LINWOOD TOWNSHIP

ANOKA COUNTY
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AGENDA
Town Board Special Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2026- 7:30 pm
Town Hall Chambers

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLLCALL**

4. **BUSINESS**
   - 4.1 Interview of Candidates for Board Vacancy
     - 4.1.1 Ben Garbacz
     - 4.1.2 Dan Lametti

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

BEN GARBACZ

Linwood, MN
[redacted]

Hello,

6 FEBRUARY 2026

I'm writing to express my interest in a future seat on the Linwood Township Board of Supervisors at the Linwood Town hall, where I've been a resident of for 10 years now. With many years working to support different teams and customers (cross-functionally), along with my ability to see the big picture; the effects upstream and down, I believe I'm able to offer strong support to the future success of our wonderful community. Respect and (positive) communication is a top priority of mine, and I believe I'm able to offer that to contribute to the growth of Linwood. To add, I enjoy learning new things and am always looking for ways to serve out my purpose.

In regards to the questions for submission:

1. **Please provide a brief background of yourself and how long you've lived in the township?**

* I've lived in Linwood for almost 10 years (Aug. 2016), and previously came from Blaine, MN. Prior to that, I lived in other areas of Anoka County and have always enjoyed the rural aspect of this area. I feel most at home when I'm in nature, around with like-minded people, or people who can have open and deep conversations, to challenge myself in hopes of personal growth. Learning new things and seeking to understand is a passion of mine.

2. **Why are you looking to serve on the Linwood town board and what do you think your contributing strengths are?**

*As a member of this community for almost a decade, I've seen many things I agree with, but other things I feel I would handle differently. So, with that said, I feel like our growing community would greatly benefit from getting some "new blood" to gain better insights.

3. **What is your long-term vision for the township (5 to 10 years)?**

*I'm generally conservative with my viewpoints, from the aspect that we should work to maintain a certain level of disconnect from the city- the suburban country-feel. People I've spoken to (myself included) moved out here to be away from the city but are close enough to get what we need from the neighboring cities (Forest Lake, North Branch, Cambridge, etc.). While I think that, I also think I'm progressive in the aspect that I think we could do many things to "build-up" our community to offer more activities/opportunities to connect with our neighbors. My goal would be to bring the community closer with each other regardless of their personal viewpoints.

4. Tell us about a time you had to interact with somebody who had a differing opinion that you and how did you handle it?

* I work in a very large company (Wurth Industry Since 2017) with many varying ideas. I started out in the purchasing dept. as a buyer/planner and eventually worked up to a supervisor, and eventually to my current role as a supply chain

management process improvement specialist. Throughout that time, I've been challenged with people who didn't share my same vision on how to achieve a task, or how to perform the job at hand. What I found worked the best, is open communication, and seeking to understand before being understood. Once I fully understand their viewpoint, it gives me an opportunity to adjust my performance, or explain my view from the perspective of understanding where they're coming from. So to reiterate, positive & calm communication is key, and with that, just about anything is possible.

5. **How would you enforce policies or ordinances that differ from your opinion?**

*I can only imagine I would encounter many instances where I don't agree with current policies/ ordinances, but I would do what I can to abide. If it's a major issue (or I strongly disagree), I would openly discuss my concerns with the team of board members, and/or bring the issue up to the community to have them direct what should be done.

6. **Tell us about a situation in which you had to resolve a conflict or a challenging situation.**

* Similar to the answer of #5, communication is key, but there was an instance where an employee I was supervising was poorly performing. They we're missing their numbers and falling behind. This was corrected by increasing out weekly one-on-ones to 3 times a week, and I helped him set up a schedule to get through his workload. I took on some of his tasks to free him up to do the more time sensitive jobs, and he was able to get back to a sustainable work level.

7. **The levy and budget are ever present topics in the township government. How would you handle a reduced levy approved by the electors?**

*When it comes to the levy and reducing costs for the community, I would see about looking at all areas of our current spend, to see if/where we could make some cuts, and determine if they are momentary or permanent cuts that could be made. I would also ask the team if there were any opportunities where we could get assistance through grants or ways to turn a profit for the township (fund raiser, etc.). It may not be possible, but I'd be open to the discussions to resolve the issue at hand.

Thank you again for considering my request, and I look forward to our future communications!

Regards,
Ben Garbacz



Dear Members of the Linwood Township Board,

I am writing to express my interest in the vacant seat on the Linwood Township Board. I care deeply about our township and would welcome the opportunity to serve the community and help guide Linwood in a positive, practical direction.

My interest in this position is rooted in a desire to better the township while keeping it efficient and financially responsible. I believe it is important to run township operations effectively while keeping the budget as low as possible so that residents can continue to enjoy quality services without unnecessary tax increases.

I bring hands-on experience in road and bridge work, general maintenance, and infrastructure-related operations, which I believe would be valuable when evaluating township needs and priorities. In addition, I have a strong background in budgeting and financial management, having owned and operated my own business for the past l6 years. This experience has taught me the importance of planning, accountability, and making smart financial decisions.

Community involvement is also important to me. I have volunteered extensively and previously served as Scoutmaster for the Linwood-area Scout troop, which reinforced my commitment to service, leadership, and working for the benefit of others.

I would be honored to bring my experience, work ethic, and commitment to fiscal responsibility to the Linwood Township Board. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this position further.

Respectfully,

Dan Lametti

1. Please provide a brief background of yourself and how long you've lived in the township.

I have lived in Linwood Township for over 25 years. During that time, I have been actively involved in the community through work, volunteering, and family life. My background includes hands-on experience with road, bridge, and maintenance work, as well as owning and operating my own business for the past 16 years. I have also volunteered in the community, including serving as a Scoutmaster for the local troop. Having lived here long-term, I care deeply about the township and its future.

2. Why are you looking to serve on the Linwood Township Board, and what do you think your contributing strengths are?

I am interested in serving on the Linwood Township Board because I want to give back to the community I have lived in for over 25 years and help ensure the township continues to be run efficiently and responsibly. I believe in keeping taxes as low as possible while still maintaining roads, infrastructure, and services at a high standard.

My contributing strengths include hands-on experience with road, bridge, and maintenance work, which gives me a practical understanding of township operations and infrastructure needs. I also bring strong budgeting and financial management skills from owning and operating my own business for 16 years. In addition, my volunteer experience, including serving as a Scoutmaster, has strengthened my leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. I believe these strengths would allow me to make thoughtful, common-sense contributions to the board.

3. What is your long-term vision for the township 5 to 10 years?

My long-term vision for Linwood Township over the next 5 to 10 years is a community that continues to grow responsibly while maintaining its character and quality of life. I would like to see the township remain financially stable, with well-maintained roads and infrastructure, efficient township services, and careful planning that avoids unnecessary spending.

I believe in focusing on long-term maintenance and planning rather than short-term fixes, so taxpayer dollars are used wisely. My goal is for Linwood Township to remain a well-run, safe, and desirable place to live, where decisions are made with both current residents and future generations in mind.

4. Tell us about a time you had to interact with somebody who had a differing opinion than you and how did you handle it?

Throughout my work, volunteer roles, and business ownership, I have regularly worked with people who held differing opinions or priorities. As a business owner and volunteer leader, I learned early that listening is just as important as speaking.

When disagreements come up, I focus on understanding the other person's perspective, asking questions, and finding common ground rather than trying to "win" an argument. I try to keep discussions respectful, fact-based, and focused on the best outcome for everyone involved. In my

experience, staying calm, being open to compromise, and keeping the bigger picture in mind leads to better decisions and stronger working relationships.

5. How would you enforce policies or ordinances that differ from your opinion?

I understand that serving on the Township Board means upholding adopted policies and ordinances, even when they may differ from my personal opinion. Once decisions are made through the proper process, I believe it is important to support and enforce them consistently and fairly.

My approach would be to separate personal views from my responsibility as a board member, rely on facts, ordinances, and legal guidance, and ensure that policies are applied equally to everyone. If I believe a policy needs improvement, I would work within the established process to discuss and review it, rather than selectively enforcing it. Maintaining fairness, consistency, and public trust would be my priority.

6. Tell us about a situation in which you had to resolve a conflict or a challenging situation.
In my role as a business owner and volunteer leader, I have had to resolve conflicts and challenging situations on many occasions. One common situation involved differing expectations between individuals working toward the same goal.

I approached these situations by listening to all sides, identifying the root of the issue, and focusing the discussion on practical solutions rather than emotions. By keeping communication open, setting clear expectations, and treating everyone with respect, I was able to resolve conflicts in a way that allowed work to move forward and relationships to remain intact. These experiences reinforced the importance of patience, clear communication, and fairness-qualities I would bring to serving on the Township Board.

7. The levy and budget are ever-present topics in township government. How would you handle a reduced levy approved by the electors?

If the electors approved a reduced levy, I would view that as a clear direction from the residents and take it seriously. My approach would be to work with the board and township staff to review the budget carefully, prioritize essential services, and look for efficiencies without sacrificing safety or critical infrastructure.

I believe in long-term planning, responsible spending, and making data-driven decisions. This may include delaying non-essential projects, finding cost savings, or adjusting timelines while still maintaining roads, maintenance, and core township operations. My goal would be to respect the will of the voters while ensuring the township continues to operate efficiently and responsibly.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Town Board Supervisor

Interested Candidate: _____

Date of Interview: _____

1) Please provide a brief background of yourself. How long have you been in the township?

2) Why are you looking to serve on the town board?

3) What is your long-term vision for the township (5-10years)?

4) Do you understand the terms and timeframe of the appointment?

S) Tell us about a time you had to interact with somebody who had a differing opinion than you and how did you handle it?

6) How would you enforce policies or ordinances that differ from your opinion?

7) **Tell us about a situation in which you had to resolve a conflict or a challenging situation.**

8) **The levy and budget are ever present topics in township government. How would you handle a reduced levy approved by the electors?**

9) **Do you have any questions for us?**