

Girard Township

Regular Monthly Meeting -- MINUTES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – 6 p.m., Town Hall

Website: (www.girardtownship.us)

Open meeting with the pledge to the flag

Present: Supervisors Al Pedersen, Blaine Larson, and Larry Estes, Treasurer Kathy Trites, Road Maintenance worker Will Luhning, and Clerk Debbie Irmen

Public Comment Period

- Visitors may address a topic for up to five minutes when the topic is brought up for discussion on the agenda.

Estes moved to approve the MINUTES from the regular monthly meeting held Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at the Town Hall. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report – Treasurer Trites presented the May financial report showing ending balances in the General Fund: \$113,844.87; Road and Bridge: \$613,416.14; ARPA: \$14,705.83; Special Revenue: \$30,176.15; Fire Fund: (\$57,126.89); Ambulance Fund: \$52,236.49; Special Assessment: \$24,094.26; Capital Projects: \$137,868.80; and Equipment: \$253,685.86; for a total of \$1,182,901.51. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

Larson moved to approve claims as presented/audited, totaling \$14,228.43; payroll for Estes, Irmen, Jacobson, Larson, Luhning (2), Pedersen, and K. Trites, and any additional claims that may be presented at this meeting. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports/Information

Luhning reported that gravel work was done, that a valve on the tractor was fixed, the electrical work in the shop was completed, and Fergus Power Pump had scheduled dust control application for the week of June 23. Luhning also noted that he had applied the dry dust control to Blackjack Drive as discussed at the May meeting.

Clerk Irmen noted that the District 9 Meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2025, will be conducted at the Cormorant Community Center in Pelican Rapids. She also reported that a property owner on Four Square Road called regarding dust control. She let him know that the application was scheduled, but with recent and upcoming rainy weather, dust should be limited until the dust control can be applied. She also handed out MAT membership cards.

Fire meeting – Pedersen had no report since the meeting is after the Township meeting this month.

New Business

Pedersen moved to approve the auxiliary approach application from Neil Grosse at 45408 Liberty Lane, Henning. The clerk noted that the application and security fees had been received. Larson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Pedersen moved to approve the Road Maintenance Worker Job Overview Description. Larson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pedersen announced his resignation from the Girard Township Board following the July 2025 meeting. Potential candidates were suggested. They should call the Clerk if they are interested. The appointed candidate will be given the oath of office at the end of the July regular meeting. A supervisor will be appointed to attend the fire meetings at the July meeting. There was no need to have a representative at the June meeting as there wasn't significant business scheduled.

An open house is planned for the Maple River-Cuyuna Transmission project. Should any of the supervisors wish to attend, they may see the clerk for the details.

Pedersen moved to approve two LREC underground electric lines permission requests on Chippewa Road – one to a new cell tower site, the other to a new shed. Larson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Estes moved to approve a Right-of-Way Sign Violation letter and that it be sent to Marlin Irons on Four Square Road. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Pedersen noted that dirt work and grass planting still needed to be completed before action could be taken on the Dosch approach project. Clerk Irmen will send an email reminder to Mr. Dosch and action will be taken at a future meeting.

Larson moved to approve the advertising of the air compressor in the Fergus Falls, Battle Lake, and Henning newspapers. Sealed bids will be accepted with the right to refuse. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted there is a tree stump in need of removal on 220th.

Mr. Bertelsen indicated he will go through the process to vacate a "paper road" so he can install a new Septic System on his property on Navajo Trail. He expects to bring a petition signed by eight property owners to the July Meeting.

With no visitors in attendance at the meeting, Road Maintenance Worker Will Luhning waived going into a closed session in order for the board to conduct an evaluation of his performance. The clerk provided an evaluation form to give the board a starting point for discussion. Supervisor Estes abstained from using the form and providing input for the evaluation. Overall, Supervisors Pedersen and Larson indicated that the RMW is doing a good job. Both indicated that Luhning should take part in additional training using either in-person or online options. Luhning agreed that he would do that. He also asked the board to consider increasing the amount of PTO he receives annually. The supervisors tabled the request until the July meeting pending additional research.

Following discussion, Pedersen moved to increase the RMW's wage by \$1/hour (raising it from \$31.00 to \$32.00) retroactive to May 2025. Larson seconded. Motion carried with a majority vote; Estes voted no to the increase.

Dates to remember

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

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 – Maple River-Cuyuna Transmission Project open house, 1-3 p.m., Bigwood Event Center, 925 Western Ave., Fergus Falls

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

Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025 – Cont. of Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m., followed by the Regular Township Meeting at 6 p.m., all at Girard Town Hall

Thursday, August 21, 2025 -- District 9 Meeting, Cormorant Community Center, Pelican Rapids (EOTC's Rep. Vance Bachmann, is up for reelection)

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 – Regular Township Meeting, 6 p.m., at Girard Town Hall

With no further business to conduct, Larson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman and Clerk signatures are on file.