2025 Sunrise Township Annual Meeting
Sunrise Township Hall (1st Annual Meeting at New Town Hall)
12080 Sunrise Road, Harris, Minnesota
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Chair Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson called the 2025 Sunrise Township Annual meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

Supervisor Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson
Supervisor Adam Grobove III
Supervisor Greg Strom
Supervisor Jeske Noordergraaf
Supervisor Mark Osland (absent)
Clerk Wendy Kowalke
Treasurer Karen Anderson
Engineer: Cristina Mlejnek (absent)
Maintenance: Troy Montague

Others Present

Tyler Richter
Charlotte Wilcox
Lynn Wolleat
Denise Martin
David Stertz
Eric Leivian
Jake Holzem
Dan Dahlberg
Rick Olseen
Peggy Pearson
Phillip Meers
Rick Olseen
Connie Grobove
Joyce Meyers
Shane Stepp
Tony Koran
Denise Martin
Tom Gustafson
Tom Chaklos, Jr.
Deah Szymanski
Bobbi Harrington
Gabbi Stepp

Appointment of Moderator: Rick Olseen volunteered to be the 2025 Annual Meeting Moderator. Hearing no other nominations, motion by David Stertz, second by Eric Leivian to accept Rick Olseen as moderator. Motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Motion by Tom Chaklos, Jr., second by Lynne Wolleat to approve the 2025 Annual Meeting agenda. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes: Motion by Tom Chaklos, Jr., second by Lynn Wolleat to approve the 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Karen Anderson went over treasurer's report. Books are closed for 2024. Checking account balance for 2024 is $1,107,250.86. Savings account balance is zero as Sunrise Township does not have a savings account. Treasurer's report was available at the Annual Meeting.

Moderator Rick Olseen asked Treasurer Anderson to explain what PILT is. Treasurer Anderson said it is Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

Motion by Tom Chaklos, second by Lynn Wolleat to accept Treasurer Anderson's Report. Motion carried.

Supervisor Adam Gobove, III explained to the citizens that Greg Strom saved Sunrise Township a lot of money on the new town hall (see New Town Hall agenda item). Greg Strom said the building committee was a group effort. Sunrise Township bought as much material as we could to save money.

Moderator Olseen announced that this is Supervisor Jeske Noordergraaf's last meeting. Thanked Jeske Noordergraaf for her efforts on saving the Royal Wilcox Community Center and all her work over 15 years of serving as supervisor.

Proposed 2026 Levy:

- *Levy: 2026*: There was a motion made by Mark Osland, second by Greg Strom at the February 25, 2025 budget meeting to propose to the Citizens of Sunrise Township at the annual meeting for 6% increase for the 2026 levy. Setting the levy at $563,258.07. Reason for Increase: Almelund has purchased a new fire truck. Starting in 2026 Sunrise Township needs to pay their portion Year 2025 will be an additional $10,775.72 (1st year is interest only); Year 2026 will be an additional $33,387.26 for 10 years - This will continue for the length of the bond. ***Motion by Tom Chaklos, second by Lynn Wolleat to accept 6% increase. Motion carried.***
- *Separate Blacktop Levy: starting 2026 for 7 years*: There was a motion by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, second by Adam Grobove III at the February 25, 2025 Sunrise Budget meeting to propose to the Citizens of Sunrise Township at the annual meeting to have a separate blacktop levy of $100,000.00 each year for 7 years. Tyler Richter raised the question to the Town Board - assuming you have a good base – how far does $100,000 give you. Troy Montague said it depends on the road and base. Jeske Noordergraaf said a road we need to keep an eye on is Wilcox Road which is breaking up. This levy is not just for new roads. A quote was given of over $1M. Charlotte Wilcox said the citizens voted to use the last levy on one road in one swipe which was Olson Road. Eric Leivian would like to have more clarity on what roads Sunrise Township is looking at. Rick Olseen posed the question on what would the increase be in addition to the 6% increase that was just voted on. It would be 18%. Jeske Noordergraaf said the blacktop levy would start in 2026. Motion by Tom Chaklos, second by Lynn Wolleat that we cannot spend more than $100,000 from the road fund without 2 months of discussion and a vote from the citizens from the blacktop fund. –Tyler Richter asked what is preventing a group of citizens to say they want the money spent on their road. Treasurer Karen Anderson said we do have a road maintenance fund which can be used for any type of repairs. Tom Chaklos, III said we have to define what the levy would be. David Stertz – do we have the motion restated. David Stertz likes the idea of not going into debt on new construction on roads. What is the motivation. Carl Peter "Pete' Johnson stated it is to avoid the debt. Karen Anderson said that if we do not have money ready how do we show the bonding company for construction. Tom Chaklos, Jr. asked if the currently levy has expired. Jake Holzem – what kind of working document of a plan do we have. Jeske Noordergraaf replied we do have a plan from the engineer. Troy Montague said it is

about $1M per mile for reconstruction and paving. Tom Chaklos, Jr and Lynn Wolleat withdrew their motion. Deah Szymanski posed the question - wouldn't that give more power to the Board. ***Motion by David Stertz, second by Tyler Richter to create $100,000 per year additional levy for 7 years for the purpose of new blacktopping or reconstruction and paving existing blacktopped roads. The funds shall not be spent without proposed funds to be spent being declared at two months prior at a board meeting before the annual meeting of the citizens.*** Rick Olseen said with this levy it is to build up a fund for new or reconstruction of blacktop roads. Deah Szymanski is not on board with more pavement. Shane Stepp brought up a point of – do we want to possibly proposed $200,000. Greg Strom asked Treasurer Karen Anderson what is the amount in the blacktop balance of $142,000. Treasurer Anderson confirmed that is correct the amount. Tom Chaklos, Jr. said there has only been 4 roads paved in the last 10 years. It's every four to five years Sunrise is blacktopping a road. We are spending $100,000 just buying gravel – spending another $100,00 just in maintenance. There is a also a cost to gravel roads. **MOTION CARRIED TO PASS THE ADDITIONAL $100,000 LEVY PER YEAR FOR 7 YEARS**

Set 2026 Budget: The Sunrise Township Board motioned to approve the 2026 Budget at the February 25, 2025 Budget meeting with the following motion: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Jeske Noordergraaf to set the Sunrise Township Budget at $879,970.00. Motion carried.

County Commissioner – Dan Dahlberg: Commissioner Dan Dahlberg reported Chisago County budgeting process will start in April. The County may have a 10% levy increase. County Road 10 from the 35 bridge to Stark scheduled for 2026. CR 16 is getting done heading into Taylors Falls. Chisago County saved approximately $750,000. This road is 3 to 5 miles. Chisago County has been working on continuing the bike trail past Harris, MN. Chisago County is applying for Legacy Funds. Looking at trying to get a 90% to a 10% match – Chisago County would pay 10%. The bike trail could run from St. Paul all the way Duluth. Jeske Noordergraaf asked about the round-a-bout on 95 by CR 9 and Almelund. Dan Dahlberg did say there are safety concerns and have asked the State regarding the round-a-bouts.

2024 Annual Township Report: Annual Report available at meeting. Motion by Connie Grobove, III, second by Charlotte Wilcox to accept the 2024 Annual Report. Motion carried

Road Report: Annual Road report is included in the Annual Township Report. Motion by Tom Chaklos, Jr. second by Lynn Wolleat. to accept the annual road report. Motion carried.

Donation Requests:

Motion by Tom Chaklos, Jr., second by Joyce Meyers to distribute $4,000 at the discretion of the Town Board at the April meeting. Donation requests were received by Family Pathways, Chisago County Historical Society, Chisago County Ag Society, Chisago Age Well, Seven County Senior Federation, Sunrise Cemetery Association, North Branch Fire, Viking Vittles Food Program. The distribution of these funds will be decided at the April meeting by the Town Board.

Gopher Bounty: Motion by Rick Olseen, second by Bobbi Harrington to set gopher bounty at $4.00 per pair for pocket gophers. Motion carried. Gophers are to reside in Sunrise Township.

New Town Hall (12080 Sunrise Road (CR 9), Harris, MN: Greg Strom reported New Town Hall building Budget Proposal was $526,000.00. The New Town Hall came in at $90,730.38 under budget at $435,269.62. Moderator Rick Olseen thanked Greg Strom for working so diligently on the new Town Hall. Greg Strom said that this was a group effort with a lot of help from Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson and the committee.

Royal Wilcox Community Center (off River Road): Tony Koran, Alemlund Threshing Company reported they have raised approximately $75,000. Also have general contractors that are donating a lot of their time. Working on grants. The Almelund Threshers are having a school house banquet and looking for 248 people to purchase tickets to the banquet. There will be a silent auction: quilts, guns, peddle tractor, etc. on May 10th. They are planning on using County Road 9 as the moving route for the Royal Wilcox Community Center / School House. There are 52 power lines have to come down. Adam Grobove, III passed on a compliment – Sunrise Township appreciates that the building going to Almelund Threshing. Tony Koran said they are looking at making sure to obtain and keep the history with the building with artifacts, pictures, and timelines, etc. Adam Grobove, III asked if Almelund Threshers would be willing to help with providing the pictures / vidoes with the moving of the building with the Digital Memories that the Chisago County Historical Society is putting together for Chisago County. Jeske Noordergraaf said if anybody wants to donate they can use the QR code, go to website, every little bit helps. Jeske Noordergraaf has tickets to the May banquet that the Threshers are putting on.

Subordinate Service District Update: The SSD last payment will be 2028

Noise Ordinance Signage: Jeske Noordergraaf reported Mn/Dot will place Noise Ordinance signs spring, 2025. Chisago county has put up signs for Sunrise on CR 9 on both ends of the township.

Community Night Out: Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

Approve site and time for 2026 Annual Meeting: Motion by Connie Grobove, second by Tom Chaklos, Jr. to hold the 2026 Annual Meeting on Tues., March 10, 2026 at 8:15 at the Sunrise Town Hall located at 12080 Sunrise Road, Harris, MN. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Public Comment: No Public Comments.

Sunrise Township March 11, 2025 Election Results: Clerk Kowalke read the Election Results.

A Total of 37 votes cast
(Total number of register of electors is 1548)

Supervisor E – Three (3) Year Term
Phillip Meers..... 37
Write-ins..... 0
Undervotes 0
Overvotes..... 0

The Canvass Board will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 immediately following the annual meeting to certify the election results. Motion carried.

Motion by Bobbi Harrington to adjourn at 9:42 p.m.

Attest: Wendy Kowalke, Clerk

Moderator