

**SHELDON TOWNSHIP
HOUSTON COUNTY**

A resolution requesting that the temporary HAVA exemption for township elections, granted by the State of Minnesota, be made permanent.

WHEREAS the Federal Government passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) in 2002 in an effort to better accommodate as the Federal Government saw fit, disabled voters in federal election; and –

WHEREAS in 2004 the State of Minnesota extended the requirements of HAVA to cover all local election; and –

WHEREAS while there is Federal and State funding available to assist in the purchase of assisted voter machines, optical scanning vote tabulation equipment, training and associated election costs for the 2006 general election in November, this funding will not cover the ongoing yearly costs to operate, store, maintain and program this technology as well as the additional costs of conducting accuracy tests as well as the required notices of such tests, nor does this funding cover the on-going yearly costs of purchasing the more expensive ballots required to operate on such equipment; and –

WHEREAS the programming costs alone to maintain such systems could run several hundred dollars to perhaps over a thousand dollars a year per Township, and there may be other, yet unforeseen costs associated with such systems; and –

WHEREAS it is cost-prohibitive for Townships to use these systems for the Annual Township Elections held in March each year, given the generally modest voter turnout for these elections and thus a very high per-capita cost, and for this reason the State did grant Townships a temporary exemption from HAVA for Township elections, with such exemption expiring on December 31, 2007; and –

WHEREAS the justification for granting the temporary exemption has not changed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sheldon Town Board does hereby request that the State of Minnesota make permanent the HAVA exemption for Townships noted herein, and if not, to provide on-going funding to operate, store, maintain and program the HAVA mandated equipment for all future elections, including the March Township elections.

By roll call vote: Supervisor Happle yes, Supervisor Runningen absent, Supervisor Unnasch yes, this resolution is adopted this 9th day of February, 2006.

Attest: Sherry Jergenson
Sherry Jergenson, Township Clerk

Approved: Burdette Unnasch
Burdette Unnasch, Board Chairman