

Girard Township

Regular Monthly Meeting – MINUTES

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 – 6 p.m., Town Hall

Website: (www.girardtownship.us)

Chairman Al Pedersen opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag at 6:10 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Al Pederson and Larry Estes, Treasurer Kathy Trites, and Clerk Debbie Irmen

Absent: Road Maintenance Worker Will Luhning

Visitors: Road Engineer Jeff Stabnow

Estes moved to accept both the Tuesday, March 18, regular meeting minutes and the organizational meeting minutes from the same date, both held at the Girard Town Hall, as presented. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Treasurer Trites presented the March financial report showing beginning fund balances in the General Fund: \$104,159.29; Road and Bridge: \$487,905.55; ARPA: \$14,705.83; Special Revenue: \$28,676.15; Fire Fund: (\$66,572.88); Ambulance Fund: \$54,109.22; Special Assessment: \$24,094.26; Capital Projects: \$122,868.80; and Equipment: \$234,500.44; for a total of \$1,004,446.66 The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

Estes moved to approve the April claims as presented/audited, totaling \$1,702.26 (With the approval of the Henning Ambulance request, total April claims is \$9,970.26); payroll for Estes, Grewe, Irmen, Jacobson, Luhning (2), Pedersen, and K. Trites, and any additional claims that may be presented at this meeting. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The clerk read thank you notes from the Battle Lake Food Shelf and BL Rec Program for donations made to those programs from the Annual Meeting. She also noted that the Lake Region Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be Thursday, April 24, beginning with dinner at 5 p.m. dinner, with the meeting to follow at 6:30 p.m., at Life Church, Fergus Falls

Reports/Information

Roads and Equipment – Luhning was unable to attend the meeting. The clerk shared that he had told her he had cleaned out the area that is scheduled to be spray insulated later in April and was working on cleaning up the back of property. He also shared that he hadn't heard back from the company to pick up the metal waste.

Clerk's report – The clerk attended the Short Course Training March 31, in Mahanomen where she learned that MAT is proposing a dues increase. The vote will be taken at the 2026 Spring Short Courses with implementation to begin in 2027. Also, dues notices will be sent out in August now, though payment will still be due in January. Pledge sheets were sent out for the Walk for Glendalough for anyone interested; The clerk submitted information for reimbursement from Otter Tail County gopher in the amount of \$849.00 and received the check in March. The MN Association of Townships is sponsoring a Braver Angels workshop planned in

Fergus Falls at no cost. The workshop is about managing difficult conversations. While the event is offered at no charge, it would cost the township mileage and time for the clerk to attend. Estes moved to approve the expenditure for the clerk to attend. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire meeting – Pedersen noted that the vote on the new Battle Lake Fire and Rescue truck is planned at the upcoming Thursday, April 17, 2025, meeting.

New Business

Estes moved to approve an expenditure from Henning Ambulance requesting a contribution of \$8,268.00, toward remounting the patient compartment of the ambulance on a new truck chassis, saving more than \$100,000.00, and to pay it from the Ambulance Fund, which has a balance of \$54,109.22. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Pedersen moved to approve a conditional use application sent by Justin Gartner, with Buell Consulting Inc., on behalf of Verizon Wireless, requesting a permit to construct a 195-foot Cell Tower, on condition of receipt of the CUP application fee. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Vertical Bridge will build the tower on land owned by Lutheran Island Camp Foundation Inc., with an estimated cost of \$250,000 and a planned start date of July 1, 2025. There have been no changes since the original permit request. Vertical Bridge will build and own the tower, with Verizon as the initial tenant.

Following a request from a resident of Coney Island Road for Girard Township to take over maintenance, Pedersen moved to deny the request because the road doesn't meet Township standards. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lacking enough information to make a decision, the supervisors took no action on vacation of a cul-de-sac on El Will Road.

The clerk reported having received a texted notice of resignation from Supervisor Brad Grewe just prior to the meeting. She also noted that she had received a phone call in January from township resident Blaine Larson, who typically moderates the annual meeting, inquiring about the election filing process. He also indicated he may be interested in running for an open supervisor's position in the future. The clerk was asked to contact Mr. Larson to assess his present interest.

Old Business

The clerk reminded the supervisors about the spray foam insulation project. Eric Olsen of Spray Tech Solutions added Girard to his calendar for April 28. Between the hall and the shop, he said it would take him 3 to 4 days. She noted that she had received his Certificate of Insurance. She will call Larry and Al for an inspection upon project completion so she can release his final payment.

A couple of clarifications/corrections were made to the Air Compressor ad put together by the clerk. It was suggested that she put it on Facebook Marketplace, which is free, before placing the ad in a newspaper. Because the cost of the compressor falls below the \$25,000 threshold which would require sealed bids, the sale is to the buyer who pays the asking price of \$5,000.00.

The presentation with Chelsey from Henning Ambulance is scheduled at 7 p.m. during the May 20, 2025, regular meeting. It will be publicized in the newspapers of record and put on the township website. The board will have an hour to conduct business prior to the presentation.

The clerk noted that approval to move forward with an Electronic Newsletter for township residents hadn't been approved at the last meeting because she was conducting further research regarding postal costs. Postcards are less expensive at .56 cents vs. .73 cents for a letter. She will also put the information on the township website, which is no cost, and it was also suggested she talk to Lake Association meetings often held in June or July. She will also look into that to determine when those meetings are scheduled. The clerk noted that initially, the project would require extra time and expense, but once all the groundwork was done, it would be much less time and expense intensive. Pedersen moved to approve the quarterly newsletter project and related expenses. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dates to remember

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 – Regular Township Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Girard Town Hall

Thursday, April 24, 2025 -- Lake Region Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting, 5 p.m. dinner (5:30 p.m. dinner at Satellite locations-Frazee), 6:30 p.m. meeting at Life Church, Fergus Falls

Friday, April 25, 2025 – Board of Equalization Meeting, 9:30 p.m. at Girard Town Hall

Friday, April 25, 2025 – Road Check meeting, beginning at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 26, 2025 – Walk for Glendalough

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 – Regular Township Meeting 6 p.m., with speaker Chelsey from Henning Ambulance at 7 p.m., at Girard Town Hall

Friday, June 6, 2025 – 4th Annual Energy Forum, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thumper Pond, Ottertail (light lunch served)

Saturday, June 14, 2025 – Glendalough Trail Center Grand Opening

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – Regular Township Meeting, 6 p.m., at Girard Town Hall

With no further business to discuss, Estes moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Al Pedersen – Signature on file
Chairman

Debbie Irmen – Signature on file
Clerk

Approval date: 05/20/2025