NORTHERN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – Monday, February 9, 2026, 6:00 p.m. Northern Town Hall, 445 Town Hall Road NW, Bemidji, MN.

PRESENT: Supervisors Jess Frenzel, Gary Barnard, Mike Kelly, Rhonda Dockendorf, and Curt Blumhagen. Administrator Chris Lahn, Treasurer Crystal Peterson, Road Supervisor Tim Vigen, and Clerk Mary Israelson.

MINUTES:
A motion was offered by Blumhagen, and seconded by Dockendorf, to approve the minutes of the January 26 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

VISTORS:
Lisa Boulay, asked if there had been any news regarding the Incorporation application, and there has not been. It is hoped that it will be any time.

NEW BUSINESS:
1. Vacant Planning Commission Seat – Clark Chambers has resigned his position on the Planning Commission, and a request was posted for interested candidates. Three have come forward; 1) Michael Granlund, 2) Brian Giauque, and 3) Joe Moosbrugger. An email endorsement was received for Michael Granlund. Brian Giauque was the only candidate able to attend tonight's meeting and he gave a short statement regarding his interest and history as a resident, noting that he has lived in Northern Township most of his life. A decision was made later in the meeting.

2. Fee Schedule (Resolution No. 2026–0204) - these fees were reviewed at the previous meeting and the suggested revisions were made and presented for review. Fees for Minor Subdivisions and PUD/CIC (No Public Improvements) were illuminated, along with language for escrow money, guaranteeing that a minimum balance is retained. A motion was offered by Blumhagen, and seconded by Kelly, to approve the amended Fee Schedule as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:
Administrator:
Annexation Order – This procedural Order came through today, cleaning up some odds-and-ends pieces that were overlooked with previous annexation orders.

Joint Work Session – Another joint meeting between the planning commission and Board is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11th, 4:00 p.m., in order to continue discussions regarding amendments to the zoning ordinance.

Archeological Permit – This is the next step in the engineering process, and we are still waiting for approval.

Audit – Brady Martz has scheduled the work for the week of February 23rd.

Roads:
Vigen reported that the roads are in real good condition right now

January Invoice – Johnson's invoice is $18,021.00 for snow removal and sanding, which was reviewed. Vigen will keep a close watch on this activity.

TREASURER REPORT:
Bills: This month's bills are payable with check numbers 12346-12361, (Check #12345 was approved at 1/26/2026 regular meeting to satisfy 1st payment requirement on bond debt for $374,588.13) totaling $49,421.84 (including ACH staff payroll for January). The larger invoices were for snow/ice control; Johnson Const ($18,021.00) and Beltrami County for salt/sand ($2,380.00). A motion was offered by Blumhagen, and seconded by Dockendorf, to pay the bills as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Cash by Fund: Revenue - $117,703.59, Road & Bridge - $1,121,765.55, RFA – $38,647.37, Sewer District Waville – $6,119.26, Debt Services Fund - $133,000.00 and Sewer District Lake Bemidji – ($474,733.01), for a total of $942,502.76. A motion was offered Dockendorf, seconded by Barnard, and carried unanimously.

CD's: Peterson reported that there is one CD maturing for $100,000.00. She recommends that they be re-invested for 91 days at SecurityBank at 3.5% interest. Consensus was given.

Budget: The budget worksheet was reviewed and the proposed Levy for 2027 will be an increase of 6%, to be presented at the March 10th Annual Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:
1) Order Approving Annexation was received for the small pieces that were omitted in previous Annexation actions, 2) Receipt of the short settlement from Beltrami County of $17,356.63, and 3) Annual Assessment Agreement Between Northern Township and Beltrami County.

OTHER:
Joint LGU meeting with Rural Fire – This annual meeting is being held Thursday, February 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the Northern Town Hall, and anyone interested can attend.

Planning Commission Seat – A motion was offered by Blumhagen, and seconded by Dockendorf, to nominate Brian Giauque for the three-year position. The motion carried unanimously.

Assessment Agreement – A motion was offered by Dockendorf, and seconded by Barnard, to approve the Assessment Agreement with Beltrami County Assessor for $27,948.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Audit – This required meeting will be held during the next meeting on February 23rd.

Tree Damage – This matter regards a request to cleanup fallen trees from an unmaintained public right-of-way along Birchmont Beach Road on the north end of the lake. A quote was received from Lofgren Tree Service for $3,900.00 and the property owner has offered to pay ½ of that cost due to some of the trees falling

from her property. Frenzel feels this is an obligation of the township, since the trees also affect the other property owner adjacent to the public right of way. Barnard and Dockendorf feel that there was a procedure implemented following the severe storm and the township went above and beyond to complete the cleanup work in a timely manner. A motion was offered by Frenzel, and seconded by Kelly for discussion, to approve the cleanup work quoted from Lofgren Tree Service in the amount of $3,900.00, with the property owner paying ½ of that cost. The work would not be completed until after the decision is received regarding the annexation request from the City of Bemidji and if that Order was granted and the property is to be annexed, the work would not be done. Roll call vote; Barnard – no, Kelly – no, Frenzel – yes, Dockendorf – no, and Blumhagen – yes. The motion failed.

With no further business forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Mary Israelson, Clerk

Approve:

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Jess Frenzel, Chairman