

# TOWN OF SCHROEDER

## Minutes for Regular Board Meeting on February 10, 2026

Present: Supervisors Bruce Martinson (via Zoom), Tina McKeever, & Cathy Johnson; Treasurer Gordon Engstrom, Clerk Amy Brugge, Fire Chief Cody DeWandeler, Commissioner Ginny Storlie, & residents of Schroeder.

**C. Johnson motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of CD renewal in the Treasurer's Report, 2026 firefighter pay rates in Fire Dept Report, and the Cook County SS4A Task Force and a FEMA update in Road & Bridge. B. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**C. Johnson motioned to approve the January 13, 2026 meeting minutes. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Engstrom reported that a \$42,000 CD is maturing and requested signatures to redeem it. He provided an overview of how the board's financial reports are now laid out differently due to the transition to Quickbooks. The board reviewed and complimented Treasurer Engstrom on how the new reports are easier to read. Treasurer Engstrom reviewed the proposed 2026 budget and discuss the projected allocations across accounts/funds with board.

Disbursements = \$7,282.73    Receipts = \$2,644.62 + \$399.67 in interest  
Total Financial Assets = \$435,069.34

**C. Johnson motioned to accept the treasurer's report and approve claims presented of \$15,188.70 paid by checks #6199 - #6219. B. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**West End Lodging Tax** – December was not available at this time

**Commissioner Storlie** – The Cook County Board of Commissioners held their annual reorganization meeting the first week of January and she was re-elected as Chair and Commissioner Mills was elected as Vice Chair. Commissioner Storlie reported that the county will transition to a .gov website in July. Recently there was a SGSD town hall to gather the public's opinion on how to move forward with SGSDs in the county. She provided updates about personnel changes at the county level, as Neva Maxwell will become the new Director of Land Services as current director is retiring. Commissioner Storlie also presented on Cook County's NOAA Regional Climate Resilience Challenge Grant, which is currently in Year 2, which is focused on community engagement and research & planning. Additionally, she provided updates on the potential sale of the golf course and the county's plan to potentially loan funds for septic and irrigation work. C. Johnson inquired if Commissioner Storlie had any updates on

the approval process for the county's hazard mitigation plan, and the response was that no updates are available at this time, but hopefully it will be completed in the next few months.

**Fire Department** – Chief DeWandeler reported that there were 4 calls this past month; 3 were false alarms and 2 motor vehicle accident. There was review of current volunteer firefighter pay rates and a proposal to increase it for 2026. Current pay rate is \$10 per meeting and \$15/hour for calls. The board reviewed the PERA benefit level, which is \$2200 per member per year of service. The board tabled the firefighter pay rate discussion until their April re-organization meeting and requested that Chief DeWandeler provide data about pay rates across the other townships in the area.

**Road and Bridge** – Cook County SS4A Task Force is requesting a participant from the township on this committee which will discuss county roads and safety plans on a quarterly basis. T. McKeever agreed to be the township's representative to the committee. Board discussed that winter snowplowing has been very good so far across roads and at the town hall. B. Martinson provided an update on the closeout of the FEMA project within the portal and Treasurer Engstrom confirmed that the final payment was received from the state.

**Cemetery** – There was one inquiry on the purchase of a cemetery lot.

**Recreation** – No updates at this time

**Town Hall** – The board discussed the current status of the front door and need for repair. Supervisors will think about potential contractors to reach out to for estimates about replacement.

**Taconite Harbor Strategic Plan Update** – Clerk Brugge provided an update from the January 28, 2026 Advisory Committee meeting in which committee members presented their vision of what the site could become in the future. There was a wide range of visions presented and the consulting group will now devise two visions that may be feasible for the site and discuss those with the committee in the next meeting, with the hope of presenting those visions to the public later this spring.

**MNDOT Hwy 61 Corridor Study** – MNDOT will be holding an open house at the Schroeder Town Hall from 5:30-7:30pm on Thursday, February 26, 2026. There will also be a Community Advisory Committee meeting earlier that afternoon and a Technical Advisory Committee meeting at the Tofte Town Hall on Friday, February 17, 2026. MNDOT met with Clerk Brugge last week to review and discuss all waysides along the corridor as part of their research. B. Martinson will be having a call with Brad Scott regarding Fly Ash Road in the 2027 Hwy 61 project.

**Other Business:**

**2026 Board Meeting Schedule** – the board reviewed the 2026 meeting schedule, noting that November’s meeting will need to be held on the second Monday of the month, as the second Tuesday is Election Day and the second Wednesday is Veteran’s Day.

**T. McKeever motioned to approve the 2026 Schroeder Board of Supervisors Meeting Schedule. C. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**2026 Election Judges** – Carla Menssen, Madysen McKeever, Amy Brugge, and Deidre LaRock-Muggley (alternate) are all willing to serve as election judges

**T. McKeever motioned to approve Carla Menssen, Madysen McKeever, Amy Brugge, and Deidre LaRock-Muggley as 2026 election judges. C. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Appointment of Deputy Clerk** – Madysen McKeever is willing to serve as a deputy clerk and assist with the Annual Meeting given that Clerk will be assisting two townships simultaneously on that day.

**T. McKeever motioned to appoint Madysen McKeever as deputy clerk. C. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**West End Emergency Planning Meeting** – C. Johnson reported on the January meeting of the West End Emergency Planning group and informed the board that the group is considering holding an open house event in August and would like to have the fire departments participate/do demonstrations. Currently discussing dates, food options, and will be meeting again later in the spring to firm up details.

**2026 Funding Requests** – Received one funding request thus far and expecting additional requests from Toft. The board tabled decision on funding requests until the March meeting.

#### **Correspondence**

Sent – MATIT Worker’s Compensation Audit, W-2s, W3, & 1099 NEC, 2025 Lobbying Report to State Auditor

Received – N/A

#### **Public Comments** – N/A

**C. Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by T. McKeever. Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Brugge, Clerk