

TOWN OF SCHROEDER

Minutes for Regular Board Meeting on February 11, 2025

Present: Supervisors Bruce Martinson, Tina McKeever, Cathy Johnson; Treasurer Carla Menssen; Clerk Amy Brugge, Commissioner Ginny Storlie (via Zoom), Fire Chief Phil Bonin, EDA Director Heidi Krampitz (via Zoom) and Residents of Schroeder.

Supervisor T. McKeever suggested amending agenda to place the budget before the Fire Department Report and to include furnace quote update to Town Hall section.

C. Johnson motioned to approve the agenda as amended. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

A typo was identified in the January 14, 2025 meeting minutes. The Fire Department report should be amended to state the fire department roster includes 10 volunteer members, not 12.

T. McKeever motioned to accept the amended minutes for the January 14, 2025 Regular Meeting. C. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - reported by Treasurer C. Menssen for January 2025
Disbursements = \$6,520.53 Receipts = \$114,413.76 Total Financial Assets = \$506,770.20

T. McKeever moved to accept the treasurer's report and approve claims presented of \$12,075.53 paid by checks #5947 - #5976 (voided check #5954). C. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Later in the meeting during the Town Hall report, an additional claim of \$3,650 was presented and approved by Board. At that time, T. McKeever motioned to amend the approved claims to \$15,725.53 paid by checks #5947 - #5977 (voided check #5954). C. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

West End Lodging Tax – no new lodging tax to report

EDA Director Heidi Krampitz – Heidi began her role with the EDA approximately three months ago. She provided an update on the strategic planning process for the Taconite Harbor site. There is an intent to hire a professional facilitator to assist in the execution of a three-phase plan that will consist of stakeholder meetings with a SWOT analysis, a data gathering phase, and then site planning. Heidi stated that she cannot be definite in regards to timeline, but that the EDA intends to begin the process as quickly as possible. There will be an EDA meeting at 4pm at the Courthouse on February 18, 2025.

Commissioner Storlie's Report – Commissioner Storlie recognized Tina's request for County's Emergency Manager to attend a town meeting either for the regular monthly meeting in March or May. Supervisors expressed that they would prefer the May option. Also provided an update on the open county administrator position. There were 41 applicants, selected 8 finalists, and the County Commissioners have now narrowed down to 4 individuals who will be invited to interview on March 5, 2025. Individuals are welcome to attend on 3/5 to watch the process and recordings will also be available afterwards. There was also a public meeting related to the sub-district of Caribou Lake, as there has been an increase in invasive species around the lake, which will require an increase in due structure to finance their removal.

Budget – Treasurer C. Menssen presented the 2025 budget with an amendment that \$22,000 of the Road & Bridge funds have a line item dedicated to the planned flood mitigation work for the Sugar Loaf Road.

T. McKeever moved to approve the 2025 Budget as follows: General-\$55,000, Road & Bridge-\$45,260 (with line item dedicating \$22,000 to mitigation work for Sugar Loaf Road), Cemetery-\$2,000, Recreation-\$8,000, Fire Dept.- \$30,000 (includes \$4,000 loan payment), Rescue Squad-\$10,440 2025 Total: \$150,700. C. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department Report – Held meeting with volunteer firefighters last night. Chief Bonin noted that there were a few false calls recently, but otherwise quiet. Trucks continue to look good and are still trying to decide what to do with old airpacks. Considering sending old airpacks overseas, as there are several challenges associated with resale in the country. Experienced challenges logging into PERA, but has confirmed that the benefit level approved in 2024 was now reflected in the fund. New gas card was received from the bank. Chief Bonin announced his retirement, which will be effective on April 1, 2025. The Board of Supervisors thanked Chief Bonin for his 23 years of service as chief.

Road & Bridge Report – C. Johnson discussed signage on the Sugar Loaf Road, both the desire to fix the one sign that is bent and then provided a review of possible new signs regarding curves. The Board determined that she should proceed with obtaining desired signs and the town will then proceed with a contractor placing those when spring road restrictions signs are put up. Board again confirmed that the Minimum Maintenance Road signs will be removed from the Sugar Loaf Road this spring. Residents inquired as to how to get speed limit signs on the Cramer Road and the Board directed them to contact the county to request, as the Cramer Road is a county road, not the township's road.

B. Martinson reported that he signed off on administrative reimbursement from FEMA and reviewed the withheld portion from the state that will not be received until flooding mitigation work is completed on the Sugar Loaf Road this upcoming summer.

Cemetery – Nothing new to report

Recreation – It was determined that the mowing bids for township property needs to be re-opened this spring. A bid notice will be placed in the Cook County Herald with bids due back by April 4, 2025, so that they can be reviewed during the regular April meeting. T. McKeever will notify the current contractor that the town will be accepting bids for the upcoming season.

Town Hall – T. McKeever communicated with contractor regarding quote for furnace updates. The quote for updating the air exchange is for \$7,252.75. The contractor is requesting 50% up front in order to start the work prior to other summer projects and then receive remaining payment upon completion. C. Johnson requested that the contractor provide an approximate start week. T. McKeever will deliver payment directly to the contractor.

B. Martinson motioned to accept the quote for \$7,252.75 for furnace updates and approve the advance payment of \$3,650. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Land Use Plan Committee – The next committee meeting will be Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 6pm at the Town Hall with an option for individuals to join via Zoom. Board members discussed strategies to best facilitate committee member and public attendee discussion.

Other Business

MAT Annual Meeting Report – B. Martinson provided an overview from his attendance of the MAT Annual Meeting on December 13 & 14, 2024. Was able to meet the district representative, attended a seminar on updates to paid leave regulations in the state, and had discussions with others about MATIT insurance coverage. Also attended a seminar on solar power and learned about solar arrays and the associated tax revenues for counties and townships. Reported to the Board that there will be a MAT dues increase for 2027 (from \$270 to \$310), as there hasn't been a MAT dues increase since 2013. There were also MAT votes related to the association taking steps to support universal cell phone coverage in underserved areas (resolution passed), efforts to promote an increase in funding for rural emergency medical services (resolution passed) and supporting efforts to promote efficiency in the rural postal system (resolution did not pass).

Review of 2025 ballot – the board was provided a sample of the 2025 election ballot to review.

C. Johnson motioned to approve the 2025 Township election ballot. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Annual Meeting Agenda – Board requested that the Land Use Plan Committee be added to the Annual Town Meeting agenda.

PERA Updates – Clerk report that PERA still has not sent a bill for their calculation of omitted deductions from 2024.

Correspondence

Sent – W2s & 1099-NECs, MATIT Worker's Compensation Survey, MN State Auditor Local

Government Lobbying Report, 2024 Report of Indebtedness to County, Minnesota Benefit Association Renewal & Updated Member List

Received – N/A

Public Comments – N/A

T. McKeever moved to adjourn. C. Johnson seconded the motion. Adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Brugge, Clerk