Woodland Township Monthly Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Woodland Township Hall, Montrose, MN

Monday, July 14, 2025

5:30 PM

Meeting Attendees: Chair Gene Janikula, Dan Domjahn, Barry Pawelk, Paula LaVigne and Julie Marquardt

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by the chair at 5:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was made. MMS Domjahn, Pawelk. Motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the June 2025 Minutes. MMS Pawelk, Domjahn. MCU

Treasurer’s Report

LaVigne reported that $315,681.70 was received during the month of July. The approximate ending fund balance as of June 30, 2025, was $706,884.61. .

Motion Made by Domjahn with the correction of Great River Energy instead of Green River Pawelk seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Report. MCU

Claims

Claims in the amount of $ 342, 950.73 were presented to the Board. The total claim from June was decreased by $162,776.34 due to Nuss Truck and Equipment check number 9274 being voided out. The check was voided due to sales tax being applied to the invoice. Townships do not pay sales tax on road maintenance equipment. MMS by Domjahn, Pawelk to approve the claims (copy of claims attached).

Clerk Report

MMS to approve the Clerk’s Report by Domjahn, Pawelk. MCU

Committee Reports

Wright County Township Quarterly Meeting: Only one commissioner and none of the representatives or senators were present. They were not present due to local events. The sheriff, attorney and commissioner were present. The Wright County Township Association will host a meeting on Paid Family Leave. It will be held at Franklin Town Hall. The law office of Couri & Ruppe Law Office will be hosting the meeting.

Citizens Requests

Land Splits Property ID 220 000 344100: Jack Pearson and Todd Bartels (11595 Clementa Ave SW). Todd works for Pearson Brothers Construction Company. Jeff Stevenson the realtor on the project. They are looking for board support on dividing the land. They would like to section of the hanger and sell the remaining portion of ag land to Barfknechts. They have been tilling and planting it. They would like to purchase the land and continue to use it for agriculture.

Bartels has talked to the county; they can either approve or not approve. They will need a variance in order to approve it. They have two options they are looking into. The hanger will be private storage. There is one building entitlement. The preferred option is 2.6 acres, natural lot; They will keep the building entitlement with 2.6 acres. The county’s objective is to retain agriculture land. The property is currently zoned ag. It will leave the tillable land undisturbed. The airport will be decommissioned.

MMS by Domjahn and Pawelk to approve 2.6 acres parcel from the 44 parcel. MCU.

Conditional Use Permit Renewal

C. Bulera: Bulera was present at the meeting. She has paid for dust control, so therefore complying with her Conditional Use Permit. Bulera shared with the Board that the Woodland Flea Market will no longer be in operation at the beginning of 2026. MMS by Pawelk, Domjahn to approve C. Bulera’s conditional use permit for the remainder of the year. MCU.

Wright County Ordinance Change

 Ordinance Amendment Number 25-3: No motion

Old Business

Internet: The Clerk contacted Broadband MN out of Hutchinson, MN about internet service for the Township Hall. They quoted a monthly fee of $93/month with taxes and fees. The start up cost is $150.00. The plan speed would allow for internet calling. Both Domjahn and Janikula are both satisfied customers of Broadband MN. They haven’t had any issues while being with them. Domjahn mentioned the internet did go out for ½ day. He called and it was fixed in a timely manner.

The Board has requested the clerk contact Broadband MN about internet calling.

They would like to keep the same phone number for the hall.

A decision will be made at the August Meeting.

Culverts:

 J. Gallus Property ID: 220 000 282400: No change. Will look at this during the road tour meeting.

 Policy: Per 2020 Minutes when a licensed installer was included as part of the culvert requirements will be changed to registered state commercial excavator that is reputable and insured through the State of Minnesota. Along with no culvert can be placed into the township road right away. Any resident requesting a culvert be placed into the road right away must first attend a township meeting.

New Business

Montrose Fire Contract: Montrose Fire Department and Montrose City Council will be changing how they charge townships in 2026. The new structure will result in a rate increase for township residents. The amount will increase per parcel, but more mutual across the service area according to Montrose. They will use the property value and average number of calls in the township over the past 5 years. The projected amount for 2026 is $45,048.92 and could be increased. This is an increase of $17,923.92 from 2025.

Janikula didn’t agree with this new form of fire dues. Pawelk mentioned Winsted Fire Department has tried this approach for many years, but it hasn’t been implemented due to Townships not agreeing with it. Fire dues are set by the (Woodland Township) residents at the Annual Meeting and they can decide the amount.

It was decided to send a letter to the Montrose Fire Department stating Woodland Township is not in favor of the new structure and to invite the Fire Chief and also the Montrose Treasurer to the August Meeting to discuss the fire contract.

Mack Truck: Sales tax was taken off of the invoice. Townships don’t pay tax on vehicles used to maintain the roads.

Tow Master Schedule: The 2026 Mack truck will go into Tow Master before July 31.

Ditch Trash: Pawelk picked up someone’s burn pit, while Hilgers was gone for the weekend. He dumped it in his dumpster. This is the third one that he has cleaned up. Janikula do we want to reimburse him for pick up.

 MMS by Domjahn and Janikula to approve one hour pay at clerk hourly rate, Pawelk will need to turn in his hours to clerk for reimbursement. MCU.

Alternative Polling Location: per Wright County Elections Woodland Township needs an alternative polling location should the hall not be available for elections. Discussion mentioned Lake Ida School House or working with Victor Township. It was asked of the clerk to contact the clerk in Victor to discuss if working together would work for an alternative polling location.

Employee Report

Hilgers was not present. The clerk reported on his behalf.

Gravel has been hauled for the 2025 year. There has been 8,300 yards placed on township roads. Bjorklund hauled 3,726 yards. Gravel hauling went very well this year.

J. Meuleners would like 1 load of gravel with the truck and pup, D. Schmidt would like 4 loads with the truck and pup. MMS to allow both residents to receive gravel from the township by Domjahn and Pawelk. MCU.

J. Gallus culvert issue hasn’t been taken care of yet. Hilgers will work on it this month.

Road Tour dates July 28 or 29. The Board agreed to Monday, Jully 28 at 5:30 pm to hold a road tour to tour the township roads.

Wild parsnips are blooming in the township. Hilgers has sprayed 3 times. The County has sent an email that there are many areas of wild parsnips around.

The new Mack truck will go to TowMaster in Litchfield on Thursday, July 31. The Two Way radio was installed last week.

The radiator has arrived. K. Reinert, M. McCleary and Hilgers will try to install in the next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Julie Marquardt, Clerk