BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Annual Board Meeting

Date: March 10th, 2026
Location: 32090 153rd Street Princeton, MN 55371

Board Members Present	Staff Present	Others Present
Jim Artmann - Chairp	Michelle Aaseby – Clerk	Gary Gray
Edward Evens – Vice Chair	Francine Larson - Treasurer	Chief Scott Case
Mike King - Supervisor		Bill Jacobson
		Shawn Aaseby
		Jay Stewart
		Julie & Michael Badger
		Chris Karpesh
		Lawrence Swanz
		Ryann Artmann
		Troy Thompson
		Jeannie Lachowitz
		Bill Andresen

Regular Meeting

1. **Call to Order** Meeting was called to order by Clerk Aaseby at 8:05p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** Aaseby led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Call for Nominations to Elect the Annual Meeting Moderator**
   - *Motion by King to nominate Bill Jacobson as meeting moderator, second by S. Aaseby. All in favor, motion passed.*
4. **Motion to approve of 2026 Annual Meeting Agenda**
   - *Motion by Stewart, second by Swanz, to approve the annual meeting agenda as written. All in favor, motion passed.*

5. **County Commissioner Report** Commissioner Gray will be seeking re-election in 2027. Stated that this year's levy will be up 6.49%. Working on 2027 levy in April. Hoping to keep it under double digits. Question from J. Badger asking what we can do to help. Gray stated to call our legislators.

6. **Fire Chief Report**. 83 calls for service in 2025.

7. **Call for Motion to Approve the 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes**
   - *Motion by King approve the 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes, second by S. Aaseby. All in favor, motion passed.*

8. **Treasurer's Report**
   - *Motion by Karpsesh to waive the reading of all checks written and received and to only read a synopsis, second by Swanz. All in favor, motion passed.*

9. **Board of Audit Report** Clerk read the Board of Audit report.

10. **Overview of 2025 Accomplishments** Artmann stated that Committees were formed this year to keep organized. A lot of work was done to prepare for a possible new town hall.

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11. **Blue Hill Township Road Report for 2025** Evens provided a road report; Levy for roads was $300,000, total spent was $332,052. Completed 3 miles of chip seal, moderate patching, and crack sealing on 148th, 307th, and 289th. Tree trimming was competed, along with township wide crack sealing. 2026 plans; surface treatments on yellow areas of map, possible 316th culvert replacement, and removal of center islands on 314th/316th and continue with township wide crack sealing. Goals this year; reduce engineering costs, develop a road sign replacement schedule, and continue with fall road tours to get bids early in the year for upcoming seasons.

12. **Presentation of the Proposed 2027 Tax Levy** Artmann provided the proposed 2027 Tax Levy, as recommended at the February 9th Meeting with an approximate 5% increase to the Road and Bridge fund.

13. **Open Forum**

Karpesh: thanked the Board for taking their time and researching the proposed new town hall.
Stewart: is questioning the 5% tax increase and donation to the fire department at the same time.
Artmann: Stated that we are getting the same service we do not need to pay less, we would like to keep in good standing with Baldwin Fire department. Princeton was $67k so we are still saving money.
Jacobson: Stated the money should go to the roads. We are paying for a service; the money will go further staying within the township.
Swanz: If we sign a contract for 55k we should honor that price.
J. Badger: Service could go down if we lower our payments to them.
Karpesh: Is the contract written in dollar amounts or percentages?
Case: The formula is based on call volume and population. It is very transparent. Baldwin population will grow; Blue Hill's contract will go down. The money spent would benefit Blue Hill residents.
Karpesh: What would the money be spent on?
Case: Currently, it pays for wages and expenses.

14. **Approval of the 2027 proposed Tax Levy (MS 365.10)**

- *Motion by Swanz to approve the 2027 Tax Levy as proposed, second by King. Motion passed 21:0.*

15. **Approval to move forward with the purchase and build of Blue Hill Township Hall**
    - *Motion by Karpesh to move forward with the purchase and build of a new Blue Hill Township Hall, second by R. Artmann. Motion passed 22:0.*

16. **Approval to donate additional fire funds to the Baldwin Fire Department**

Karpesh would like to see, if this happens again, that we have a set purchase for the funds.
Jacobson: We are paying for a service, we could switch departments after the contract is up. If that happens, this money is gone.
Thompson: We should only pay more as costs go up. We should save tax dollars; we have a formula for a reason.
Andresen: We don't want this to look like we are trying to buy favors.

- *Motion by Swanz, second by Lachowitz, to donate additional fire fund dollars to Baldwin Fire Department. Motion passed 12:5.*

17. **Set date, time and location for the 2027 Annual Meeting**
    - *Motion by J. Badger, second by R. Artmann for March 9th, 2027 at 8:05pm, unless we switch to November Township elections then it will be held at 6:00pm. All in favor, motion passed.*

18. Announcements and Correspondences

- Clean Up Day is April 25th, 2026 from 8am – 12pm.
- Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting is April 14th 6:00pm

19. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

- *Motion by Swanz, second by Karpesh to adjourn the meeting. All in favor; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Aaseby, Blue Hill Township Clerk

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Clerk Signature Date

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes approved by the Blue Hill Town Board.

_____

Signature & Title

_____

Date