

TOWN OF SCHROEDER

Minutes of the Annual Meeting March 11, 2025

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 8:01 PM by Clerk Amy Brugge.

Clerk led the 12 people in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk asked for nominations for a Moderator. Phil Bonin was nominated by Cathy Johnson. Carla Menssen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Moderator Phil Bonin took over the meeting.

Tina McKeever motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Gregg Westigaard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ginny Storlie – County Commissioners recently met with members of the Minnesota state legislature in St. Paul; items discussed included funding for infrastructure. Reached out to Senator Hauschild's office to request a town hall in Cook County. Sheriff Eliason would like for County officers to be outfitted with body cameras. Attorney Peterson supported the request. Investing \$50K for 14 body cameras. Taconite Harbor Strategic Plan meetings – references EDA Director Heidi Krampitz and Bruce as leaders on that. Tomorrow interviewing 2 candidates for County Administrator, public is allowed to participate in-person or view online. Rowan Watkins has been doing double-duty. Mike Keyport will join Ginny Storile

Cathy Johnsn moved to approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting. Tina McKeever seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Carla Menssen provided the annual treasurer's report. The beginning balance in 2024 was of \$333,291.95; receipts of \$273,655.47; disbursements of \$208,070.45; creating an ending balance of \$398,876.97 on December 31, 2024.

Road & Bridge Report (Supervisor Bruce Martinson) – A summary was provided regarding the FEMA money obtained in relation to the 2024 flooding event and what will be held as a line item for flooding mitigation work on Sugarloaf Road.

Cemetery Report (Supervisor Bruce Martinson) – The gate was damaged this fall when a tree fell on it, requested it will be back in place mid-May. Insurance policy will cover the majority of the repair cost.

Recreation Report (Supervisor Tina McKeever) – Summarized items in 2024 for recreation which included continuation of the port-a-potty and the purchasing of a new garbage can for park.

Fire Department Report (Chief Phil Bonin) – 62 calls in 2024; 30 were wrong/cancelled; 3 fire, 6 vehicles, 16 medical, 7 miscellaneous. Elected a new chief – Cody DeWandeler as Chief Bonin will retire at the end of the month; new equipment purchased this year include airpacks. Has engaged in some conversation with Town of Tofte Fire Department about potential merger.

Rescue Squad Report (Chief Phil Bonin) – 86 calls in 2024 for Rescue Squad, 8 vehicle calls, 3 Tofte 5 in Schroeder; 63 medical (60%) in Schroeder

Gregg Westgaard moved to set the time for the next Annual Meeting to be 8:01 PM March 12, 2026, at the Schroeder Town Hall. Tina McKeever seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Cathy Johnson moved to set the Annual Election Poll hours from 5PM-8 PM for March 12, 2026. Skip Lamb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Phil Bonin was nominated as Citizen of the Year by Cathy Johnson. T. McKeever moved to cease nominations and a unanimous ballot was cast for Phil Bonin. Cathy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bruce Martinson moved to approve allowing the township to spend up to \$300 on awards in 2025. Cathy Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The 2025 Budget, which was approved by the Supervisors at the February 11, 2025 board meeting, was presented by Clerk Amy Brugge. Clerk: General - \$55,000; Road & Bridge - \$61,995 (includes line item of \$22,000 for flood mitigation work on Sugarloaf Road); Cemetery - \$2,000; Recreation - \$8,000; Fire Dept. - \$30,000; Rescue Squad - \$10,440; TOTAL - \$167,435 Estimated Receipts- \$167,435

Request for Support 2025 - Bruce Martinson suggested that there be \$1,500 for support of Tofte Fireworks

Bruce moved to approve the 3 requests for support as presented: Community Lunch Program at Birch Grove School - \$5,000; Timberwolves Sportsman's Club \$1,000; Tofte Fireworks \$1,500. Carla Menssen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a recommendation from the town board for the levy to be set at \$50,000. **Cathy Johnson made a motion to approve the levy at the \$50,000 level. Don McKeever seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Land Use Plan Committee Update (Tina McKeever) – Explained that we are at the end of the 10-year period for our plan, in 2-3 months we will hold a public meeting for residents to provide feedback; then goes to Planning & Zoning Commission. Neva Maxwell explained that the planning commission has a public meeting prior to making any recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

Citizen Concerns:

Bruce Martinson – Taconite Harbor Strategic Plan – EDA RFP on Tuesday at 4pm; Item of concern is: who reviews the RFP does not include anyone from township; sub-committee of 3 will be the only reviewers of proposal. Bruce will attend the meeting.

Skip Lamb - Road underwater at the bottom Fly Ash Road – recurrent flooding; presented copies of past letters to MNDOT

Skip Lamb motioned that the township request that MNDOT fix Fly Ash Road at mile marker 77.9 to make this a legal entrance to Highway 61. Gregg Westigard seconded motion; motion carried unanimously.

Skip Lamb presented the 1926 Red Pines Resolution to be sent to the Minnesota DNR.
Skip Lamb motioned to approve the resolution. Carla Menssen seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

Carla Menssen moved to adjourn. Cathy Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Brugge, Clerk
Phil Bonin, Moderator