Presiding Officer Statement Regarding Holding Meetings via Telephone or Other Electronic Means

As the Chairperson and Presiding Officer for Ravenna Township, I find as follows:

a. The spread of COVID-19 within the United States has raised serious public health concerns and resulted in a great deal of uncertainty since much remains unknown about the virus and how it spreads.

b. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization determined the outbreak constitutes a pandemic. On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national state of emergency as a result of the pandemic.

c. On March 13, 2020, Governor Tim Walz declared a state of peacetime emergency to address the coronavirus pandemic in the State of Minnesota.

d. The Minnesota Department of Health has provided specific guidance encouraging the limiting of events that do not allow social distancing of six feet per person, which is not practical to achieve in the meeting room.

e. Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.021 authorizes towns to meet by telephone or other electronic means in the case of a health pandemic or when an emergency has been declared if the presiding officer, chief legal counsel, or chief administrative officer determines meeting in person is not practical or prudent. The statute also allows these officers to determine it is not feasible to require any members or staff to be present in the meeting room during a meeting.

f. Given the uncertainties associated with COVID-19 and its spread, conducting in-person meetings is not practical or prudent, and it is not feasible to require any member or staff to be present in the meeting room during the meetings. The Town's goal is to slow the spread of COVID-19 within the Town and holding meetings via telephone and electronic means allows the Town to accomplish this goal while still conducting the Town's business.

Based on the above findings, I hereby determine and state as follows:

1. Until this statement is terminated due to the end of the pandemic or the Governor's emergency declaration, Town Board meetings and, to the extent they are held, commission and other Town meetings, shall be conducted by telephone or other electronic means in a manner satisfying the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.021.

2. The meeting rooms will not be open to the public to attend the meetings.

3. Members, the chief legal counsel, and the chief administrative officer are not required to be present in the meeting room during meetings.

4. Before each meeting, notice will be provided regarding how the public may listen to or view meetings as they are being conducted.

5. All votes occurring at the meetings shall be conducted by roll call.

Dated this 26 day of March 2020.

Carl Reuter, Chairperson