

Girard Township

Regular Monthly Meeting -- MINUTES

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 – 6 p.m., Town Hall

Website: (www.girardtownship.us)

Chairman Blaine Larson opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag at 6 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Larson, Larry Estes, Treasurer Kathy Trites, Road Worker Will Luhning, Clerk Debbie Irmen, and Road Engineer Jeff Stabnow

Absent: Supervisor Peter Christianson

Several visitors were also in attendance.

Estes moved to approve the MINUTES from the **regular monthly meeting** held **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, at the Town Hall. The clerk noted that these should be approved as presented, even though a vote was determined to be invalid following research after the meeting. The October Minutes will provide the appropriate follow-up record. Larson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report – Treasurer Kathy Trites noted that the financials are off same as last month and will be corrected when the previously paid hours to Jacobson are reconciled. The ending balances for September were as follows: General Fund: \$114,728.66; Road and Bridge: \$378,763.63; Special Revenue: \$30,176.15; Fire Fund: (\$44,007.03); Ambulance Fund: \$52,236.49; Special Assessment: \$24,094.26; Capital Projects: \$137,868.80; and Equipment: \$253,685.86; for a total of \$947,546.82. The report will be filed for audit.

The clerk said that an incorrect TNT invoice from September was corrected to \$40.98 with TNT and paid.

Estes moved to approve the October claims, along with a claim for \$285 to Larry Kraeger for 57 gopher feet pairs for a Claims total of \$4,522.62, plus payroll for Christianson, Estes, Irmen, Larson, Luhning (2), and K. Trites. Larson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mail—LREC newsletter

Reports/Information

A. Roads and Equipment – Will reported he had about a day left of mowing and that the roads were ready for winter. He also said that the DOT inspection on the snowplow was completed and the plow is also ready for winter work.

B. Clerk's report – Larson said he would be completing the Board of Equalization training in the near future. The clerk presented information on a Variance hearing in Girard Township which required no action from supervisors. The East Otter Tail Association of Townships 2025 annual meeting, beginning with a free buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m. (Chicken, pork loin, and all the trimmings), with annual meeting immediately following dinner. Speakers: Karmen Tossett, election administrator, EOT SWCD, Otter Tail County Highway Department, MAT District 9 director Vance Bachmann, and County Commissioners. It is unclear who is able to attend. The clerk reported that emails are trickling in from residents regarding Girard Township Electronic

Newsletters, noting that she had received several names from the ad she placed last month. She also said that she had added the board to the list to receive the newsletter, along with the election judges. Kim Stammen was contacted to spray the town hall for bugs, which he did in late September. She hasn't received a bill yet. The Rental Store in Fergus Falls paid for the air compressor and picked it up shortly after last month's meeting. She also asked that she get back any documents requiring signatures following a meeting. It seems that some signed documents are not getting back to her.

C. Fire meeting – Blaine reported that the Fire Meeting usually scheduled for Thursday had been rescheduled and conflicted with the Township meeting in October. If the township concludes its business in time for him to attend the fire meeting, he will go.

New Business

Following a brief discussion, Estes moved to approve a request from Bruce Roeder (1-303-842-2271) to remove culvert at 45732 Killdeer Trail, Henning. Larson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The clerk will send a letter to the property owner to indicate the board's decision, with a disclaimer that should there be any problems in the future, the property owner is responsible.

After discussion, Larson moved to approved the filling in of a sloping ditch requested by Brian Keranen (218-255-4141) at 41697 Ukkelberg Drive. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken following discussion regarding a request for funding from Perham Ambulance and emails from Henning Ambulance that it serves all of Girard Township while Perham plays more of an assisting emergency role.

The clerk presented a Voter Account Allocation Agreement to allow the Otter Tail County Auditor/Treasurer to retain the township's share in the amount of \$140.62 of the state election reimbursement. The agreement is in effect until an amendment is requested by either party. Larson moved to accept the agreement. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Information was presented regarding a land sale by the DNR to resolve a trespass issue. An FYI, the township took no action.

Estes pointed out that he had asked Lakes Country Tree Service to remove trees in the ROW, per a previously approved motion which says that the service may be contacted to removed fallen trees as needed.

Larson moved to approve the Otter Tail County Winter Maintenance Agreement which allows the purchase of 200 yards of sand at \$51.34 per cubic yard and 10 yards of salt at \$153.09 per cubic yard from Otter Tail County to aid in winter snow removal. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Luhning noted that the township is only charged for what it uses and he will haul it from one of the convenient locations to the Townhall yard.

Sealcoating, traffic marking and signage agreements will be discussed in November. The township requests are due in early December.

On a related note, Road Engineer Jeff Stabnow discussed a Township Sign Report he had completed in 2012, in which all township signs and their locations were marked on a map. Some signs were removed as they were considered a hazard. Stabnow will update the report.

A request for a donation from the Battle Lake Pickle Ball Club was presented by Lori Kemmet. Action was tabled until the March annual meeting when donations are considered.

A request from the Battle Lake Lakes Area Community and Commerce for funding for events held throughout the year which benefit Girard residents and summer visitors was also tabled until the March annual meeting.

Larson moved to approve expenses relating to the annual conference in December, which will include hotel and event registration for Larson and Irmen, (the clerk will check with Supervisor Christianson to see if he can attend) and registration fees for the Clerk and Treasurer to attend training in November. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

The clerk shared findings on a request from Tonni Starkweather regarding the requirements for burial on lake property located at 23510 Co Hwy 5, Henning. (701-578-4236) Township zoning laws don't address this, but the clerk called a funeral home and learned that what type of burial is requested will determine what is possible. If burying a body, there are many regulations; if ashes, there are no limitations. The clerk passed on resource information and the resident will continue her research.

The supervisors called for a special meeting at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025, at 23929 Navajo Trail in Girard Township, to take action on Nate Bertelsen's road vacation request. The regular meeting will follow at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Estes stated that he hadn't heard anything regarding the culvert or beaver trapping results. Larson moved to approve contacting Dan Christianson to clean out the culvert. Estes seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Dates to remember

Thursday, October 28 -- East Otter Tail Association of Townships 2025 annual meeting, beings at 6:30 p.m. with dinner, followed by the meeting and director's election, at the Deer Creek Community Center

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025 – Regular Township Meeting, 6 p.m., at Girard Town Hall

Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 11-13, 2025 – MAT Annual Conference, St. Cloud's River Edge Convention Center

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

Larson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Blaine Larson
Supervisor

Debbie Irmen
Clerk