**Regular Meeting Sunrise Township**
**Thursday, June 20, 2024**
**Royal Wilcox Community Center**

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson called the Regular Sunrise Township Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Board Members Present:**

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, Chair
Mark Osland, Vice Chair
Jeske Noordergraaf
Greg Strom
Adam Grobove III

Clerk: Wendy S. Kowalke
Treasurer: Karen Anderson
Engineer: Cristina Mlejnek, P.E
Maintenance: Troy Montague (absent)
Stephen Forner
Dave Kadlec

**Others Present:**

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| Dave Kadlec | Ahsley Bukowski | Eric Leivian |
| Peggy Pearson | Debbie Olson | Charlotte Wilcox |
| Jim Blood | Kalee Blood | Roy Ramberg |
| Kelly Ramberg (Jordan) | Kyaw Kyaw Lwin | Jim MaCarthy |
| Perry lindberg | Barb Lindberg | Steve |
| Dave Kadlec | Jordan Koran | Tony Koran |
| M | Craig Johnson | Susan Johnson |
| Natalie Oknich | Nancy Nadeau | Vincent Berger |
| Sara Rockensock | Todd Rockensock | Todd Rockensock |
| David Rockensock | Joshua Rockensock | Matt Shultz |
| Brandy Shultz | Jan Yde | Nicole Morissette |
| Tom Neumann | Cindy Lindberg | Joe Ring |
| Martha Arnold | Jill Behnke | Deah Szymanski |
| Jake Holzem | Ron Swenson | Tony Klanderud |
| Mike Heinen | Eric Heinen | |

**Approve Agenda:** Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Adam Grobove III to approve the agenda moving Sno-Barons w/ citizens comments to the first item under new business. Motion carried.

**Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Greg Strom to accept the May 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Clerk Update**: Clerk Kowalke informed the Board that Sunrise Township Clerk computer is updated, running well, has access to files, files are backed up in the cloud-on the regular computer and on a solid-state drive. Clerk Kowalke can now print, scan and complete all office functions off of laptop as well. Election judge applications have been sent out and returned for election judges for the State primary and State general elections for Sunrise Township. Election trainings are in process along with election ballot testing being set up by the Chisago County Auditor.

**Treasurer Report:** Motion by Mark Osland, seconded by Greg Strom to approve Treasurer Anderson's report with claims list 7370 through 7404 with additional claim:

Scandia Electric (invoice # 118349 partial payment).....$11,740.40
Motion carried.

**Almelund Threshers – Royal Wilcox Community Center – Tony Koran and Mark Strand**: The Almelund Threshers had their annual meeting in May 2024. Discussion took place regarding the options to preserve and promote and continue to support the local history. The Royal Wilcox Community Center was built in 1892. This building is 30% large than current administrative building located at the Almelund Threshing grounds. The Threshers would use the Royal Wilcox Community Center Building as the new administration building and hold monthly meetings.

Project costs: The Threshers would like to get an agreement between Sunrise and the club. Funds are based on needs and wants. Needs are what they need to have to move building. The Almelund Threshers organization is a non-profit organization. Try to give back as much as they can to the community. Looking at possible grants, percent of sales, funding raising. They would like an agreement with Sunrise to transfer the ownership of the building. All the money from the threshing show goes back into the community.

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson said that the Board is in agreeance for the threshing company to take the building. Regarding demolition costs: Jeske Noordergraaf said that there will be a $500 for permit from Chisago County, estimate for testing for asbestos between $900 to $1,100, costs to remove asbestos is unknown. Demolition is approximately $9,000.00. Another estimate was approximately $22,000. The Board informed the Threshers that no bid included hazardous was removal.

Citizens input: Vincent Berger said he is new to Sunrise – asked if the decision has been made to move the building. Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson informed Vincent the final decision has not been made what to do with the building. Tom Newman asked why does the building have to move. Jeske Noordergraaf said that a committee was formed and if the building doesn't get used after the new town hall is building it will continue to deteriorate and fall apart. The Royal Wilcox Building will not have any use for the township in the future. The Threshers are interested in taking it instead of the building falling apart. The Threshers would like to start fund raising as soon as there is a commitment from Sunrise Township The Threshers plan is to move the building in the fall of 2025 after the Almelund Threshing Show. Mark Osland is concerned that if the Threshers don't get the funding and don't take the building – then what? Tony and Mark said if there is a commitment contract signed there are things that can be done ahead. Greg Strom asked what kind of document is being drawn up. Just to document the true ownership. Sara Rockensock – appreciate that the Threshers are willing to take the Royal Wilcox Community Center building over. Sara Rockensock is wondering if there will be an opportunity to be able to fund raise from Sunrise Township Citizens. Todd Rockensock asked if there a maintenance building budget for the Royal Wilcox Building that can be put towards the Threshing for the building. Charlotte Wilcox said that replacement costs of the maintenance of this building for the new town hall is going to be a higher cost and that will need to be put in place for the new town hall. Nancy Nadeau said it is a wonderful opportunity to save the building and have it preserved in its natural state. If it is tore down it does not give the opportunity for the younger generation to see what this building was part of. Rick Olseen mentioned that the approximate costs are $151,000. Martha Arnold is member of Chisago County Historical Society. Ms. Arnold spoke with historical society people in Lindstrom. Ms. Arnold said that Todd Mahan controls and directs grants that are used for preservation in the state. Ms. Arnold said that it is extremely important for each of the Board members to consider preserving the building. Wants it preserved. Jake Holzem wouldlike to see building

preserved. Perry Lindberg said Sunrise has a wonderful opportunity and feel we should support the Threshers. Mark Osland asked the Threshers what they needed from the Sunrise Board so they fund raise. James McCarthy – the committee working on a new townhall did not discuss the fate or cost of the current town hall. Joshua Rockensock asked how the citizens can get involved.
Thresher said all 180 of their members said yes to the support of preserving the Royal Wilcox Community Center building.

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson does not feel that donating extra money beyond the demolition costs are appropriate spending of tax payer dollars.

The question was asked about putting the Royal Wilcox Community Center building on the annual agenda for Sunrise Township. Charlotte Wilcox said the Town Board cannot set the agenda for the annual meeting, the citizens set the agenda. Greg Strom asked at what point if fund raising is it not successful do the Threshers continue to take the building. The Threshers said they can consider getting a loan or could possibly take money out of their funds. Sara Rockensock asked when the new town hall will be ready. The Sunrise Board said it should be ready by December 31, 2024.

Jeske Noordergraaf talked with MN Assoc. of Townships Attorney, Steve Fenski to find out if Sunrise is legally allowed to appropriate money to the Almelund Threshers which it can do. Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson said that the Board has not talked about this at this point.

Clerk Kowalke to place the Threshers agreement on July agenda.

Mark Osland said the Threshers have the support of the Sunrise Town Board. Greg Strom agrees with Mark Osland and come up with some kind of a contract for July 2024 meeting.

Of the citizens in attendance (42) and the Town Board Members are all in favor for a commitment and intent for the Threshers to take over the building.

Motion by Adam Grobove III, second by Jeske Noordergraaf to commit to work with the Threshers to come up with a contract to transfer ownership of the building any money given to Threshers not to exceed demolition costs based on the time of the transfer of the ownership of the building. Motion carried.

Adam Grobove III thanked everyone in attendance and appreciates them coming to the meeting tonight.

**Road Interruption – Shane Stepp**: Shane Stepp presented before the Board to ask that on July 18 Stepp Manufacturing be able to have road interruptions due to hosting the American Manufactures Assoc. event. Shane Stepp is asking to interrupt traffic starting around 2 PM in the afternoon until approximately 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Shane Stepp has not talked with Patricia Peters. The alley way will remain open to send tubing clients as a way around the road interruption. There will be traffic interruption in front of Stepp Manufacturing. Any traffic can go through the alley. Jeske Noordergraaf suggested that Patricia Peters should be notified as she is a neighbor. Event will be held on July 18 from 2 to 4 PM. Motion by Mark Osland, second by Adam Grobove III for Stepp Manufacturing to be able to restrict traffic for this event. Motion carried.

**Dan Harrington – Discuss private roads and gravel road versus finished roads**: looking to get required restriction of asphalt on a road removed and allow a gravel road. Mark Osland said that once the development is done Sunrise is responsible for maintenance of the asphalt road. Mark Osland said you should talk to the Sunrise Planning Commission. Dan said the County doesn't require asphalt road but Sunrise Township requires an asphalt road.

**Karen Buddhist Association – CUP Amendment to Host 2 significant cultural and religious events**: Karen Buddhist Association is requesting to amend the hours, music time and maximum attendees:

*Event Name: Karen Traditional Wrist Tying Ceremony; and*
*Event Name: Annual Novice and Monk Ceremony*

*CUP Condition #3:*

Requesting to change hours of event from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM **to 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM**.

*CUP Condition #4:*

Requesting to change hours of music and/or amplified sound from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM **to 12:00 PM to 10:00 PM**. There is 4 1,000 to 2,000 watt speakers. Music Shall be limited to a maximum duration of three hours during daytime hours (between 10 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.)

*Additional Condition requested:*

Karen Buddhist Association is also requesting the maximum number of attendees go from 260 to 300.

Karen Buddhist Association have volunteers throughout the community. All parking is kept within the property. They will have an off-duty officer to help patrol throughout the event. These events are held on weekends.

***Motion by Mark Osland, second by Greg Strom to approve the requested CUP amendments for the Karen Traditional Wrist Tying Ceremony and the Annual Novice and Monk Ceremony as requested along with the maximum number of attendees not to 300 and the music shall be limited to a maximum duration of three hours during daytime hours (between 10 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.). Motion carried.***

**Jim and Kalee Blood – Variance Home additional and Garage**: Jim Blood said there is location issue of the of the house to the location of the river. The house was built before the Sunrise River Overlay ordinance was in effect. The goal is to add a couple of bedrooms and would like to add a garage and upgrade the septic (the actual drain field). Jim and Kalee Blood are requesting a non-attached garage. Motion by Mark Osland, second by Adam Grobove III to accept the Sunrise Planning Commission recommendations to accept variance as presented. Motion carried.

**Roy and Kelly Ramberg (Kelly Jordan) – Preliminary Plat of Kost Ranch**: Splitting off 5 acres for family member to build a home. Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Greg Strom to accept the Sunrise Planning Commission recommendations to accept plat as presented. Motion carried.

**Sno-Barons – Ashley Bukowski and Deb Olson**: Ashley Bukowski is requesting the Town Board to consent to a 3 day liquor license. Mark Osland said you were only given a 2 day liquor license in the CUP.

Greg Strom said the Sno-Barons has continually to turn this event into a 3 day event. Thousands of the public are let in on Friday. The event is not to be open on Friday to the public, but the public is

continued to be allowed in. Ms. Bukowski said the Sno-Barons are allowed to bring in swappers on Fridays. James McCarthy – it is a 2 day event. It was mentioned that about 5 years ago the Sno-barons tried to get the cup changed to a 3 day event. Ms. Bukowski said the CUP allows for 3 week set-up. Ms. Bukowski said that vendors aren't open on Friday. Adam Grobove III said that the Sno-Barons were asked to have their CUP reprocessed at an earlier Town Board meeting. Ms. Bukowski said they are working towards that goal, but can't meet the deadlines for the 2024 event. Mark Osland said it is a 2-day event. Greg Strom said the Sno-Barons have missed many opportunities to help out the Township. Sunrise Township has a problem with snowmobile trail on Ferry Road. Mark Osland said there is an impact on the neighborhood, especially the 1st year and now the SnoBarons is asking for a 3rd day of alcohol. Greg Strom said that the SnoBarons let campers and swappers and can add addition swapper wristbands on Friday if needed. Greg Strom said that the CUP comes through Sunrise. Deb Olson, Treasurer, 612-590-8668 said the SnoBarons hires the North Branch Police and Chisago County Sheriff's Department for security. Deb Olson apologized that the SnoBarons has not been involved with Sunrise Township in the past. James McCarthy said last year there was a fireworks permit obtained and it was inconsiderate to the farmers and farm animals. Deb Olson said that the swappers can bring in their alcohol. They would like to keep it on sight. It was suggested to close the gate.

A Sno-Drifters Snowmobile Club member was in attendance and said that the Sno-Drifters receives some of the proceeds to help maintain local trails.

The Town Board requested SnoBarons go through the process to amend their CUP and come back in front of the Town Board at that time.

**Election Judge Recommendations Resolution:** Motion by Greg Strom, second by Mark Osland to accept the Resolution appointing Election Judges for the State primary and State General Election for the 2024 Election year. Mottion carried.

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING**
**ELECTION JUDGES**
**Resolution #: 2024-06-20-01**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes § 204B.21 allows Sunrise Township to appoint an election judges;

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes § 204B.19, subdivision 2 requires that an election judge (1) can read, write, and speak the English language, (2) is not the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any election judge serving in the same precinct or any candidate of the election, (3) is not domiciled, either permanently or temporarily with any candidate at the election, or (4) is not a candidate in the election;

**WHEREAS**, the base number of required election judges for an election in Minnesota under Minnesota Statutes § 204B.22 has been determined to be a minimum of 4 for the precinct of Sunrise Township;

**WHEREAS**, the clerk recommends the appointment of 12 election judges due to the anticipated voter turnout, election judge availability, and necessity of maintaining party balance at all times during the day; and

**WHEREAS**, the following list of judges fulfills the requirements listed in Minnesota Statutes §204B.19, subdivision 2:

Brenette Harrington Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson Denise Stewart

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| Joyce Meyers | James McCarthy | Jeske Noordergraaf |
| Rick Olseen | Marc Dronen | Vicki Reher |
| Wendy S. Kowalke | Connie Grobove | Jenell Johnson |

**WHEREAS**, under Minnesota Statutes § 204B.21, subdivision 2, a resolution is mandatory if the appointment of the election judge is within 25 days of the election in which the election judge will serve.

**WHEREAS**, 08/13/2024 is the date of the election in which the election judge is to serve for the State Primary Election and 11/05/2024 for the State General Election;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**: the Town Board of Sunrise Township hereby appoints the following election judges as eligible to serve in the State Primary Election on Tues., August 13, 2024 and State General Election on Tues., November 5, 2024, pending completion of their training and otherwise qualifying for the office:
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Brenette Harrington is designated the Head Election Judge;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Town Board of Sunrise Township hereby authorizes any election judge to be compensated as required by Minnesota Statutes § 204B.3l, in an amount set by the Town Board at $21.00 per hour for the head judge and $18.00 per hour for all other trained election judges, which is not less than the prevailing Minnesota minimum wage.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Town Board of Sunrise Township hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to add additional election judges as needed and allowed by Minnesota Statutes §204B.21.
Passed this 20th day of June, 2024.

**Phone at New Town Hall off CR 9:** The Town Board is in agreeance to install a land line at the new town hall located off CR 9

**Resolution Governing Write-in Vote Counting**: No action taken

**Park Committee**: Adam Grobove, III would like to propose community ideas for park project. Have reached out to the community on what they would like to see. Adam Grobove III met with Joe Tarte, Chisago County Park Director, Kurt Schneider, Chisago County Zoning Director, went to several parks throughout Chisago County to start to come up with a plan for the Sunrise Park. The Board is in agreeance for Adam to continue with the park project.

**Windstream Representative**: Jeske Noordergraaf and Cristina Mlejnek have worked with Hexad Solution which a subcontractor of Windstream. Hexad is putting together a plan to Windstream so Windstream may be able to present to Sunrise.

**Citizens Forum**: Shane Stepp informed Sunrise Township Clerk that Scott Manske will be the contact person for the Sunrise Cemetery.

**Website**: Charlotte Wilcox and Clerk Wendy Kowalke have a meeting set up with Becky Canada of Well Optimized of Taylors Falls, MN to start working on the new website.

**New Sunrise Township Logo**: Place on July agenda.

**New Town Hall located off CR 9**: Greg Strom said we are waiting on State plumbing permit. They are under-staffed and the 2 people that do the state plumbing permits are married and are on vacation. Electrician has mounted the service on the wall and on the inside. Concrete has been installed interior and around the post. Sunrise Township will purchase the drywall to avoid paying tax on the product. Received quotes for interior framing and trimming labor only:

Ty Gilbert Construction: $10,350.00
A&K Construction, Inc.: $27,665.00
Classic Design, Inc.: $33,700.00

Motion by Greg Strom, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to accept the quote from Ty Gilbert Construction. Motion carried.

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson talked with Xcel Energy and the will be no charge.

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson talked with a well company and received a bid. Sunrise will obtain at least one other quote.

**Maintenance Update**:
Monday June 24, 2024 Sunrise Township is scheduled for chloride to be placed on roads. First past of ditch mowing is complete. Reclaimed the edges on 400th. Clerk Kowalke will place the order for the blue signs.

Clerk Kowalke informed that Board that 4-H would like to use the Royal Wilcox Community Center on July 28 for Dragon Fly catch and release.

**Board Member Meetings**:
Adam: regular meeting, CCATO, business law school (safe roads program-new money, Sunrise Trail Grand Opening, County Planning Commission meeting
Greg: regular meeting, CCATO, planning commission,
Jeske: regular meeting, CCATO, 2 threshers, Co planning commission
Pete: regular meeting, CCATO,
Mark: regular meeting,

Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Adam Grobove, III to adjourn at 9:32 p.m. Motion carried.

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Signed: Wendy S. Kowalke, Clerk Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, Chair