

TOWN OF SCHROEDER

Minutes for Regular Board Meeting on March 9, 2026

Present: Supervisors Bruce Martinson, Tina McKeever, & Cathy Johnson; Treasurer Gordon Engstrom, Clerk Amy Brugge, Fire Chief Cody DeWandeler, & residents of Schroeder.

C. Johnson motioned to approve the agenda with the additions of Taconite Harbor Strategic Advisory Committee update, FEMA update under Road & Bridge, and treasurer position in the Treasurer's report. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Johnson motioned to approve the February 10, 2026 regular meeting minutes and the 2026 Board of Audit meeting minutes. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Engstrom reported on the minor MN Paid Family Leave reconciliation issues within Quickbooks. He had also met with Jennifer Yeary about serving as the new treasurer for Tofte and reported that she also expressed interest in serving Schroeder.

Disbursements = \$7,806.28 Receipts = \$7,115.43 + \$957.10 in interest
Total Financial Assets = \$435,285.59

T. McKeever motioned to accept the treasurer's report and approve claims presented of \$9,690.72 paid by checks #6220 - #6227. C. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Johnson motioned to approve the appointment of Jennifer Yeary as deputy treasurer subject to an approval for external employment from her current employer. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Storlie – N/A

Fire Department – Chief DeWandeler reported that there were 2 calls this past month and both were motor vehicle accidents. Has fitted and ordered new turnout gear for department members and currently awaiting an invoice of approximately \$28,000. New helmets had previously been ordered last year, and boots & gloves will be needed in 2027. Chief DeWandeler will be submitting the PERA Annual Service Credit certification to MN PERA this month. The board continued its discussion around reconsidering volunteer firefighter department wage rates and Chief DeWandeler gave comparisons from Lutsen's fire department. The board intends to re-visit the topic during their April reorganization meeting.

Road and Bridge – B. Martinson reiterated the closeout of the FEMA project related to the 2024 flooding event within the federal portal.

Cemetery – Another tree has gone down in the cemetery. Chair Martinson will communicate with contractor about its removal and clean-up.

Recreation – No updates at this time

Town Hall – The board discussed potential contractor options for replacement of the town hall's front door. Chair Martinson will contact individuals about a potential spring project to both replace the front door, including keyless entry, and external entry options for the fire emergency door on the backside of the town hall. While discussing the emergency exit doors to the deck, it was noted that there should be updates to the snow removal contract for next winter to include shoveling of the deck to allow the doors to open fully in the event of an emergency.

Taconite Harbor Strategic Plan Update – Clerk Brugge informed the board that the February committee meeting was cancelled to the blizzard/power outages across the area. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2026.

MNDOT Hwy 61 Corridor Study – Board members discussed the MNDOT open house held at the Schroeder Town Hall on Thursday, February 26, 2026. There are not yet dates for future Community and Technical Advisory Committee meetings, but MNDOT has indicated there will be more to come in early summer, including an additional open house meeting.

Other Business: West End Emergency Planning Meeting – Owen Fifield from the American Red Cross was not able to attend to discuss emergency planning topics. C. Johnson reported the West End Emergency Management group intends to convene again in May to discuss a summer community event.

2026 Funding Requests – The following funding request will be brought to the 2026 Annual Meeting: \$5000 for Senior Lunch; \$1500 Tofte 4th of July Celebration; \$500 Superior Timberwolves Sports Club; \$5000 Schroeder Area Historical Society (SAHS). Board members noted concerns that the SAHS request does not meet current criteria for township funding support articulated in state statutes.

Correspondence

Sent – MN State Fire Aid form

Received – N/A

Public Comments – N/A

C. Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by T. McKeever. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Brugge, Clerk