

Girard Township  
MINUTES -- Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 – 2:30 p.m.  
and ending no later than 4:30 p.m., at the Town Hall  
Website: ([www.girardtownship.us](http://www.girardtownship.us))

Present: Peter Christianson, Blaine Larson, Dave McRoberts, Sheryl Olson, Larry Estes, Keith Fleischauer, Jeff Stabnow, Kathy Trites, and Debbie Irmen.

Clerk Debbie Irmen called the Annual Meeting of Girard Township to order at 2:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Irmen then called for nominations for Moderator. Blaine Larson was nominated as Moderator. With no other nominations made, a motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to elect Blaine Larson as Moderator.

The moderator stated the purpose of the meeting was to do any business proper while the meeting was convened, with speakers limited to 5 minutes.

Following the reading of the previous year's annual meeting minutes, a motion, second, and unanimous vote was cast to approve the minutes.

Treasurer Kathy Trites read the Board of Audit Report, which was posted 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting, as required by State Statute.

The audit report showed ending fund balances as follows:

General Fund – \$125,195.56  
Road & Bridge Fund -- \$427,845.49  
Special Revenue Fund -- \$31,676.15  
Fire Fund -- \$6,395.02  
Ambulance Fund -- \$56,957.93  
Special Assessment Fund – \$24,094.26  
Capital Project Fund -- \$152,868.80  
Equipment Fund – \$267,850.10  
The total balance as presented is \$1,092,883.31

The clerk pointed out that the Fire Fund balance, which had showed a negative balance, is now showing a positive balance and that all earned interest will continue to be directed to the Fire Fund.

It was noted that levies are usually set at the Continuation of the Annual Meeting in August and that only those eligible to vote in the township election may act or cast a vote at this meeting.

There were no increases in the Tax levies for 2026, and were set at the Continuation of Annual Meeting in August 2025 as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Total</b>
Revenue	\$ 0.00	\$ 67,200.00
R&B	0.00	206,000.00
Fire	0.00	112,000.00
Equipment	0.00	33,600.00
Ambulance	0.00	11,200.00
Total	0.00	\$ 430,000.00

The clerk's report highlighted 2025 activity taken by the board in the areas of finance, road upkeep, equipment purchases/sales, township projects, building, and approach permits issued, ongoing projects. The report is filed as a part of these minutes.

The Supervisors Report and Road Report are available on the back table for anyone wishing to take a copy.

**General Discussion of Items of Concern.** (Note: This section can be used to allow residents to voice their opinions on any matter, but such input is only advisory. A time limit of 3 minutes is allowed per speaker. The board will consider any requests at its Organizational meeting scheduled on March 17, 2026.

Sheryl Olson spoke on behalf of the Battle Lake Pickleball Court Fundraising group saying that it is a project 2 years in the making and is located by the Battle Lake School, which will allow Physical Education classes to utilize the courts. The Pickleball group is also hoping to request a shed be built by the School Shop classes in the future. There are 4 courts, which has cement and fencing completed. Fundraising has brought in \$143,000 for the estimated \$170,000 needed for completion. At this time, the specialized coating for the courts is needed and will cost about \$2,300. The City of Battle Lake has made a donation to the project and will match any donations up to \$10,000.

The Supervisors will consider the request at its Organizational meeting March 17, 2026. A request presented by Sharon Casey, Battle Lake Business Association and the WOTC Fair will also be considered at that time.

The electorate moved, seconded, and approved the following motions:

- To authorize the town board to initiate specific road opening, vacation, or alteration process.
- To expend funds for a historical town celebration and/or a general community celebration or the 250th anniversary of the United States
- To allow the board to recognize retirees, volunteers, and/or special service efforts with a plaque or meal as desired up to \$500
- To pass "nuisance" ordinances;
- To fund an emergency service agency such as EMT's, first responders, etc.

FYI -- Tentative Levy -- Final Approval of the general levy will be conducted at the Continuation of Annual Meeting (see below date, time, and location.)

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to set the time of state elections from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and to set the location of elections at the Girard Town Hall, 25518 430<sup>th</sup> Ave., Henning, MN 56551

Regular meetings are approved and scheduled for the Third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., with special meetings scheduled at 5:30 p.m. prior to the regular meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved to set the next Annual Meeting time from 2:30 p.m. to no later than 4:30 p.m., and set the location at Girard Town Hall. The date is always the second Tuesday, which will be March 9, 2027. The Township Election will follow the meeting with polls open from 5 to 8 p.m., with the Board of Canvass convening at approximately 8:30 p.m. after the election.

Note: In case of inclement weather, the date for the annual meeting is one week later, on Tuesday, March 16, 2027, beginning at 2:30 p.m. with the Township Election to begin at 5 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the organizational and regular supervisors meeting will be one week later, at 6 p.m. on March 23, 2027. All meetings will be at the Girard Town Hall.

For a Township to make a donation, it must be for a public purpose and in the town's interest. Typically, Girard Township receives requests for donations, which the board determines if they are appropriate. The electorate determines the total amount the township can make to these entities. A motion was made, seconded to set the amount at \$2,000. A motion to amend the original motion was made, seconded and approved. A new motion was made, seconded and approved to set the amount of donations at \$2,500.00. Supervisors will determine each organization's donation amount.

Based on sign requests made in 2025 for instructional signs such as Dead End, No Outlet or Slow Down, Girard Road Engineer Jeff Stabnow shared that the MNDOT has determined that signage may cause more of a hazard than no signs.

A discussion was held regarding possible road work for 2026, the possibility of a Township Open House, and a potential switch to November Elections, which would require a change in the length of supervisors' terms from 3 years to 4 years. The Clerk and Treasurer positions would remain every two years in November. The Annual Meeting would still be the second Tuesday of March.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to continue the annual meeting until 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at the Girard Town Hall, to take action on a final levy amount and any other relevant business.

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Blaine Larson  
Supervisor

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Debbie Irmen  
Clerk

Approved: