Regular Meeting Sunrise Township
Thursday, April 17, 2025
Sunrise Town Hall, 12080 Sunrise Road, Harris, MN 55032

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
Phillip Meers
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
Anita Mohr
Mike Tauer
Dennis Little
Lynn Wolleat
Adam Stenberg
Lynn Wolleat
Carol Chandler
Brian Mohr
Steve Oehme

Approve Agenda: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Phillip Meers to approve the April 2025 agenda. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes: Motion by Adam Grobove, III, second by Phillip Meers to accept the March 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Public Hearing - Alley Block 7 Meeting Minutes: Motion by Greg Strom, second by Adam Grobove, III to accept the meeting minutes for the Public Hearing Sunrise Alley - Block 7. Motion carried.

Clerk Update: No updates

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Karen Anderson gave Treasurer's report.

Motion by Mark Osland. After discussion Mark Osland Rescinded his motion.
Motion by Greg Strom, second by Phillip Meers to approve Treasurer Anderson's report with claims list 7678 through 7707 to include additional claims as follows and withholding the Bolton & Menk bill for further detail is obtained: Motion carried.

Peggy Pearson (8 pair of gopher feet at $4.00 per pair) $32.00
Matt Bauman (111 pair of gopher feet at $4.00 per pair) $444.00
Poste Haste (Chisago County Zoning Map) $175.00

Treasurer Karen Anderson reported that the Secretary of State has received the Sunrise Township Audit from CTAS.
Clifton, Larson, Anderson (CLA) would like to know if the Sunrise Town Board would like them to attend a regular Board meeting to go over audit findings. CLA is available to attend the June meeting.

Ronald Swanson - Absent (applicant) – Property Owner: Adam (present) & Sharalyn (absent) Stenberg) – Rezoning of one parcel from Rural Residential (RR) to Agricultural (AG): Adam Grobove, III spoke with Eric Leivian, Chisago County Planning Commission Member. Eric Leivian believes the applicant is already setup for agriculture. Eric Leivian will look into this and respond back to Adam Grobove, III. Greg Strom stated that Sunrise Township approved this applicant for being able to build 3-sided shelters a few months ago which Chisago County denied. Chisago County Zoning had them restart after Chisago County Zoning approved their new zoning plan. Motion by Mark Osland, second by Greg Strom to accept the recommendation of the Sunrise Planning Commission to approve the rezoning with no conditions. Motion carried.

Service Charge – Anita Mohr: Anita Mohr was present and stated that she paid the original $941.27 in 2018 for the CenturyLink High Speed Internet Subordinate Service District. Clerk Wendy Kowalke and Treasurer Karen Anderson confirmed that Anita Mohr paid the original fee. Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson is going to figure out how much has been charged and refund payment in May. Anita Mohr will be refunded for 2018 to 2025.

Service Charge – Mark Williams: Mark Williams was present to discuss the CenturyLink Service Charge of Sunrise Township on a piece of property that he purchased. Mark Williams applied for a building permit at Chisago County. Sunrise Township informed Mr. Williams that once a property becomes buildable – at that time the CenturyLink service charge comes into effect and back service charges to the beginning of the bond needs to be paid. This is how the bond was written and is out of the hands of Sunrise Township. Mark William is wondering why he would have to pay backpay on vacant land. The citizens passed a motion at an annual meeting that the Sunrise Town Board obtain high speed internet through bonding, a grant and citizen pay. Buildable parcels are assessed for the CenturyLink High Speed Internet Subordinate Service District. Mark Williams wanted the option to pay the first option of $941.27. Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson explained that this option was only available at the beginning of the bond and this option is not available. Mark Williams was very upset that he was never informed by his realtor or Chisago County that there was a service charge.

SnoBarons (inquiring about hosting the National Night Out at Hay Days location: Dennis Little, member of SnoBarons explained that the SnoBarons would like host the 2025 National Night Out at their Hay Days location. Adam Grobove, III and Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson will work with Dennis Little and meet at the Snobarons location. Place on the June agenda. Greg Strom said this could be a safer environment for hay rides.

New Town Hall Rental Policy Approval: Motion by Greg Strom, second by Phillip Meers to accept the Town Hall Rental Policy. Motion carried.

Sunrise Park Shelter / Ball Park Rental Policy: Place on May agenda.

Gravel Quotes: Troy received two quotes:
Bjorklund $20.60 per yard
Rydberg & Sons $18.97 per yard
Motion by Adam Grobove, III, second by Phillip Meers to accept the Rydberg & Sons gravel quote for 2025. Motion carried
Troy Montague reported that Sunrise Township is looking at placing 4,000 yards

Paving Sunrise Town Hall Parking Lot Quotes:
Motion by Greg Strom, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to accept Knife River's quote of $55,427.50 to blacktop and stripe the Sunrise Town Hall parking lot located 12080 Sunrise Road, Harris, MN 55032. Motion carried.

Greg Strom reported that Knife River doesn't require any money down as long as we have an account with them.

Greg Strom also reported that six inches need to be shaved off the entire parking lot
Sunrise Township is looking at having the parking lot paved between May and June, 2025.

Chloride Quotes: Troy Montague went through the State bid with the City of North Branch. This year is $1.60 gallon. Motion by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, second by Mark Osland to accept bid. Motion carried.

Donation Requests: Adam Grobove, III reported that Family Pathways pays their CEO $166,000. Almelund Fire and North Branch Fire both have child safety programs. Adam Grobove, III would also like to consider Almelund Threshing Company.

Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Mark Osland to distribute the approved $4,000 at the Sunrise Township Annual meeting by the citizens of Sunrise Township as follows:

Chisago County Historical Society	$750.00
North Branch Fire (Fire Safety Education Program for Children)	$300.00
Seven County Senior Federations	$250.00
Chisago County Ag Society	$300.00
Sunrise Cemetery Association	$100.00
Chisago County Senior Center (Chisago Co. Board on Aging)	$1,500.00
Viking Vittles	$500.00
Almelund Fire & Rescue	$300.00

Motion carried.

Illegal Driveway off Joywood and 420th (illegal driveway is on Joywood): Troy Montague reported that on the 2024 Sunrise Township Road Tour there is an illegally placed driveway on 420th and Joywood (the illegally placed driveway is on Joywood). Clerk Kowalke to send a second letter with driveway permit application informing the property owner that he needs to apply for a Sunrise Township Driveway Permit meeting all the requirement of Sunrise Township. If Driveway permit is not applied for Sunrise Township will remove second driveway at owner's expense. Joywood driveway is the illegal driveway which accesses his garage. Troy Montague also stated that the home owner needs a culvert on the approach.

Parking Overnight Request at the Sunrise Park: The Sunrise Board is not in favor of over night parking at the Sunrise Township Park. It could possibly attract crime and set a precedent. Park closes at 10 PM.

Citizen's Forum: Mike Tauer was present to ask if Sunrise Township can have the Sunrise Township 1907 Road Order recorded as he would like to divide his property up in the future. Clerk Kowalke informed Mike Tauer and the Sunrise Town Board that this is in process with Chisago County

Recorder. The Recording fee is $46.00. Motion by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, second by Phillip Meers to make check payable to Chisago County Recorder's Office to have the Sunrise Township 1907 Road Order recorded. Motion carried.

Clerk Kowalke informed the Sunrise Town Board that there are several road orders held at the Chisago County Auditor's office. Not all the road orders need to be recorded as there are also vacated roads among these road orders. Charlotte Wilcox is working through these road orders and will report to the Sunrise Town Board in the future on the road orders being held in the Auditor's Office.

Digital Memories – Update Adam Grobove, III: Adam Grobove, III has completed the first phase of the Digital Memories project for Sunrise Township with the Chisago County Historical Society. Adam Grobove, III reached out to 4 volunteers in the community that are willing to work with the Chisago County Historical Society on the digital memories project. There will be a sign placed at the Sunrise Town Hall with a QR code. Additional signs or posts will be an additional cost. The Sunrise Town Board will decide how many additional signs are needed at a later date. Charlotte Wilcox, Alice Bennett, Judy Koskela and Gabriel Stepp are the volunteers that are on the Digital Memories Committee. Digital Memories can be continually updated as new historic information is gathered along the way.

MAT Spring Courses – Update Adam Grobove, III: Adam Grobove, III attended the MN Association of Townships Spring course. There were a couple of items that townships need to address; one being Paid Family Leave Act. Adam Grobove, III wanted to make sure that Sunrise Township would not be assessed any late fees due to late financial filings. Family Medical Leave Program financials need to be reported on a timely basis. Family Medical Leave Program starts January 1, 2026. Treasurer Karen Anderson will look into when financial reporting needs to start. Motin by Mark Osland, second by Adam Grobove, III to direct Treasurer Karen Anderson to run the Family Medical Leave Act financial reporting. Treasurer Anderson will receive additional compensation for her time spent on this program. Motion carried.

Noise Laws are Enforced Signs are installed on HWY 95: Clerk Wendy S. Kowalke reported that the Noise Laws are Enforced Signs are installed on HWY 95, but there is still much jake braking going on.

Board of Appeal and Equalization: April 24, 9:30 a.m. to be held at the new Sunrise Town Hall at 12080 Sunrise Road, Harris, MN 55032

Maintenance Update: Troy Montague reported that Sunrise Township, City of North Branch and North Branch School District are entering in a contract together for a lesser price with Seal Tech for crack filling at $1.62 a pound. Troy Montague will have Seal Tech price Oriole Avenue out separately to be able to split the bill with Amador Township for their portion. Troy Montague inquired about when he can order a new F550. Sunrise Township has approximately $130,000 for a new truck. Troy will get prices on both diesel and gas. Looking for 1 ½ ton. Power is getting switched over at the Royal Wilcox Community Center on May 1. Gas for museum is shut down. Gas is shut down at Royal Wilcox Community Center. Lynn Wolleat asked about the sewer tanks at the Royal Wilcox. Troy Montague said they will be pumped and crushed.

Adam Grobove, III attended the Townships at the Capital Day. Adam Grobove, III had discussions with senators about roads and bridges for townships and regarding pension for law enforcement. Adam Grobove, III would like to volunteer for the fire contract survey.

Board Member Meetings:
Adam: regular meeting, CCATO, Capital, Digital Memories, pc, MAT
Greg: regular, pc
Phillip: regular meeting
Pete: regular meeting, CCATO
Mark: regular meeting

Treasurer Anderson informed the Town Board that the Chisago County Auditor sent a letter with the March 2025 Election bill regarding township election costs and the possibility of townships switching their elections to November. There would need to be changes in township supervisors term rotations. This needs to be looked into further. Add to annual agenda.

Motion by Mark Osland, second Phillip Meers to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. Motion carried.

Signed: Wendy S. Kowalke, Clerk

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, Chair