

# TOWN OF SCHROEDER

## Minutes for Regular Board Meeting on April 14, 2026

Present: Supervisors Bruce Martinson, Tina McKeever, & Horace Lamb; Treasurer Gordon Engstrom, Deputy Treasurer Jennifer Yeary, Clerk Amy Brugge, Fire Chief Cody DeWandeler, Commissioner Ginny Storlie, Lutsen Deputy Clerk Sharon Hexum-Platzer, & residents of Schroeder.

**T. McKeever motioned to approve the agenda with the additions of Turn Lane on Hwy 61 at Birch Grove in Road & Bridge, Taconite Harbor Strategic Advisory Committee update under new business, Lutsen Drone Project after Board Reorganization, and Treasurer laptop under treasurer report. H. Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**T. McKeever motioned to approve the March 9, 2026 regular meeting minutes. B. Martinson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Engstrom provided an update on the training of Deputy Treasurer Jennifer Yeary. There is a request for the extra township computer be assigned to the deputy treasurer and for the deputy treasurer be allowed to use it in her work for both Schroeder and Tofte. There were 4 checks (#6228-6231) voided this month due to printing errors. There was discussion across the board about obtaining a credit card that allows for a greater balance across both township and fire department purchases. During the report H. Lamb inquired about the change from the 2026 budget and the 2025 budget around the amount allocated to payroll taxes, as the 2026 amount appeared to be half of the 2025 amount. Treasurer Engstrom was unsure if it was due to separate accounts being used or if it was an error, and stated that he would review and report back.

Disbursements = \$9,013.47    Receipts = \$31,670.00 + \$314.46 in interest  
Total Financial Assets = \$458,256.58

**T. McKeever motioned to accept the treasurer's report and approve claims presented of \$15,476.95 paid by checks #6232 - #6243, \$201.39 in ETF, and \$3,965.78 in payroll for a total of \$19,644.12. H. Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**T. McKeever motioned to approve Jennifer Yeary to use a township computer in the role of deputy treasurer for Schroeder & Tofte townships. H. Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**T. McKeever motion to approve the transfer of \$10,000 from GMSB to NSFCU to establish a credit card with NSFCU. B. Martinson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**West End Lodging Tax** – No new numbers for 2026 available at this time

**Board Reorganization & 2026 Wage Rates** – current committees and wage rates were discussed among board members.

**T. McKeever motioned to approve B. Martinson as Vice Chair, T. McKeever as Chair, and organize township committees as follows; Road & Bridge – B. Martinson & T. McKeever, Cemetery – B. Martinson & H. Lamb, Recreation – T. McKeever; Town Hall – H. Lamb. B. Martinson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**T. McKeever motioned for Cook County News Herald to remain the official publication and for the posting sites to remain the Schroeder Post Office, Town Hall Bulletin Board, and the Schroeder Township website. B. Martinson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**T. McKeever motioned for the polling place to remain the Schroeder Town Hall. seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**T. McKeever motioned for the Town depository to remain Grand Marais State Bank and the North Shore Federal Credit Union and Charles Schwab for investments. B. Martinson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**T. McKeever motioned to require 3 signatures for banking activity with the following individuals authorized as signatories: Bruce Martinson, Tina McKeever, Horace (Skip) Lamb, Gordon Engstrom, Jennifer Yeary, Amy Brugge**

**T. McKeever motioned to authorize Jennifer Yeary on the Charles Schwab investment accounts. H. Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Wage Rates**

**T. McKeever motioned to approve 2026 pay rates of \$25/hr for election judges; \$30/hr for the roles of Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Supervisors, Fire Chief, & Park Waste Removal; \$40/hr for contracted labor; \$100 per meeting for officers; and Volunteer Firefighters at \$25/hr when on calls and \$15 per meeting. H. Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Lutsen Drone** – Deputy Clerk Sharon Hexum-Platzer presented information about Lutsen’s planned purchase of a drone for fire and rescue purposes. She provided an overview of their grant-writing activities thus far to support the project. Lutsen has already raised enough to order the drone, which has now arrived, and support the first year of the 3-yr contract. Next week three individuals will be completing training in the Twin Cities to be licensed to pilot the

drone. Lutsen would now like to request funding from Schroeder, as the drone would be used in mutual aid requests. Fire Chief DeWandeler recommends that this request be supported at whatever level it can.

**B. Martinson motioned to approve a funding request of \$2500 for Lutsen's drone. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Commissioner Storlie** – Commissioner Storlie noted that during the Tofte Annual Meeting residents requested more information about vacation rentals and so Andrew Beaver from the county will be presenting information during Tofte's regular board meeting on Thursday, May 14 at 7pm. Commissioner Sullivan, Administrator Trebil-Halbersma, and Highway Engineer Robert Haas all testified before the state legislature this week regarding funding for paving the final miles of Gunflint Trail, which is estimated to be \$8-10 million. Commissioner Storlie also noted that Craig Horak of Tofte has completed his licensing course to be a septic installer, and then explained that the county has passed a modified fee structure for septic systems with the first system set at \$500 and \$200 for each additional system. Finally, she provided an overview from a recent meeting of the North Shore Forest Collaborative and its discussion of prescribed burns and re-forestation plans.

**Fire Department** – Chief DeWandeler reported that there were 0 calls in the month of March, but mutual aid was provided with the recent fire in Lutsen. The department is planning its Pancake Breakfast on July 4. Charlie Muggley has stepped down from serving as treasurer for fire department's general funds and 4 other members have been designated to conduct banking activities. New gear has been ordered and has not yet shipped. The Cook County Emergency Management Conference will be held May 1-2, 2026. Chief DeWandeler noted that the department still has not yet received the 6 AEDs it was supposed to get with the grant program Jane Eide had assisted with last year

**Tofte EMS Agreement** – the board reviewed the current agreement sent from Tofte for the contracting of rescue squad services over a three-year period.

**T. McKeever motion to approve the 2026-2028 Rescue Squad agreement with Tofte Township at the rate of \$12,000 per year. S. Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Road and Bridge** – Two residents reached out about water building up on Sugarloaf Road due to possible frozen culverts. B. Martinson reached out to Curt Laboda to have him check on it. There was discussion on the Fly Ash Road and the plans for the 2027 resurfacing project.

MNDOT has indicated that there is potential to put a 50-foot paved skirt at the entrance to Highway 61.

**Cemetery** – B. Martinson would like to complete a cemetery audit this spring and do some surface leveling and re-seeding. H. Lamb will follow up on the gate repairs and would like to do something to enclose the water tank, perhaps attached to the timber framing. He will investigate possible community project options for the water tank enclosure.

**Recreation** – Park garbage pick-up to resume mid-May as weather warms. Clerk Brugge will order the portable toilet for park. The mowing contract will continue at same rate. H. Lamb noted that residents have inquired about contacting the DNR about stocking walleye in Dyers Lake in addition to croppies & sunfish.

**H. Lamb motioned that he writes a letter to the DNR regarding walleye stocking on behalf of the board. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Town Hall** – B. Martinson will discuss with H. Lamb potential replacement of the front door.

#### **Other Business:**

**Schroeder Short Stop Liquor License Renewal** – Annual liquor license renewal up for review

**T. McKeever motioned to approve the renewal of the Schroeder Short Stop liquor license. H. Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Website Update** – Clerk Brugge reported that she still has not completed an application for a .gov domain name, as the federal government is currently not accepting applications due to the shutdown of Homeland Security. She will continue to provide updates as she monitors the Cybersecurity agency's website.

**Taconite Harbor Strategic Plan Update** – Clerk Brugge updated the board on the 2 visions presented by the consultant group during the March meeting of the advisory group. A Powerpoint summary of the two visions is available on the EDA website. The next meeting on April 22 will cover implementations strategies for the 2 visions. There is intent to hold an open house in June at the Schroeder Town Hall, but a date has not yet been determined.

**Birch Grove Hwy 61 Turn Lane** – H. Lamb discussed the concept of having a turn lane added to Highway 61 as part of the 2027 Mill & Overlay project. Fire Chief DeWandeler discussed his committee role on the technical advisory group and belief that the current plans do not include the turn lane, but that it is under consideration for the 2035 plans.

**T. McKeever motioned to that the Schroeder Board of Supervisors recommend to MNDOT the addition of a turn lane off of Highway 61 into Birch Grove as a matter of public safety. H. Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**2026 Funding Requests** – The following funded requests were discussed by the board.

**\$5000 for Senior Lunch - S. Lamb motioned to approve \$5000 to Tofte for the community senior lunch program. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**\$1500 Tofte 4<sup>th</sup> of July – T. McKeever motioned to approve \$1500 for the Tofte 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. S. Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**\$500 Superior Timberwolves Sports Club – T. McKeever motioned to approve \$500 to the Superior Timberwolves Sports Club. S. Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**\$500 West End Garden Club – T. McKeever motioned to approve \$500 to the West End Garden Club. S. Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**\$5000 SAHS – table by T. McKeever motioned to table the consideration of this request until the regular May meeting of the board. S. Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried.** There was continued discussion around Minnesota Statutes regarding township funding of requests related to historical societies and it was determined that more research is needed and that the board should consult with the Minnesota Association of Townships.

### **Correspondence**

Sent – 2025 Financial Report to MN State Auditor, 2026 Q1 MN Unemployment Wage Detail Report, 2026 Q1 MN Paid Family & Medical Leave Wage Reports

Received – N/A

### **Public Comments** – N/A

**T. McKeever motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by H. Lamb. Meeting adjourned at 9:42pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Brugge, Clerk