

Woodland Township Monthly Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Woodland Township Hall, Montrose, MN
Monday, August 11, 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 said.

Approval of Agenda

MMS Domjahn, Janikula to approve the agenda with the addition of Jay Sutherland. Motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the July 2025 and 2025 Road Tour Minutes. MMS Domjahn and Janikula. MCU

Treasurer's Report

LaVigne reported that \$2,296.93 was received during the month of July. The approximate ending fund balance as of July 31, 2025, was \$366,230.81. MMS Domjahn and Janikula approve the Treasurer's Report, while finding out the State of Minnesota deposit was for. MCU

Claims

Claims in the amount of \$ 19,318.55 were presented to the Board. MMS to approve the claims (copy of claims attached) by Domjahn and Janikula. MCU.

Clerk Report

Employee Handbook: Will be added to next month's meeting.

MMS to approve the election judge list for the primary election to be held on Tuesday, August 26 by Domjahn and Janikula. MCU.

MMS to approve the Clerk's Report by Pawelk and Domjahn. MCU.

Committee Reports

Pawelk attended the Winsted Fire Department meeting on August 11. He reported the dues for 2026 will be \$191.00. S. Salonek was present.

Montrose Fire Department: Jackie Heinz and Kevin Triplett were present to present to the Board about the proposed rate change. It will not be per parcel. The county is requesting a

fee for special assessments. Marysville, Montrose, Franklin date calls are through June. They are responding to calls...2020-28,17 calls through the end of June in Woodland Township.

Cost per entity: Marysville, Franklin, Woodland flat rate, not a huge raise in costs. The city has been absorbing the increase in the cost of running the fire department.

Market Value from Wright County for areas service. It gives them a total of the percentage we are 18.8% of the value. We are currently 14.8% of that. The City is 55% of the market value.

Five years of calls and total. We are averaging 10.2% of average calls in the last 5 years.

2026 Budget, general fund and capital expenses. 391,400 has to be covered with 35% market value 65% to call average. It is a weighed amount. It isn't 50-50.

The cost of fire fighting has gone up. Hose equipment has gone up, along with family paid leave. There is a savings account for the fire department. There are funds available to purchase items that are needed. The Montrose Fire Department has a plan in place to purchase items. Capital purchases are included the budget. They need to entice new firefighters also. They pay per call, not per hour. \$12.50 per call.

No full time staff. They are employed outside the fire department. The City Clerk handles their budget. The current rate for Montrose is \$175.00/parcel amount.

Janikula: Why are you changing? We pay for the fee. It is changing the value of a farm. It is no longer house/garage, and one acre pay fire dues. We aren't going to collect. City of Montrose will have to collect it. We would like them to re-evaluate the plan on how you are going to collect the dues.

Triplett: We are \$2.25 per parcel to charge for special assessments. That is the reason for the change. The city didn't want to parcel out their fee. They didn't want to pay the county to implement the special assessments. If the nuclear option the residents would lose fire protection. They would need to find a new fire department. If they did respond they will send a bill to the landowner. There is no statutory responsibility to respond to medical calls, just fire.

Janiklua the Township has to the end of November. We need to come to reasonable outcome, while a reasonable amount for the residents. If we don't have anything. Then we won't add it to the residents special assessments.

Heinz: They are trying to be equal with a percentage across the fire district. It will be \$273 per parcel.

Janikula would like it to be a house and one acre. How do we know that is the value the county gave Heinz.

Pawelk: What is market value?

Heinz: We will clarify what the market value.

Domjahn: That will be the first step to being on the same page.

Triplett: Trying time to be in the fire department.

Young: 2025 payment by parcel. 2026 new figures with using the old system. We go up 56% of the rates.

It will be added to the next meeting.

Citizen Requests

Cynthia Tussing: Property ID: 220 000 072400: Was not present. MMS to approve her conditional use permit of moving a single-family dwelling unit onto the property but must remove or convert existing home to storage by Domjahn and Pawelk. MCU

Austin Harwood: Property ID: 220 00 164301: Needs to be 130 feet from setback, the mound system is currently in the way. He would like to move it 90 feet from the center line. Woodland Dairy is 70 feet from the center line.

The Board recommended him to Wright County Planning & Zoning, along with the county engineer to approve. Then, return back to Woodland Township. MMS Janikula and Pawelk. MCU.

Jody Sutherland: Current driveway needs to be lower than the road. If any pavement is added to the driveway, it must be thinned to the road. Hilgers would like the edge back filled with black dirt.

Kelly Matson (Field Haven Kennels) Property ID: 220 000 324200: MMS to approve a two-year extension for Field Haven Kennels by Pawelk and Domjahn. MCU

Jack Pearson: Property ID: 220 000 344100: Need additional clarification from the county.

Old Business

Internet/Phone: If we use VOI calling, if the power would go out, and as a governmental department we should have battery backup. The Board would like to know how much it would cost? If the internet goes down, does it work. Can we make an internet call in the building? How can we have better cell phone service in the Township Hall? Can we have a

guest login on the internet? Clerk will look into these questions with Broadband and report back at the September meeting.

2026 Mack Truck: The other truck box color is silver. We can still change the color of box. No change.

Alternative Polling Place: The Board made a motion years ago to utilize the Knights of Columbus Hall in Waverly, Minnesota as the alternative polling place for Woodland Township.

Culvert Policy: Board would like to see the following added to previous culvert tentative policy plan: "If culvert work completed in road right away, Woodland Township has the right to remove the work at the towner's expense." "15-inch 40 feet culvert is the minimum required culvert." Clerk will update the policy and will continue discussion at the next meeting.

New Business

Centra Sota Propane Contract: MMS to contract 3,200 gallons of propane from Centra Sota at \$1.649/gallon by Pawelk and Domjahn. MCU.

Watertown Fire Dues 2026: The Watertown Fire Department dues had a reduction in dues. We had a refund of \$237.60. The Chief is working on his preliminary budget for 2026.

Operation Clean Up: Woodland Township needs to send a certified letter to the landowner with Minnesota Statutes they are violating. The Board decided not to move forward at this time.

Great River Energy Road Right Way: MMS to approve the road right of way for Great River Energy by Domjahn and Pawelk. MCU.

Employee Report

Tom & Sue Borrell: Driveway culvert will be going in. They will be putting in an 18-inch 40 feet culvert.

Ferman Culvert: Jared Otto, Wright County Agriculture and Drainage Coordinator, will put in hub and set elevation for new culvert. Matter will talk with them about the installation of the culvert. It will be next week (August 18), the water should be down.

Gravel: 8200 yards were put on the roads. Stockpiling now. Wants to be completed before Montrose gets torn up.

Petersons would look 2 loads with truck and pup.

2026 Mack is at TowMaster brought up end of July.

Brush spraying is completed.

Mowing will happen once stock piling is completed.

Commissioner Kirby :

Budget. In the middle, going department by department. 3 months ago 14-17% levy increase, no longer accurate. There is no accurate number. There will be a levy increase. The tax rate will go down if things line up correctly. The state was going to do cost shifts to the county. It was pushed back by Senator Hoffman. He serves 10 homes in Dayton. He is head of HHS Committee in the Senate.

Waiting for numbers on Big Beautiful Bill-2-3 years out. No one knows the impact it will have on the county.

French Lake Hwy Shop: Finalized end of July with a 4-1 vote. French Lake Township purchased it. Kirby voted against it. He believed it was charging residents twice. He didn't want them to pay for it twice.

County purchased soil and water building. 4-1 vote. It was over a million dollars in taxpayer money. Currently Wright County Soil and Water along with Department of Agriculture-FSA is renting it. There is no guarantee they will be there in future years. The goal is to sell it for more than the price Wright County paid for it. He doesn't believe in the government being landowners.

Hwy Shop-Waverly: old and outdated. They will build a new one, similar to the one in Maple Lake. The city of Waverly will be offered to purchase it first.

Road Work: When done in HL, then move to Waverly and Montrose. They are 3-4 weeks behind. Middle of August to start in Montrose. HWY 12 will be milled and paved. Waverly and HL more extensive work.

With no other business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Julie Marquardt
Clerk

