

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
January 9, 2023

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 9, 2022 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present except Bill Smith. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

County Commissioner George Bailey was present at our meeting. He gave us a brief update on County activities.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the December meeting as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
- Nicole Whitmore moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$2,960.24 for General Fund, \$5,272.48 for Sewer Maintenance and \$3,070.94 for Cemetery General. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

In further discussion of the use of Invoice Cloud, the board decided to discontinue the use of their services following the Winter tax season. This service has not proven cost effective. We will put a notice on the website that this service will be discontinued as of March 1, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

DTE has submitted a Solar Application to the County for a project within a small portion of North Star Township – 200 acres.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
February 13, 2023

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the agenda. Second by Nicole Whitmore. 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.
- John Hardman moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented prior to the meeting by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$6,948.19 for General Fund, \$1,387.21 for Sewer Maintenance, \$2,020.48 for Cemetery General and \$879.04 for Road Fund. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heidi Drowley moved to renew the Gratiot County Road Commission Maintenance Contract for 2023. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to set the Budget Public Hearing for Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:30pm. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman offered a Poverty Exemption Guideline Resolution for 2023. Second by Bill Smith. Upon a roll call vote, the Resolution passed unanimously.
- Nicole Whitmore moved to approve the Budget Amendments as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

BOARD OF REVIEW will be:

Monday, March 13 from **9AM – 3PM** and **Wednesday, March 15** from **3PM – 9PM**

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
March 13, 2023

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the Budget Hearing to order. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 was presented and discussed. John Hardman moved to close the Budget Public Hearing. Second by Bill Smith. The Budget Public Hearing was closed. Supervisor called the regular meeting to order.

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

County Commissioner George Bailey was present at our meeting. He gave us a brief update on County activities.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the February 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 Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$15,579.03 for General Fund to include an increase to Board of Review salaries to \$400 Gross pay, \$859.77 for Sewer Maintenance, and \$1,544.44 for Cemetery General. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Hardman moved to approve the North Star General Appropriations Act. General Fund Revenues are estimated at \$212,130 and Expenditures at \$138,064. Cemetery General Fund Revenues are estimated at \$30,400 and Expenditures at \$33,700. Fire and Rescue Revenues are estimated at \$10,000 and Expenditures at \$0. Sewer Operating Revenues are estimated at \$100,200 and Expenditures at \$55,843. Roads Fund Revenues are estimated at \$172,600 and Expenditures at \$145,700. Second by Bill Smith. Upon a roll call vote, the Act passed unanimously.
- John Hardman moved to approve Budget amendments as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to approve the following Gratiot County Road Commission contracts for 2023-2024:
 - Chloride contract for 4 full applications in the amount of \$67,977.80
 - Gravel contract for 9.70 miles of gravel in the amount of \$74,205Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley to hire Yeo & Yeo to complete a required bi-annual audit for fiscal year ending March 31, 2023 for a fee of \$9,650 plus additional fees for other auditing services. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.
- John Hardman offered Resolutions to increase the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer salaries to \$11,000 per year and maintain the Trustee salaries of \$1,260 per year plus \$20 per meeting. Second by Heidi Drowley. Upon a roll call vote, the resolutions passed unanimously.

SPRING CLEANUP DAY – is scheduled for the first Saturday in June which this year will be: June 3rd from 8am – 11am.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS – In looking for ways to better invest the Township's excess monies, the Board discussed transferring excess funds into Savings Accounts at Isabella Bank with a current interest rate of 4.5%. We will look into the possibility of cashing in current CDs with lower interest rates and depositing into the higher interest rate Savings accounts. Other investments options were discussed but the Board is in agreement that this is the best option for North Star Township.

- John Hardman moved that Heidi Drowley and Nicole Whitmore are to be the Authorized Signers on the North Star Savings Accounts at Isabella Bank. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Bill Smith. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Heidi Drowley Clerk

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
April 10, 2023

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

County Commissioner George Bailey along with members from the Cemetery Advisory Committee were present. The Committee voiced concerns regarding the spring clean-up done at the cemetery. They also thought that previous suggestions they had given to the board had been acted on and were in place because they never heard back from anyone. The board apologized for not getting back with them but that no changes had been made to the cemetery rules that were adopted in 2021. The board will contact the mowing company regarding spring clean-up. One committee member asked what the cemetery's fund balance was when the board took over in 2010 and what the fund balance is now. The earliest fund balance found was in June of 2012; \$11,124 and the current fund balance as of March of 2022 is \$49,731. Our last Cemetery General Fund CD of \$14,067 was cashed in during the 2014 fiscal year.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the March 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 Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$3,010.02 for General Fund, \$434.23 for Sewer Maintenance, and \$1,320.44 for Cemetery General. 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 2023-2024. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Upon a roll call vote, the resolution passed unanimously.
- Heidi Drowley moved to renew the following contracts for fiscal year 2023-2024:
 - Sewer Maintenance contract with Jason Akers
 - Assessor contract with John Hardman
 - Hall Caretaker contract with Stephanie Lamey
 - Grave Digging & Foundation contracts with Jeremy McAllister
 - Brady Cemetery mowing contract with Grant ReevesSecond by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

After a lengthy discussion, the board agreed that the cemetery ordinance will be enforced going forward to the best of our ability. Suggested changes to our rules given to us by the Cemetery Advisory Committee will not be implemented as the board feels that they would not allow the mowing company to properly mow and trim the cemetery, and that our current rules are required to keep the cemetery maintainable, presentable, and safe for all involved.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Drowley, Clerk*

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
May 8, 2023

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

County Commissioner George Bailey was present at our meeting as well as Colton Moon.

- 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 prior to the board meeting. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$6,671.74 for General Fund, \$1,065.12 for Sewer Maintenance, \$2,020.48 for Cemetery General and \$17,873.49 for Roads. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

Some discussion took place regarding the cemetery. The mowers mowed it today and will mow it again in two weeks prior to Memorial Day Weekend. Veteran flags will also be put up in two weeks and left until first of September as we did last year. The smaller building and Port-A-Jon have been torn down and electricity disconnected.

- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Bill Smith. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Drowley Clerk

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
June 12, 2023

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

County Commissioner George Bailey was present at our meeting as well as Sheila Keck.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting.. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore prior to the board meeting. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.
- Bill Smith moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$2,174.28 for General Fund, \$441.71 for Sewer Maintenance, \$3,493.41 for Cemetery General Fund. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the proposal from KCI to print, sort, and mail tax bills for summer taxes for a fee of \$1,004.70. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to adopt the Consumer's Energy Gas Franchise Ordinance. This Ordinance is good for 30 years. The Ordinance must be published in full. Consumer's will reimburse us for this expense. Second by John Hardman. Upon a roll call vote, the Ordinance passed unanimously.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Drowley Clerk

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
July 10, 2023

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 10, 2023 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present except Bill Smith. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

County Commissioner George Bailey was present at our meeting. He informed the Board that there will be a Tire Disposal – County wide on September 16th at the Alma Fairgrounds.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore prior to the board meeting. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$27,185.89 for General Fund, \$800.03 for Sewer Maintenance, \$5,518.67 for Cemetery General and \$74,205 for Roads. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- John Hardman moved to accept a proposal from Korey Hall to wrap headers & hang white metal on ceiling of the Pavilion for \$1630.31. Second 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
August 14, 2023

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 14, 2023 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 Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

County Commissioner George Bailey was present at our meeting. He brought flyers to the Board for the Tire Disposal – County wide on September 16th at the Alma Fairgrounds.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the July meeting. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to accept the treasurer’s report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore prior to the board meeting. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$11,759.73 for General Fund, \$3,980.70 for Sewer Maintenance, \$3,371.67 for Cemetery General and \$17,873.49 for Roads. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Bill Smith moved to approve the Budget Amendments as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to adopt a Resolution to begin Master Plan efforts as part of the Gratiot Countywide Master Plan efforts. This Master Plan must be reviewed every five years. Second by John Hardman. 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
September 11, 2023

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023 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.

VISITORS:

County Commissioner George Bailey and Craig Goward were present at our meeting.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the August meeting. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore prior to the board meeting. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.
- Danielle Wolfe moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$15,334.15 for General Fund, \$433.80 for Sewer Maintenance, \$2,279.67 for Cemetery General and \$16,994.45 for Roads. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Heidi Drowley moved to adopt a Resolution to establish the Gratiot County Vote Center as an early voting site for all Elections held within North Star Township. Second by John Hardman. 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
October 9, 2023

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 9, 2023 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present except Nicole Whitmore. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

County Commissioner George Bailey was present at our meeting.

- Bill Smith moved to approve the minutes from the September meeting. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore prior to the board meeting. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$1,538.03 for General Fund, \$858.22 for Sewer Maintenance and \$1,291.67 for Cemetery. 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
Special Meeting
November 1, 2023

The North Star Township Board held a special meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 3:00PM at the North Star Township Hall for the purpose of discussing the Constellation Wind Turbine Tax Appeals.

- John Hardman moved to give MREC and Clark Hill authority to pursue other settlement options in regards to the Constellation Wind Turbine Tax Appeals. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley made a motion to approve a payment of \$397.40 (estimated postage) as a downpayment to mail the 2023 Winter Tax bills for Treasurer, Nicole Whitmore. Second by Danielle Wolfe. Motion carried.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Drowley Clerk

North Star Township
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2023

The North Star Township Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:30pm at the township hall. All members were present except Bill Smith. Supervisor John Hardman called the meeting to order.

- Heidi Drowley moved to approve the agenda. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Several residents and guests were in attendance. Topics of discussion included the Solar farm, the County Master Plan, and the sewer system.

- John Hardman moved to approve the minutes from the October regular meeting and the special meeting from November 1, 2023. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.
- Danielle Wolfe moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Nicole Whitmore prior to the board meeting. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Nicole Whitmore moved to pay the bills for the month as presented in the amounts of: \$4,938.36 for General Fund, \$1,574.79 for Sewer Maintenance, \$4,464.47 for Cemetery and \$17,873.49 for Roads. Second by Heidi Drowley. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Danielle Wolfe moved to approve the Budget Amendment as presented by Clerk Heidi Drowley. Second by John Hardman. Motion carried.
- Heidi Drowley offered to amend the Emergency Money Allowance/Limited Bill Approval Resolution to include Printing & Mailing Services & Foundations. Second by Nicole Whitmore. Upon a roll call vote, the amended resolution passed unanimously.
- The Board discussed the remaining four (4) CD's we have left. Everyone agreed to transfer three (3) out of the four (4) CDs to the appropriate savings accounts to benefit from the higher interest rate of 4.5% as compared to 0.945% the CDs currently receive. In addition, Heidi Drowley is to be added to the remaining General Fund CD (xxx0693) if she isn't already on it.
- John Hardman moved to adjourn. Second by Heidi Drowley. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Drowley Clerk