Regular Meeting Sunrise Township
Thursday, February 19, 2026
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.
Maintenance: Troy Montague
Maintenance: Dave Kadlec

Others Present:

Peggy Pearson
Deah Szymanski
Kevin Johnson, Almelund Fire Chief
Tyler Richter
Charlotte Wilcox
Dave Kadlec

Approve Agenda: Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Greg Strom to approve the February 2026 agenda. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Adam Grobove, III to accept the January Meeting 2026 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Clerk Update: Clerk Kowalke gave an update on the March 2026 Township Elections. Election candidacy is now closed. Absentee voting is open at the Chisago County Auditor's office. Clerk Kowalke emptied the Safe Deposit Box at Associated Bank. Greg Strom informed the Board that there are some quit claim deeds from NSP to Sunrise Township. Greg Strom will report at the March meeting. Per the direction of the Town Board the Safe Deposit box will be closed.

Treasurer Report: Motion by Phillip Meer, second by Mark Osland to approve Treasurer Anderson's report with claims list 7978 through 8010 with no additional claims.
Motion carried.

Road Maintenance Fund: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Phillip Meers to move $200,000 from Road Maintenance to a CD for seven months. Motion carried.

Supervisor Meeting and Approvals – Spring Training:

Adam: Regular mtg., CCATO, Budget
Greg: regular meeting, CCATO, Budget and Planning Commission
Phillip: Regular meeting
Pete: regular meeting, CCATO, Budget
Mark: regular meeting, CCATO, Budget

Spring Training Short Courses: Adam Grobove, III reported March 2 is Capital Day and would like to attend the MN Assoc. of Townships spring short courses. Motion by Greg Strom, second by Mark Osland to approve Adam Grobove, III the attendance of both meetings. Motion carried.

Almelund Fire Contract: Kevin Johnson, Almelund Fire Chief. 54 runs in Sunrise Township in 2025. Almelund has 23 fire fighters. May 2025 took possession of new truck. Adding a pump to one tanker which is approximately $10,000. Turn-out gear needs to be replaced every 10 years (they are about $5,000 to $6,000 per set) – replacement to starting in 2028. Old gear is going to Nicaragua. The Threshing Show is the fund raiser for Almelund Fire. Applied for a 50/50 DNR grant with a match up to $10,000. 2026 Sunrise is 46% of Market Value. Amador is taking 50% of the cost for the new fire truck of $96,000 – the other $48,000 is Split between Sunrise, Shafer, and Chisago. The cost to Sunrise $35,066.75. $105,993.55 for Sunrise Portion of the Budget for 2026. There is a 10 year bond on the fire truck. 2025 is the first year for the full amount. Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Adam Grobove, III to accept the 2026 contract for $105,993.55. Contract signed. Motion carried.

North Branch Fire Discussion (5-year plan for Budgeting): Clerk Kowalke to contact North Branch Fire before the Budget Meeting set for March 3.

Spray Equipment – Possible purchase in conjunction with City of Harris: Troy Montague informed the Sunrise Township Board that currently Sunrise uses a 25 gallon sprayer. Harris reached out to see if Sunrise would like share in cost on the purchase of new spray equipment. Sunrise Board was informed that Troy Montague needs protective equipment / gear because he walks behind the truck. Troy Montague will obtain quotes. Place on March agenda.

ADA Compliant Website and .gov website: Government entities are required to have a .gov website by June of 2025 and need to be ADA compliant July 2027. This will more than likely have additional cost to the Township. Uploading starting 2026 of documents will be performed by WellOptimized, Becky Caneday, Sunrise Township's web designer at this point so that everything is ADA compliant from 2026 forward.

Dust Control: Troy Montague reported that Envirotech usually gets the state bid. Last year we paid $1.60 per gallon. Shawn Williams with North Branch Township is working on the contract that Sunrise Township usually is a part of for lower costs.

Gravel: Bjorklund's have not provided a quote yet. Rydberg has quoted $18.97 per yard. Sunrise will need 4,000 yards.

Employee Handbook approval: Minnesota Association of Township Attorney recommended stating that the employee handbook is not a binding contract. Employee hand book is a guideline. Motion by Mark Osland, second by Phillip Meers to accept the updated handbook as of 2-2026.

Chisago County Sheriff Use of Sunrise Town Hall: Mark Osland informed Sunrise Town Board that the Chisago County Sheriff's Office reached out and would like to be able to use our facility for a possible command post for critical / incident. Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Carel Peter "Pete" Johnson to allow the Chisago County Sheriff's Office to use Sunrise Township Facility. Motion carried. Mark Osland will follow-up with the Chisago County Sheriff's Office.

2027 Budget Meeting Reset:: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Citizen's Forum: None

Cell Phone Booster for Town Hall: Troy Montague informed the Board there is an antenna that can be installed on the flag pole or on the roof to try to obtain better service. No monthly cost. Installation cost is $600.00. Motion by Mark Osland, second by Phillip Meers to purchase and install with 1 nay – Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson. Motion carried.

Technology for Sunrise Town Hall for On-line meetings: Karen Anderson reported there is google meet or zoom. Need to have internet service to be able to administer. Tyler Richter – what is obligation to archive meetings if they are live. Tyler Richter would like to possibly have the agenda published.

Annual Report Review: No action taken.

Annual Agenda Review: No action taken.

Road Vacation: Charlotte Wilcox informed the Town Board that there are two motions that are needed in order for her to continue with the initiation of possibly vacating roads. What roads does the board want to put on the annual agenda for the voters of the town to decide to initiate the road vacations.

Motion by Greg Strom, second by Phillip Meers to place Water Street between Wilcox and CR 9, Minnesota Avenue , Oak St. south of Wilcox and south of CR 9 on the Sunrise Township Annual Agenda for vacation. Discussion by Tyler Richter explained that the Sunrise Planning Commission made road vacation recommendations for the Town Board – Mr. Richter asked the Town Board if they are going against the Planning Commission's recommendations. Greg Strom is looking to limit to the 3 segments so a not to too much on the citizens for one evening meeting at the annual town meeting. Adam Grobove, III posed the question as to why Sunrise Township is vacating roads. Greg Strom would like to clear these roads up so there is not a cloud on the title. Deah Szymanski said it makes selling the ball park easier. Adam Grobove, III Nay – motion carried.

Charlotte Wilcox stated again for clarity - the voters at the annual meeting make the decision

Charlotte Wilcox informed the Town Board that there is a second motion needed to send a courtesy letter to property owners. Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Greg Strom if the road vacation passes at the annual meeting to send a letter to property owners. Motion carried.

Property Owners: Patricia Peters and the Swanson's.

Sunrise Town Board needs to set a Road Hearing date at the their regular Town Board Meeting if the road vacation passes. The Road Hearing cannot be before May because the DNR needs to be notified.

AED Units: It is suggested that the FRX AED Unit would best serve Sunrise Township. This unit would cost approximately $2,600 to $2,800. This Unit has a set up for kids and adults. It completes it

own daily check and very robust. There is no monthly fee. Every two years the batter and pads would need to be replaced which would cost a total of approximately $150.00.

Motion by Adam Grobove, III, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to purchase the AED unit with the help of a donation of a $1,000 from the Sno barons. Motion carried.

2027 Budget Meeting to be Reconvened on March 3 at 6:00 PM

Levy recommendation for 2027 will be discussed at the March 3 Budget Meeting to bring to the Voters at the Annual Meeting:

Motion by Mark Osland, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to adjourn at 8:54 p.m. Motion carried.

Signed: Wendy S. Kowalke, Clerk

Carl Peter "Peter" Johnson, Chair