People were still bringing in their trash.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Hardman moved to make budget amendments as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to enter North Star Township into the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Ithaca and other surrounding townships to form a Fire Authority. Seconded by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
  
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township  
Regular Meeting  
November 9, 2020

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Brett Fidler moved to approve the agenda. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Tracy Cordes, County Administrator, was a visitor to our meeting. The purpose of her visit was to discuss and answer any questions the Board had on adopting a Blight Ordinance, Intergovernmental Agreement for Blight Eradication in Gratiot County, and the Interlocal Agreement for Gratiot County to approve a Designated Assessor.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bill Smith moved to adopt a Blight Ordinance for North Star Township for the purpose of preventing, reducing or eliminating blight or potential blight. Second by Heidi Drowley. Upon a roll call vote, the Blight Ordinance passed unanimously.
- John Hardman moved to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement for Blight Eradication Services in Gratiot County. Joining with the County is Wheeler, North Star, Elba & Fulton Townships. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to enter into an Interlocal Agreement for Gratiot County to Approve Kathy Roslund as the Designated Assessor for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025. Public Act 660 of 2018 requires a county to have a Designated Assessor on file with the State Tax Commission as of December 31, 2020. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the October meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$2,384.45 for General Fund, \$315.33 for Sewer Maintenance, \$2,135.49 for Cemetery General and \$879.04 for Road Fund. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

All Board members took an Oath and were Sworn in for 4 years.

- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township  
Regular Meeting  
December 14, 2020

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 7:30pm virtually by ZOOM. All members were present except Bill Smith. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- John Hardman moved to approve the agenda. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
- Brett Fidler moved to approve the minutes from the November meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$29,615.76 for General Fund, \$5,602.27 for Sewer Maintenance and \$208.85 for Cemetery General. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Hardman moved to donate up to \$3,000 to the Ithaca Fire Department for 2 radios. Second by Brett Fidler. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to pay \$14,606.65 for the Drain @ Large. This payment is over-budget but includes payoffs to several drains so we would be saving interest. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to make budget amendments as presented which includes increasing Drain @ Large amount to include payoffs. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*