

2025 Township Highlights

Finances

- In August 2025, the 2026 levy was approved as follows:

General Rev. – 67,200.00

R & B -- 206,000.00

Fire -- 112,000.00

Ambulance 11,200.00

Equipment 33,600.00

For a total levy of \$430,000.00

Road Upkeep/Maintenance

- Performance Paving was approved to make asphalt repairs on several roads as identified during the annual Road Check in April. The cost of the work was \$154,748.00 (Note: \$65,072 was spent in asphalt repair in 2024.)
- Approximately 1,125.40 tons of gravel were laid at a cost of \$10,081.12
- 13,690 gal. of liquid dust control was applied on township roads at a cost of \$20,808.80 (14,525 gal. were applied in 2024 at a cost of \$21,642.) (Note: Leftover dry crystal dust control was applied to Blackjack Dr.)
- The restriping project was completed in July 2025 from 230th Street at County Road 5 and continuing to 440th Ave. to Liberty Drive to County Highway 16, which is about a 4-mile stretch of road. Cost of the project was \$33,105.22, which included \$936.81 in updated signage along the project route.
- A Seal Coating project for 2025 was completed from the end of Evert Townline Road and Girard Beach Rd and Garland Lane at a cost of \$32,168.41.
- An indirect road maintenance cost is managing pocket gopher populations. Girard Township paid six trappers a total of \$4,525.00 in 2025, of which Otter Tail County reimbursed the township \$905. Trappers are paid \$5/pair of feet which was increased in 2025. The county commissioners increased the rate of Township reimbursement to \$2 effective beginning in 2027.
- Girard Township spent approximately \$254,531.55 total in direct road repair. This excludes the cost of payroll, equipment repairs, inspections, basic equipment maintenance, and fuel costs.
- The Supervisors approved and filed a road vacation request for Nathaniel Bertelsen at 23939 Navajo Trail.

Purchases/Equipment (purchased and sold)

- An old piece of equipment, a Rand Air Compressor, that the township no longer used, was sold through sealed bid to Fergus Rental Store for \$4,500.00

Township Projects/Facility Upgrades

- Township Website continues to be updated. Minutes are current through January 2026. Additional information (notices, finances, photos, and other elements are still being considered for, and/or uploaded.) Notices of today's election, absentee ballot information, this annual meeting, and photos of noxious weeds requiring eradication, along with approach and building permit information and applications can be found at www.girardtownship.us. Let me know of anything else you think should be added.
- Spray insulation the rafters of the Town Hall, and the uninsulated portion of the shop, which included the overhead door, was completed, using the balance of the ARPA funds. Also installed was an overhead door opener, which included the necessary electrical wiring to support the opener.

Building/Approach Permits

- Approved 2 Building permits (Total approximate value of the projects: \$240,000.00)
- Approved 2 Approach permits

Elections/Board of Supervisors

- With the resignation of one supervisor in April and the retirement of another in July, two new supervisors joined the board – Blaine Larson and Peter Christianson -- both of whom are on the Township Election ballot for today's election, which starts at 5 p.m. Also on the ballot is the Township clerk.

Ambulance Concerns

- In May, supervisors and residents learned about issues creating an ambulance service crisis across the state, but especially in rural areas such as Girard Township. An upgrade to the Henning Ambulance, which serves all of Girard Township, is planned this year.

Ongoing Projects/Wish List

- Sorting, filing, and purging of Township records according to the State Records Retention Schedule is ongoing. Thank you to several election judges for their assistance in this project.
- The first electronic township newsletter was sent in early January and will continue on a quarterly basis. The next one is scheduled for distribution in early April. Let the clerk know of any content you'd like to see included. To receive a newsletter, send an email with your name to girardtwsh@gmail.com or use the sign-up sheet on the table.
- Refurbishing the Girard Town Hall sign
- Proposed Open House of the Town Hall site, equipment, and shop facilities