

GOODWILL TOWNSHIP

St. Louis County, Minnesota
8025 Oak Narrows Road, Cook, MN 55723
www.goodwilltownship.org 218-660-0028

GOODWILL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING September 23, 2025 MINUTES

Present: Michael Finnegan, Paulette Finnegan, John Galazen, Rock Gillson, Chet Harkonen, Susan Harkonen, John Jordan, Wendy Jordan, Laure Maki, Steve Maki, Bill Michaelson, Pam Olson, Ross Polley, Margaret Ratai, Rachel Rushing, Marc Russell, Jill Scherer, Michael Simich, Jenny Stanaway, Joe Stanaway, Valerie Taitt, Pam Towle, Dwight Warkentin

Call to Order: Clerk Pam Towle called the Goodwill Special Town Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23, 2026 at the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade building located at 8025 Oak Narrows Road, Cook, MN and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Attendees were welcomed and the clerk stated the use of her recorder was only to assist in taking accurate minutes of the meeting.

Moderator Nominations and Election: Motion: I move that John Jordan act as **moderator of this special town meeting**, made by Dwight Warkentin, seconded by Rock Gillson. Hearing no other nominations for moderator. The majority vote was positive and John Jordan served as moderator.

Moderator: The purpose of this meeting is to provide a suggested 2025-2026 budget as a basis for discussion to propose the 2026 Property Tax Levy, to allow the residents to vote on their 2026 Property Tax Levy, and to allow the residents to set the time of the next Annual Meeting on March 10, 2026. Because this is a special town meeting and not an annual meeting, discussions cannot be outside the scope of the business posted and read.

Suggested 2025-2026 Budget: *This proposed levy includes June 2025 through December 2026. Reminder... the Levy is given to St. Louis County and they will come up with the final tax to be collected on Line 7 (City or Town) of the property taxes.* The 2025-2026 preliminary budget was presented by Bill Michaelson. The township was organized in June 2025, but won't receive any levy money until June 2026.

	2025	2026	Combined		
	BUDGET	BUDGET	2025+2026		
	Jun-Dec 2025				
GENERAL FUND 100 TOTAL	\$ 70,354	\$ 180,813	\$ 251,167		
ROADS FUND 201 TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 99,000	\$ 99,000		Proposed
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 70,354	\$ 279,813	\$ 350,167		Levy
			\$ 115,555	33%	\$ 350,000
Break out of General Fund					
Fire Department		\$ 46,000			
Ambulance Service		\$ 11,300			
Office / Mtg Rent FB	\$ 1,400	\$ 2,000			
				Cost per	
	Gravel:		MILES	Mile	
DNR subsidized	UT 8154 (Cedar Road)		0.6		
	UT 8195 (Niles Bay Forest Road)		2.9		
DNR subsidized	UT (Polly's Road)		0.22		
	UT 8160 (Randa Road)		1		
			4.72	\$ 8,000	\$ 37,760
	UT 8121 (old CR 422)		3.1		
	Paved:				
	UT 8151 (Oak Narrows Road)		4.5		
			7.6	\$ 8,000	\$ 60,800
					\$ 98,560

Approval of Proposed 2026 Levy:

Motion: To set the 2026 levy at \$350,000.00. Moved by Margaret Ratai, seconded by Rachel Rushing. The majority vote in favor with one vote opposed. The Motion Carries and will be submitted to St. Louis County.

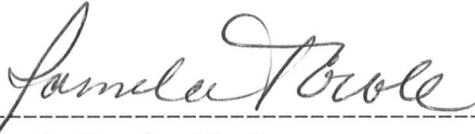
Set the Time for the Annual Town Meeting: Minnesota Statue does not allow a town meeting to be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. while elections are being held. **The date for the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled Tuesday, March 10, 2026, to be held at the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade Conference Room.** **Motion: Move to set the time for the Annual Meeting at 8:30 p.m.** moved by Rock Gillson, seconded by Dwight Warkentin. Discussion followed and the possibility for mail in with the procedure to apply for absentee ballot will be described on the website. A call for vote was made by Margaret Ratai, and the motion to call for a vote was passed by the majority. **The Motion to set the time for the Annual Meeting at 8:30 p.m.,** made by Rock Gillson, seconded by Dwight Warkentin was passed by the majority of votes.

ALTERNATE inclement weather date will be on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 8:30 p.m. at the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade Conference Room. The decision to postpone the meeting and election will be made no later than three hours before the opening of the polling place or the convening of the meeting, whichever comes first. This notice will be also posted on the Goodwill Township website.

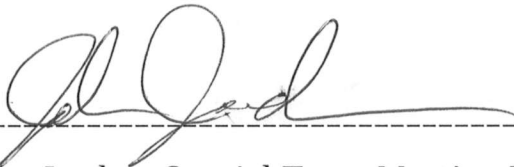
Announcements: Upcoming Meetings are posted in the new posting box on the road side on this building and secondarily on www.goodwilltownship.org .

Adjournment: **Motion to Adjourn the meeting**, made by Margaret Ratai, seconded by Mike Finnegan, the vote was favorable and the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pamela Towle", written over a dashed horizontal line.

Pamela Towle, Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Jordan", written over a dashed horizontal line.

John Jordan, Special Town Meeting Moderator