Regular Meeting Sunrise Township
Thursday, June 18, 2026
Sunrise Town Hall, 12080 Sunrise Road, Harris, MN 55032

Chair Greg Strom called the Regular Sunrise Township Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

Greg Strom, Chair
Phillip Meers, Vice Chair
Mark Osland
Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson
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
Jeske Noordergraaf
Ed Stofferahn
Charlotte Wilcox
Kevin Gustafson
Barbara Lindberg
Susan Johnson
Bill Campbell
James McCarthy
Debbie Olson
Meshell Gorsenger
Greg Goe… (sp?)
Lisa Otto
Greg Johnson
Dave Kadlec
Will Swanson
Barb Stofferahn
Rawdy Gorsenger
Perry Lindberg
Dan Otto
Holly Braun

Adopt Agenda: Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to adopt the June, 2026 agenda. Motion Carried.

Meeting Minutes: Motion by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, second by Adam Grobove III to approve the May 2026 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Clerk Update: Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to remove personal Town Board Members addresses from the Sunrise Township Website due to security risks. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Phillip Meers to approve Treasurer Karen Anderson's report holding the LHP check with claims list 8114 through 8148. Motion carried.

Town Hall Rental Deposits: After discussion it was the decision of the Town Board to hold damage deposit checks instead of cashing them. After town hall rental inspections damage deposit checks may be returned to applicant instead of depositing damage deposit checks if there is no damage to the town hall.

CD's are due for renewal: Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to renew the CD's for 12 months. Motion carried.

Supervisor Meeting and Approvals (NOTE: Not all meetings are paid):

Adam: Regular mtg., (Harris had a really good event called Outdoor Experience)
Greg: Regular Meeting

Phillip: Regular Meeting,
Pete: Regular Meeting
Mark Regular Meeting
Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to approve meetings. Motion carried.

Corrected Resolution Vacating a Town Road for Water St., Oak St., and MN Avenue: Charlotte Wilcox noticed an error on the original resolution for Water Street. The following is the corrected resolution.

Motion by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, second by Adam Grobove III by Roll Call Vote to approve the corrected resolution vacating a town road:

CORRECTED RESOLUTION VACATING A TOWN ROAD

WHEREAS, at the annual Township meeting on March 10, 2026, the electors of Sunrise Township, Chisago County, Minnesota, passed a resolution authorizing the town board to initiate the road vacation procedure in Minn. Stat. § 164.07 relative to the following described roads:

1. Water Street from the south line of River Road and the southwest line of Sunrise Road, to the north line of Wilcox Road (formerly platted as Pennsylvania Avenue)
2. Oak Street from the south line of Wilcox Road (formerly platted as Pennsylvania Avenue) and the southwest line of Sunrise Road, to the north line of Minnesota Avenue
3. Minnesota Avenue from the west line of Sunrise Road to the Sunrise River

WHEREAS, the road passes over the following described tracts of land in Chisago County, Minnesota, owned by the following named owners:

Water Street

Owner	Description of Land
Patricia M. Peters	Lots 5–8, Block 10, Sunrise City

Oak Street

Owners	Description of Land
Link R. Swanson and Kathryn R.G. Swanson	Lots 1–48, Block 31, Sunrise City

Minnesota Avenue

Owners	Description of Land
Charles Kolad	Lots 25–28, Block 30, Sunrise City
Link R. Swanson and Kathryn R.G. Swanson	Lot 24, Block 30; Lots 24–25, Block 31; and Lots 24–25, Block 32; all in Sunrise City

WHEREAS, the town board conducted a public hearing on the 21st day of May, 2026, after personal and posted notice provided by the Town Clerk pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 164.07, subd. 2, and published notice provided by the town board;

WHEREAS, the town board examined the road, heard interested parties, and considered the matter;

WHEREAS, the town board determined the action is consistent with the public interest;

WHEREAS, the town board has examined the ditches lateral to the road and determined said ditches are not essential for surface drainage of adjacent lands or highways in support of the general health and welfare of the public;

WHEREAS, the Owners listed below have released in writing all claims for damages from such vacation:

Charles Kolad	April 28, 2026
Link R. Swanson	May 6, 2026
Kathryn R.G. Swanson	May 6, 2026
Patricia M. Peters	May 9, 2026

WHEREAS, the Resolution adopted on May 21, 2026, vacating the above-described roads contained an error in the description of the portion of Water Street to be vacated, which did not reflect the actual intent of the town board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the town board of Sunrise Township, Chisago County, Minnesota, hereby amends the Resolution adopted on May 21, 2026, to reflect the actual intent of the Board on May 21, 2026, specifically with reference to Water Street, and hereby vacates the town roads legally described as follows:

All that part of Water Street in the Plat of Sunrise City lying southwesterly of the right of way of County State Aid Highway No. 9, also known as Sunrise Road, according to Chisago County Highway Plat No. 67, and lying north of Wilcox Road.

All that part of Oak Street in the Plat of Sunrise City lying southwesterly of the right of way of County State Aid Highway No. 9, also known as Sunrise Road, according to Chisago County Highway Plat No. 67, and lying north of Minnesota Avenue.

All that part of Minnesota Avenue in the Plat of Sunrise City lying westerly of the right of way of County State Aid Highway No. 9, also known as Sunrise Road, according to Chisago County Highway Plat No. 67, and lying easterly of the Sunrise River.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the town board chair and town clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute and record a town road order vacating said town road and to record the same with the county recorder of Chisago County;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the town clerk is authorized and directed to provide a copy of this resolution to each of the affected owners listed above. Adopted this 18th day of June, 2026, by the following vote:

Town Supervisor	Yes / No
Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson	__Yes__
Phillip Meers	__Yes__
Mark Osland	__Yes__
Greg Strom	__Yes__
Adam Grobove III	__Yes__

Motion carried.

Election Judge Recommendations: Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Mark Osland with two Board Members abstaining due to being election judges – Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson and Adam Grobove III. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION
APPOINTING ELECTION JUDGES FOR SUNRISE TOWHSIP
08-11-2026 PRIMARY ELECTIONS AND
11-03-2026 GENERAL ELECTIONS
Resolution #: 2026-06-18-01

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes § 204B.21 allows Sunrise Township to appoint an election judges;

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes § 204B.19, subdivision 2 requires that an election judge (1) can read, write, and speak the English language, (2) is not the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any election judge serving in the same precinct or any candidate of the election, (3) is not domiciled, either permanently or temporarily with any candidate at the election, or (4) is not a candidate in the election;

WHEREAS, the base number of required election judges for an election in Minnesota under Minnesota Statutes § 204B.22 has been determined to be a minimum of 4 for the precinct of Sunrise Township;

WHEREAS, the clerk recommends the appointment of 13 election judges due to the anticipated voter turnout, election judge availability, and necessity of maintaining party balance at all times during the day; and

WHEREAS, the following list of judges fulfills the requirements listed in Minnesota Statutes §204B.19, subdivision 2:

Brenette Harrington	Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson	Bridgit Olson
Joyce Meyers	Jeske Noordergraaf	Sara Rockensock
Rick Olseen	Marc Dronen	
Wendy S. Kowalke	Connie Grobove	Jenell Johnson
Denise Stewart	Adam Grobove III	

WHEREAS, under Minnesota Statutes § 204B.21, subdivision 2, a resolution is mandatory if the appointment of the election judge is within 25 days of the election in which the election judge will serve.

WHEREAS, 08/11/2026 and 11/03/2026 is the date of the elections in which the election judge is to serve for the Sunrise Township;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Town Board of Sunrise Township hereby appoints the following election judges as eligible to serve in the Sunrise Township Primary and General on Tues., August, 11, 2026 and Tues., November 3, 2026:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Brenette Harrington is designated the Head Election Judge;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of Sunrise Township hereby authorizes any election judge to be compensated as required by Minnesota Statutes § 204B.31, in an amount set by the Town Board at $21.00 per hour for the head judge and $18.00 per hour for all other trained election judges, which is not less than the prevailing Minnesota minimum wage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of Sunrise Township hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to add additional election judges as needed and allowed by Minnesota Statutes §204B.21.

Passed this 18th day of June 2026.

Citizens Forum:

- James McCarthy, Sunrise Township citizen, asked the Sunrise Town Board to not approve the Sno-Baron's CUP and asked the Town Board to have the Sno-Baron's hold them to their word. The SnoBaron's applied for an addendum to their CUP in 2016 which was denied by Sunrise Township and Chisago County. James McCarthy states the Sno-Baron's and their Hay Days event is a big burden on the community.
- Michelle Gorsenger, Sno-Baron's Representative, states they would like to open the property up as an event center. The Sno-Baron's would like to open the property up to clubs, companies and organization to hold events. Michelle Gorsenger states the Sno-Baron's purchased the property in 2004. Sno-Baron's held their first Hay Days event in 2010. Ms. Gorsenger states they are not looking to hold concerts / bike rallies for example. Ms. Gorsenger states Sno-Baron's are looking for mom and pop organizations. The infrastructure is built for Hay Days and is self-contained.
- What is the Sno-Baron's definition of a small event. Ms. Gorsenger responded 300 people, but could not guaranty that the event wouldn't go over 300 people. In the proposed CUP application, it states up to 15,000 people.
- Susan Johnson, Citizen, asked how many events they are proposing in the CUP. Ms. Gorsenger said to allow 15 events. Events aren't spelled out on how many days each event could be – it could be one day or three days.
- Greg Johnson, Citizen. When the CUP for Hay Days was approved it was one event. Michelle said we are volunteers. Hay Days makes money to support clubs.
- Jeske Noordergraaf, Citizen. What is an event. You are asking for a bland check. Jeske Noordergraaf mentioned that there have been weddings there. Michelle Gorsenger said CUP has parameters and Sno-Baron's members can get married there.
- Barb Lindberg, Citizen. When HayDays participants line up for the Hay Days event, they urinate in our yard, they are disrespectful of property owners along the way, there are pick-ups, trailers, it is a lot - this was supposed to be a two-day event, but it is much more because of the before event set-up, after-event set-up, long days, lots of noise during the whole event. It becomes more.

- Will Swanson, Citizen: the motivation – you invested money and now you need to protect that investment. Snowmobilers – it was a great hobby. We can't you let you change the zoning because of your events / activities.
- Holly Braun, Citizen. You state the size of the CUP would be 300 people but in the application it states 15,000 people in the CUP. Michelle Gorsenger said the numbers are negotiable.
- James McCarthy – 2025 Chisago County Zoning Code was updated for these types of things. James went over the different classes in the Chisago County Zoning code which states the number of people that are allowed for each class.
- Kevin Gustafson – the events that you state you are looking at, like cub scouts - is there a way to put a cap on the amount of people. Michelle Gorsenger was hesitant to want to put a cap on the number of people.
- Greg Strom stated it is ag zoned commercial recreational.
- Julie Flodquist – my son and daughter in law have a lot of problems with Hay Days. One example given was that there were tree cut down by Hay Days participants.
- Bill Campbell – Greg Strom and Bill Campbell had a discussion regarding part of Mr. Campbell's fence line is on Sunrise Township property. Greg Strom and Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson provided paperwork to Mr. Campbell where the township line. Mr. Campbell asked if there is a timeline – what are some of the options. Bill Campbell discussed some options with Kurt Schneider, Chisago County Zoning Director regarding possible partial land sale / boundary line adjustment. Mr. Campbell would like to be able to buy the partial land from Sunrise Township. Place on July Agenda.

Sno-Baron's CUP - Deborah Olson, Meshell Gorsegner, Renee Lupien: Allow for up to 15 additional events per year on our 148-acre property located at 38740 Oriole Ave, North Branch

- Greg Strom would like to see a new CUP for each of the 39 proposed events - as they are all very different and should have their own conditions and provisions
- Greg Strom stated it is difficult to get transparency from the Sno-Baron's. Greg Strom asked if the Owner and Applicant of the Sno-Baron's live in Sunrise or Amador Township or live in Chisago County. Michelle Gorsenger replied that they do not.
- Greg Strom also asked if the Sno-Baron's has been in 100% compliance with the CUP in the past. Michelle Gorsenger replied – Yes. Greg Strom asked – all 35 conditions. There are several conditions that the Sno-Baron's have not met in past CUP's.
- Deborah Olson – Sno-Baron's member since 2009. Ms. Olson said she has a background in auditing, insurance and fraud.
- Greg Strom said that the Sno-Baron's are required to file an attendance report with Chisago County every year. 2 days 28,510 people paid admission.
- Greg Strom also stated that the Sno-Baron's have to report a peak attendance. The Sno-Baron's used a peak attendance time of 10 AM Saturday morning – peak attendance is scanned when they come in the gate. Greg Strom stated that if you reach 20,000 – need to have an environmental impact statement. There seems to be an issue on what is considered Peak Attendance Time.
- School bus, campers – need to have a MN recreation campground permit – not allowed to be entered during Hay Day times. There are 2,000 sites for swappers. Members can camp year-round with state permit.
- #26 – trees and landscaping – there are 10 trees in 660 feet. This is not meeting the required CUP permit.

- #28 – Post event report and sheriff's report – 21 deputies over 2 days – Michelle Gorsenger stated Sno-Baron's pays Chisago County Sheriff's to be there. Ed Stoffharen stated this is managed by the Chisago County Sheriff's Department
- #30 – Pre-event planning – should be 90 days ahead of time – How would this meet any new CUP requirements.
- Compliance site issue: There has been 2 fire works violation and noise level violations.
- Non-Profit status 501c3-7 – Need to file with IRS listing gross receipted for 2025 – not greater that $50,000 as gross receipts
- Current CUP: List on request for 15 events as for example: DNR field camp, farmers markets, etc. There are no details or restrictions listed. The Sno-Baron's are looking for a blank check with no details with up to 15,000 attendees. Noise levels are a concern since this has been a violation in the past.
- Mark Osland asked if the Sno-Baron's allowed to sell alcohol at these events – Michelle Gorsenger replied "Yes".
- Phillip Meers – when are these events take place – year-round, except for August when the Hay Days event takes place.
- Mark Osland – First year – abused neighbors – trapped neighbors, trespassed, you always seem to keep wanting to take advantage and continue to abuse the neighboring property owners by continuing to expand.
- Phillip Meers commented that the Sunrise Board meetings usually have four to six people at a meeting and with the number of citizens attending the meeting tonight, it shows that people are concerned due to the amount of people here.
- Greg Strom stated Sno-Baron's sent out over 300 invitations to explain some of these events, but, him, being a neighbor, didn't receive an invitation – Greg Strom has to assume this was by design.
- Michelle Gorsenger stated that neighboring property owners avoid HayDays weekend. It was commented by a citizen that they shouldn't have to be trapped and have to avoid HayDays just because they own neighboring property.
- Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson states that HayDays makes a mess of roads. Hay Days so called "three-day" event which we all know is not a "three-day" event – it is essentially one month in length. This event makes a mess of the roads which need continual repair because of the extra wear and tear due to all the extra traffic.

Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to deny the Sno-Baron's CUP request. Motion carried.

Certified letter to William Campbell requesting removal of fence on Township Property: Place on July meeting at the top of the agenda.

Maintenance Update: Ditch mowing, ball team has been using Olson Field – keeping it clean. Crack sealing is finished and had to come back and redo a few spots they missed. Salt Shed has been crack filled. Key drop off has been going well for the rental. Need to get some electrical work done on the tractor.
Adam Grobove III stated the ball teams appreciate being able to use the ball field.

National Night: Clerk Kowalke and Board Members to start to work on organizing National Night Out.

Motion by Phillip Meers, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. Motion carried.

Wendy S Kowalke
Signed: Wendy S. Kowalke, Clerk

Greg Strom, Chair