Regular Meeting Sunrise Township
Thursday, February 20, 2025
Sunrise Town Hall, 12080 Sunrise Road, Harris, MN 55032
(1st Meeting held at the New Town Hall)

Chairperson 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 (absent)
Maintenance: Troy Montague

Others Present:

Peggy Pearson	Lynn Wolleat	Dave Kadlec
Phil Meers	Connie Grobove	Tyler Richter
Janel N. Jacobson	Dale William Swanson	Jason Fredlund
Ronald A. Nordeen	Charlotte Wilcox	Carol Chandler
Pat Heinen, North Branch Fire	Kimberly Meers	Deah Szymanski
Wayne Blodget	Matt Olson, Almelund Fire & Rescue	

Approve Agenda: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Greg Strom to approve the February 2025 agenda. Jeske Noordergraaf requested to add MN/DOT Noise Ordinance signage. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to accept the January 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Clerk Update: New Town Hall meeting location has been posted on website, Facebook and at the Town Hall Board. Annual Audit Notice, March Elections, CCATO, Chisago County has been posted at the appropriate places.

Treasurer Report: Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Adam Grobove III to approve Treasurer Anderson's report with claims list 7621 through 7654 with no additional claims. Motion carried.
Electric bill for new town hall is noted on the bill as Sunrise Road.
Ferry Road electric bill is for a street light

Town Road Vacation Petition – Motion for Acceptance (Alley Block 7):
Sunrise Planning Commission Member Charlotte Wilcox verified that all the people who signed the petition do own land. Motion by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, second by Jeske Noordergraaf to accept the Town Road Vacation Petition for the Alley in Block 7, Plat of Sunrise City, extending from the south line of Pine Street (easterly extension of Olson Road) to the north line of Prairie Street – presented by Janel N. Jacobson, Dale William Swanson and Ronald a. Nordeen on January 18, 2025. Motion carried.

Order Setting Forth Initial Descriptions and Setting Hearing Date (Alley Block 7): Motion by Adam Grobove III, second by Jeske Noordergraaf to accept the Order Setting forth Initial Descriptions and Setting Hearing Date for March 20, 2025 at 6:15 p.m. for the examination of the road shall commence at 6:15 p.m. at the site of the alley near the Sunrise Pottery Shop. After examination of the alley, the meeting shall be recessed and shall reconvene at approximately 6:35 at the Sunrise Town Hall located at 12080 Sunrise Road, Harris, MN 55032. Motion carried. Order was signed by Chair Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson and Clerk Wendy S. Kowalke.

Release of Damages (Alley Block 7): Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to accept the Release of Damage from Janel N. Jacobson, Dale William Swanson for Lots 1-6, Plat of Sunrise City and Ronald A. Nordeen for Lots 7-12, Plat of Sunrise City hereby waive and release all claims to damages sustained from the vacation of the above described road which runs adjacent to our land. Motion carried. Release signed by Janel N. Jacobson, Dale William Swanson, Ronald a. Nordeen and Clerk Wendy S. Kowalke.

Notice of Road Vacation (Alley Block 7) – March 20, 2025 – 6:15 PM: Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to accept the Notice of Road Vacation Hearing to be conducted on March 20, 2025 at 6:15 p.m. for the purpose of considering and acting upon a petition it received calling for the vacation of the alley in Block 7, Plat of Sunrise City, extending from the south line of Pine Street (easterly extension of Olson Road) to the north line of Prairie Street – presented by Janel N. Jacobson, Dale William Swanson and Ronald A. Nordeen on January 18, 2025. The examination of the road shall commence at 6:15 p.m. at the site of the alley near the Sunrise Pottery Shop. After examination of the alley, the meeting shall be recessed and shall reconvene at approximately 6:35 at the Sunrise Town Hall located at 12080 Sunrise Road, Harris, MN 55032. Motion carried. Clerk Wendy S. Kowalke signed the Notice of Road Vacation Hearing. The Notice of Road Vacation Hearing was Posted on February 20, 2025 at the Sunrise Town Hall located at 12080 Sunrise Road, Harris.

Almelund Fire and Rescue: Matt Olson of Almelund Fire and Rescue reported they have had up to 23 members. Sunrise Township had 45 total calls. Mr. Olson reported Almelund Fire purchased a rescue truck with covid money. $34,629.23 for truck is Sunrise Township's portion for 2026. The total cost of the truck was just under $800,000. This truck should be in their possession around April, 2025.

Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Mark Osland to accept the Almelund Fire and Rescue contract of $72,223.06 for 2025 which includes the interest payment of 5,699.28 for the truck. Motion carried.

North Branch Fire: New Fire Chief Pat Heinen wanted to introduced himself. Chief Heinen took over for Kevin Grott. Wayne Blodgett was also present. North Branch Fire provided some smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to be distributed to citizens you may need them. There was a very limited amount provided. Supervisor Adam Grobove, III expressed the gratitude to the fire departments.

SnoBarons – Kevin Gustafson (is working with the SnoBarons to come up with a solution for Ferry Road): Kevin Gustafson was not present. Snowmobiles have been crossing by the river. Dave Kadlec said they are on the road.

Cannabis Delegation Resolution to Chisago County, MN: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to accept the Resolution Delegating Cannabis to Chisago County, MN

RESOLUTION
CANNABIS DELEGATION TO CHISAGO COUNTY, MN
Resolution #: 2025-02-20-01

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, section 342.22, requires the unit of local government issuing a retail registration to a cannabis or hemp business to conduct compliance checks of that business; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, section 342.13. provides that only the local unit of government unit that issues a cannabis retailer registration may limit the registrations by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Sunrise Township wishes to partner with Chisago County and have the County take on responsibility for the retail registration of cannabis and hemp businesses and conduct compliance checks of those businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sunrise Township, Minnesota, that the Council does hereby delegates its administrative powers and registration authority relating to the registration of cannabis retailers and hemp businesses to Chisago County.

Passed this 20Th day of February 2025.

Motion carried.

Supervisor Grobove, III said that by passing this resolution the Town Board is saving the citizens of Sunrise tax money due to all the monitoring and permit processing, etc.

Chisago County Historical Society Digital Memories Trail (how does the Board want to participate): Supervisor Adam Grobove, III will contact Chisago County Historical Society and work with them on the Digital Trail for Sunrise Township.

Mailbox at new Town Hall: Mailing address for Sunrise Township will remain as the P.O. Box 933, North Branch. It was suggested to discuss this in the future. If mailing address were to change to the new town hall address, the Township should take into consideration purchasing a locking mailbox for security purposes. Greg Strom stated that it has not been proven or established that a township mailbox has to be locking. Also, Harris, MN would be the new post office for Sunrise Township mail as the new Town Hall is located in Harris, MN.

Chisago County Environmental Service Notice of Public Hearing for proposed adoption of Zoning Map w/ Amendments – Review: Supervisor Adam Grobove, III reported that Chisago County approved the new zoning and map. This is available online at Chisago County.

Almelund Threshing Company: Troy Montague reported that representatives from the Almelund Threshing Company have been out looking at the building. They plan on lifting the building after the threshing show in 2025. No hard dates at this point. Sunrise Township will need to participate in some part of the details for moving the building.

New Town Hall Rental: Sunrise Township will create a new rental contract for the new town hall. Clerk Kowalke to contact Shafer and Chisago Lake Township to obtain a copy of their rental agreements for an outline. Sunrise Township will not allow any push pins or any kind of things to be poked into the walls. Sunrise Township also needs to comply with the CUP.

Fiber Companies: Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson reported that fiber companies don't need to follow the old telephone company boundaries anymore. Discussion took place that these companies should be charged for trunk lines. Troy Montague will contact Cristina Mlejnek to provide a sample agreement that Sunrise may be able to use. Place on March agenda.

Trunk lines / ROW fees should be relooked at.
North Branch has a $1,500 deposit and a $5,000 bond.

Citizen's Forum: Eric Leivian said that yearly SSD list should be voted on by the Board per auditor. Service charge resets every year. Lynn Wolleat suggested that Sunrise Town Board send a sympathy card to Mike Johnson's family for his passing.
Supervisor Adam Grobove, III reported to the Citizens that the Royal Wilcox Community Center / School House is insured for $230,000. The Royal Wilcox Community Center / School House was purchased by the Almelund Threshing Company for $1. This could be considered a donation. Almelund Threshing company is 501C3. The State of MN gives out Legacy grants and Senator Koran said that the moving of the building should be able to qualify for the grant. Commissioner Dan Dahlberg with the other Chisago County Commissioner are willing to write a supportive letter.
The Almelund Threshing Company has been in contact with Senator Koran and is looking at appropriate grants to apply for which will be done by Almelund Threshing Company and the citizens. They have identified a grant writer who will help them with the process. The grants are very competitive and the money in this fund is spent fully every year. There is an incredible amount of applications for grants. The money that Sunrise was looking at possibly helping out with was the demolition costs. Demolition costs is in question.
Deah Szymanski said the citizens get to vote on the budget. It is important that the citizens have a voice. Deah Szymanski stated that her issue is if Sunrise can possibly add funding to help the Almelund Threshing crew.
Charlotte Wilcox said it is the Sunrise Township Board's responsibility to present a budget and the citizens approve the budget. Citizens can add to the agenda or remove agenda items. Supervisor Mark Osland stated the future budget will be for year 2026. Mark Osland also stated that the Royal Wilcox Community Center / School House will be moved in 2025 and Sunrise Township no longer owns the building as of January 18, 2025.
Carol Chandler said I have snowmobiles on my land.

2025 Annual Meeting Agenda Review: Discussion took place annual agenda items.

2025 Annual Report Review: Discussion took place on annual report items. It was discussed to have the report at the meeting for the citizens to take home. It was discussed to remove items and only have current yearly items. Discussion also took place that citizens like to see some history.

New Town Hall Update: Greg Strom reported: Chisago County issued a Certificate of Occupancy. This building should serve the needs of the Township for decades to come. This building can be expanded. Suspended ceiling so we can add electronics. Sometime in the near future need to talk about a maintenance building. Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson will donate all the trees that need to be installed. Working on outside amenities. Board thanked Supervisors Johnson and Strom for all the hard work. Overall the project took about 7 months.

Noise Ordinance - Mn/Dot – Signage: Jeske Noordergraaf reported somehow this fell off their radar. Mn/DOT will install the signs in the spring. Clerk Kowalke to provide a copy of the application. Treasurer Anderson will provide a copy of the check to Jeske Noordergraaf to forward to Mn/DOT.

CLA Audit: Karen Anderson said the audit went good and has not heard back for CLA with the final results.

Budget Meeting: Jeske Noordergraaf suggested Sunrise Township only needs to perform a budget meeting for this year, because CLA already performed an outside audit. Treasurer Anderson said that there will more than likely be an increase in the budget because of the increase in fire department expenses.

Maintenance Update: Troy Montague reported that it has been fairly quiet. Fiber was discussed.

Board Member Meetings:
Adam: regular meeting, County Meeting, CCATO
Greg: CLA Audit mtg., regular meeting
Jeske: CCATO, Threshers, reg
Pete: regular meeting, CCATO, CLA Audit mtg.
Mark: regular meeting

Adam Grobove, III gave some updates: There are several round-abouts that are being talked about for HWY 95. This would be a MnDOT decision and Sunrise Township should not be responsible for any of the costs..

Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf , second Adam Grobove III to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. Motion carried.

Signed: Wendy S. Kowalke, Clerk

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, Chair