

Deerwood Township
Deerwood Township Annual Meeting
Deerwood Town Hall Building
March 11, 2025

Carol Pundt, Clerk, called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carol Pundt.

Present: David Gray, Amy Donovan, Josh Thompson, Carol Pundt, Scott Brix, Terry Fields, Judy Fields, Janice Rude, Jame Rude, Steve Goshey, Sheryl Goshey, Darren DeChaine, Jerry Hartl, Cara Hartl, Doug ? Roger Christiansen. Brian Vanhusen, Scott Brix, Eric Anderson, Judi Smith, Wendy Johnson, Tim Haas

A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by David Gray to nominate Scott Brix as moderator of the meeting. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by David Gray to approve the agenda. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Carol Pundt, Clerk, read the March 12, 2024, annual meeting minutes to those in attendance. A motion was made by David Gray and seconded by Josh Thompson to approve the annual meeting minutes. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Amy Donovan, treasurer, summarized the Township financial report. A motion was made by David Gray and seconded by Josh Thompson to approve the report as presented by Amy Donovan. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Amy Donovan reported to those in attendance she felt the Board was doing a good job with the Township funds. There was a question regarding investments. Presently Deerwood Bank holds all the monies for the Township through a checking and savings account. The monies need to be always available.

Road & Bridge Report: A written road report, which was prepared by Steve Reilly, was included in the agenda packet for review. Steve Reilly is always available to answer questions or concerns at 218-820-7211 or email him at deerwoodtownship3@gmail.com.

Discussion regarding Deer Trail: There will be a special meeting for the public on April 28, 2025, at 7pm at the Town Hall to discuss the approach to State Highway 6 and Deer Trail. The Township Board is planning on having Deer Trail paved after completion of the Catholic church building project. There will also be discussion regarding traffic concerns on Deer Trail.

A question regarding who is responsible for replacing culverts under driveways was asked. The landowner is responsible for replacing a culvert under a driveway. Roger Christiansen asked if Scott Brix would meet with him to look at the culvert under Oreland Mine Road. Scott Brix will also get suggestions regarding what to do with the surface of Orland Mine Road. One suggestion was not to tear it up, but to just patch it. Also, Beach Road is going to be patched when the asphalt plant starts up. Roger Christiansen also asked for a copy of the Road Supervisor's job description. As requested, Carol Pundt will make sure Roger receives a copy of the job description. Amy Donovan told those in attendance Steve Reilly has done a great job in requesting FEMA funds for storm disaster relief. In February the Township received \$17,442.75 from storm damage last summer from FEMA.

A motion was made by Roger Christiansen and seconded by Josh Thompson to approve the 2026 Levy for \$725,000.00, with the General Fund at \$30,000, Fire Fund at \$60,000, Town Hall Fund at \$25,000, the Road and Bridge Fund at \$500,000 and the Road and Bridge Bond Repayment Fund at \$110,000. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Township Board is trying to avoid borrowing money through a bond for road improvements. Every year a bond payment in the amount of \$114,000 is needed to pay for the costs to rebuild Nelson Road and Placid Drive. The bond is for 15 years which will end in 2032. Having the 2026 Levy at \$725,000 should give the Township around \$200,000 to pave Deer Trail in 2026 after the main completion of the Catholic church building project is completed.

Deerwood Bank was designated as the official depository for Deerwood Township at the annual Reorganization Meeting held on January 13, 2025.

The Crosby Courier was designated as the official Township publication with the Brainerd Dispatch to be used for emergency situations at the Township's January 13, 2025, Reorganization meeting. The official posting locations are the Deerwood Town Hall, Deerwood Post Office and Deerwood TruValu. Please check the township website for the Township Calendar of events/meetings at www.deerwoodtownship.org.

The day, month and time of the regular Township Board meetings are the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. unless it is a national holiday at which time the meeting will be held on the following Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by David Gray to hold the 2026 annual meeting at the Deerwood Town Hall starting at 6:30p.m. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Roger Christiansen and seconded by Eric Anderson for the Township to spend up to \$100 on recognition plaques for years of service for previous Township supervisors. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: Wendi Johnson requested a funding donation for the Jesse Hallett Memorial Library which is located in Crosby, MN and serves 384 active library card members in the Township which is around 16% of the voting residents. She told those in attendance donations range from \$200 to \$2,500. Most of the funding for the library comes from a City of Crosby levy. The library board is asking for donation funds to raise \$20,000 for operating expenses from the communities surrounding the City of Crosby. There was much discussion regarding the donation request. The Township is a member of the Minnesota Township's Association and is being advised not to donate monies. One of the stipulation interpretations in the State Statute for allowing Townships to donate monies to an organization is that the contribution must have a public purpose and be in the Town's best interest. The Board will be responding to the funding donation request at the April Board meeting.

A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by David Gray to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. All voted in favor of the motion.

Clerk

Moderator