Regular Meeting Sunrise Township
Thursday, June 19, 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 (absent)
Maintenance: Dave Kadlec

Others Present:

Peggy Pearson, Deah Szymanski
Glenn Mell, Kevin Johnson, Almelund Fire
Rick Olseen, Carol Chandler, Bob Boyce
Jeanine Olson- Wild Mountain Winery, Nic Malchow
Mike Sandell, Wild River Snowmobile Club
Joel Peltier, Wild River Snowmobile Club
David Olson, Debbie Olson, Calvin Anderson

Approve Agenda: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Phillip Meers to approve the June 2025 agenda with an additional agenda item of Sunrise Township website. Motion carried.

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

Clerk Update: Donation Thank You's received from Seven Co. Sr. Federation, Chisago County Fair, Viking Vittles and Jenell Johnson for Michael Johnson's funeral.

Treasurer Report:

Motion by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, second by Greg Strom to move $28,657.28 from General Fund to the Township Hall fund. Motion carried.

Motion by Mark Osland, second by Phillip Meers to approve Treasurer Anderson's report with claims list 7748 through 7776 with additional claims as follows:

Glen Mell (33 pair of gopher feet @ $4.00 per pair)..... $132.00
Calvin Anderson (71 pair of gopher feet @ $4.00 per pair)..... $284.00
Levi Robiotti (9 pair of gopher feet @ $4.00 per pair)..... $36.00

Motion carried.

Treasurer Anderson reported that there is $20,605.24 in the Sunrise Township Park Fund. Sunrise Township Clerk Kowalke emailed Chisago County to find out how much money is in the Park Fund at the County level. Chisago County has not responded to an email because of the Juneteenth Holiday.

Almelund Fire – Kevin Johnson: Kevin Johnson is the new fire chief. Gave an update of the new fire truck – truck year 2025 and took possession of the new truck at the end of May. This replaced the 1993 fire truck.

Wild River Crossings – Preliminary Plat – Rober Boyce: Adam Grobove, III said that Rick Olseen attended the meeting to advocate for the snowmobile trail. Adam Grobove, III attended the June, 2025 Sunrise Planning Commission meeting as a citizen, not as a Board Member. Adam Grobove, III is advocating to keep the trail on Olson Road if there is any way to work it out. Greg Strom said that the Sunrise Town Board has no jurisdiction over a snowmobile trail. Bob Boyce said that he is losing land due to the road right-of way. Bob Boyce is help by sloping the culverts / ditches at a six to 1 ratio to work with snowmobile access in the ditches. There is a line of trees on Olson Road which will offer a buffer from the ROW. Bob Boyce will put the information in the covenant that there is a snowmobile trail on the ROW. Mark Osland said that trails have come and go over the years.

It was also mentioned that is a landowner's right to do what they want with their land as long as it falls within all legal parameters.

Joel Peltier from the Wild River Snowmobile Club said that land owners believe they own to the road. When they run the groomers not everyone believes the own to the road. Bob Boyce can put this in the covenant stating that there is a row. The liability is not on the land owner if it is in the row. Bob Boyce would not put a trail on his land because of liability. Mike Sandell from the Wild River Snowmobile Club explained to Sunrise Board that the State of MN has indemnification forms to release liability from land owners who authorize snowmobile trails on their property.

Motion by Adam Grobove, III, second by Greg Strom to accept the recommendation of the Sunrise Planning Commission with the encouragement to taper the approaches and ditches to match the new Chisago County driveway requirements on Olson Road with a six to one slope. Motion carried. Robert Boyce agreed to provide of green-treat plywood to Wild River Snowmobile Club to over culver ends for snowmobile safety.

Sno-Barons CUP – Amendments:

Debbie Olson reported that the Hay Days event has been going for 58 years. There are 150 volunteers, non are paid. SnoBarons has 140 acres in total and just purchased 8 acres across HWY 95. The SnoBarons want to keep swappers on-site on Friday evening. Swappers are allowed to be there with vendors – they are not considered general public. General admission tickets start at 7:00 AM on Saturday morning. They have Sheriff staff and private security hired for the Hay Days event. Brick & Morter companies have to serve under the own license. There will be signage and proper traffic lights. Temporary lights will be provided at dark for pedestrians. There will be fulltime EMS personnel during the event with overnight EMS coverage paid for by Hay Days.

Adam Grobove, III came up with the following information: After a 30-hour investigation Chisago County, North Branch Police Department, Business Residents, EMS stated that SnoBaron's have been good to work with and when requested to look into an issue – the SnoBarons have done so. Traffic was an issue when the Hay Days event started in Sunrise Township, but has been corrected for the most part. North Branch Police Department is going to offer suggestions on how to free up the congestion. Dennis Little and Debbie Olson agreed to the conditions of a continued working relationship with first responders and respond appropriately and expeditiously to law enforcement

officers, fire and EMS public safety recommendations for all event attendees. A public safety issues at HWY 95 and Oriole Avenue was identified and will be addressed by Chisago County Sheriff's Department.

Greg Strom feels it is very inconvenient for Sunrise Township. Sunrise has to deal with the congestion of the traffic, wear and tear on the roads and the inconvenience for the citizens of the township. Greg Strom commented that the Sno-Barons do nothing to benefit Sunrise Township and have Never contributed any funds to Our Township.

Motion by Mark Osland, second by Adam Grobove, III to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation of a motion stating that the marketing information wording on page 2 stated that the Hay Days event be limited to a 3 day – CHANGE to say: *The event is limited to 6:00 PM Friday through 6:00 PM Sunday, during the weekend after Labor Day weekend. Set-up and take-down must be completed within three weeks before the event and three weeks after the event, respectively. The event will continue to be marketed as Saturday and Sunday event Only*. The second part of the motion would be on page 3, AMENDING CONDITION #23 to state ANY LICENSE. *All liquor service shall be served in compliance with any license obtained and shall comply with all applicable Minnesota Department of Public Safety regulations, and Chisago County Liquor licensing requirements*.

Further discussion: Greg Strom feels that there is no reason to make Friday and general event day. Debbie Olson responded it is to keep swappers on site. Swappers can come and go as the please. Greg Strom feels Friday is an event day and feels it is a full blown event day already. Greg Strom does not feel there is any reason to change and it is a hardship on the Township. Greg Strom does not feel the SnoBarons are completely transparent. Burden to EMT's,

Jeanine Oslon, Wild River Winery owners, stated – isn't the Township supposed to encourage tourism. Ms. Olson stated they have a campground and she said she feels her patrons are safer that they go to their campsite after festivities than getting out on the road. Ms. Olson is also hoping to partner with Snobaron's at the Hay Days event to become a vendor. Licenses have increased by 100% from Chisago County, giving the example of if you paid $1,000 in the past – it is now $2,000 per year.

Motion Passed with two Town Board Members not in agreeance: Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson and Greg Strom voted No.

SnoBaron's said they would like to give back to Sunrise. Greg Strom said that Sunrise has asked the SnoBaron's to establish a new trail off of Ferry Road. Response is they do not do this kind of thing. Peggy Pearson said there was no follow-up on the Ferry Road trail.

Sunrise Township CUP – Signature to Continue CUP: Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to approve the Continuation of the Sunrise Township CUP. Motion carried.

Olson Ballfield Usage: Adam Grobove, III reported there was a request for a youth team to use the Sunrise Township ballfield for practice. Adam Grobove, III said that Troy Montague and Dave Kadlec bent over backwards to take care of debris for birds in the dugout area. Motion Mark Osland, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to use the ballfield with no fees. Motion carried. Troy Montague will be ordering a port-a-potty at the ballfield for use.

Royal Wilcox Community Center Update: Greg Strom, Phil Meers and Troy Montague met with Tony Koran of the Almelund Threshing Company. Phil Meers reported that Tony Koran couldn't give

a definite date for moving the Royal Wilcox Community Center / School House. Tony Koran knows that the water and electricity have been disconnected. Greg Strom spoke to the Almelund Threshing Company treasurer and they said they do not have enough money at the moment to move the building. Deah Szymanski reported they are not near the full price to move the building and continue to work on fund raising.

Website: Greg Strom said that there have been several inquiries on platting, splitting road. Greg Strom would like to have this added to the Sunrise Township website informing citizens to inquire at Chisago County to get started with this process. Charolotte Wilcox add to the website.

Citizen's Forum: Rick Olseen thanked the Board for listening regarding the snowmobile trail. Chisago County Press – letter a couple of year ago.

National Night Out Update: Adam Grobove, III and Mark Osland met with SnoBarons at the Hay Days site. Dennis Little said SnoBarons would like to offer the Hay Days site for National Night Out. Greg Strom asked how many attendees attend the Hay Days event. Debbie Olson and Dennis Little were unwilling to provide this information. Attendance tally sheets are available at the Chisago County in an after event report. This report is one of the conditions they have to file after the Hay Days event. Debbie Olson said they sell on e-tickets and have physical counters at the event. Mark Osland said citizens like coming to the Sunrise River Park setting and be able to go to the museum. Debbie Olson mentioned they would like to get to know the citizens of Sunrise. Mark Osland mentioned that Hay Days should set up a table at the National Night Out to get to know the citizens. Motion by Mark, Osland, second by Adam Grobove, III to keep National Night Out at Sunrise Park. Motion carried. Adam Grobove, III mentioned that the Sunrise Bible Church is willing to participate by serving ice cream, games, etc.

More Ferry Road Update: Dave Kadlec reported that the DOT is going to look into and update the apron.

New Town Hall Update (Internet, lights – strips to hang decorations): Street light is in the works.

Magnetic Board for Maps (received): Magnetic boards have been received and are set-up at the Town Hall.

Maintenance Update: Dave Kadlec reported that the old septic tank is out at the Royal Wilcox Community Center / School House. Water is hooked up to the shop. Calcium Chloride was completed on 6-18-2025. Put down 60,000 gallons, first mowing has been done. Peaceful Valley Road is very wash boarding within a couple of days after grading. Troy Montague is going to meet with the Chisago County to figure out what can be done.

Board Member Meetings:
Adam: regular meeting, CCATO, commissioner's mtg., PC
Greg: regular meeting, PC meeting
Phillip: regular meeting
Pete: regular meeting, CCATO
Mark: regular meeting, CCATO

Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Greg Strom to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. Motion carried.

Signed: Wendy S. Kowalke, Clerk

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, Chair