

**SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, August 14, 2025**

Board Chairman Ron Flatten called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Supervisor Tom Meyer; Supervisor Brock Hayes; Supervisor Bruce Johnson; Supervisor Ernie Darlow; Treasurer Jack Brula; Clerk Candace Kral; maintenance Tim Turner; Chad Demenge, WSB Engineer, one property owner via Zoom and 16 property owners in person.

Motion made by Brock Hayes, seconded by Bruce Johnson to approve July 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; motion passed unanimously.

The treasurer reported the following fund balances for the period ending, July 31, 2025: General Revenue Fund, \$38,997.37; Road & Bridge Fund \$197,048.31; Sewer Fund \$28,499.98; Road Repair (blacktop) Fund, \$250,173.81; Fire Fund, \$19,916.99; Building Repair Fund, \$583,699.67; Parks & Rec Fund, - \$141,892.46; Escrow/Road Vacation \$1,979.10; and the Lease/purchase \$83,407.18 Salt Shed loan - \$23,925.01 – a total in the checking accounts of \$1,061,829.95. The Blacktop Repair CD' total \$173,853.36; Equipment CD's total \$55,082.99 and the Sewer Fund CDs' total \$123,626.08. Money market interest received in July 2025 was \$362.18. Receipts for the month were \$6,508.88. July disbursements were \$54,322.82.

Motion made by Ernie Darlow, seconded by Brock Hayes, to approve the treasurer's report; motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Tom Meyer, seconded by Ernie Darlow, to approve the July 2025 claims and payroll totaling \$105,626.53; motion made to approve claims with the understanding that the check to Zeigler, Inc. for \$55,657.21 will be held until Grader repairs are complete and done to satisfaction, motion passed unanimously. Claims list attached.

Correspondence: Lake Country Power July 2025 Newsliner; Lakes and Pines C.A.C., Inc. FYI Newsletter, July, August, September 2025 Edition; May/June Echoes; LMLID Annual Meeting Notice, Saturday, August 23, 2025; Pipeline Emergency Response Information pamphlet; Donation request email from Logan Township for Pine Grove School/Chapel Restoration; Pipeline Association Volume 20, Summer 2025; email from L-Z Truck Equipment being on MN State Bid; PERA Member Newsletter, Summer Edition.

Concerns from residents not on the agenda:

Residence from 46970 165th Place addressed the Board regarding concerns about water drainage and the culvert located on the easement. Tim will check to make sure the culvert is not plugged and connect with the property owner.

Ron Flatten addressed the fact that there have been storms this year that have brought a great deal of rains in a short amount of times. These storms are causing wash-out issues that do not occur in a normal year of moisture and they are affecting all residents.

Brent Hutchens addressed the Board regarding a concern about the width of the re-asphalted Bridge Road being 4 inches wider than the original road. He is requesting the road be fixed or to get paid compensation for the loss of property. Different options were discussed with the Board and the engineer from WSB. He also suggested changes and increased communications in how the public is made aware

of road projects. The Board referred to the information on the Bridge Road project that has been put on the Website and the invitation to attend monthly meetings either in person or via Zoom.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bridge Road Project - Ron Flatten expressed his appreciation to Ernie Darlow for his time spent on site during construction and to Brian Napstad for his assistance in the project. The conversation focused on concerns about the recent road project, particularly regarding whether road elevations were raised to the specifications needed to prevent future flooding issues.

- **Road Raises & Concrete Insert:**
Three specific areas along 508th were supposed to be raised. A planned concrete snowmobile crossing was delayed due to high cost, and the township is pursuing a more affordable option.
- **Oversight & Verification:**
Residents questioned whether the township properly ensured taxpayers received the work they paid for. Township representatives confirmed that engineers and contractors were on site, and the raises did occur, though nearly missed until residents and board members intervened. Multiple checks were made using laser equipment to confirm elevations.
- **Key Concerns Raised:**
 - There was miscommunication between the contractor and engineering team about how critical the elevation was, with driveway tie-ins initially prioritized over proper road height.
 - Elevation has always been the top concern (since the 2012 flood), but it may not have been clearly relayed to the current project team.
 - At one point, reports suggested the road might be up to 20 inches below desired elevation, but corrections were made, and the road was ultimately brought up to the 12–13 inch spec.
- **Contractor & Correction Work:**
Township noted that while there were some mistakes—like using topsoil instead of gravel near mailboxes, uneven driveway tie-ins and uneven center seam causing standing water—these issues are being looked at by the contractor and correction options are being discussed (switching to Class 5 gravel, smoothing out approaches, reworking sloppy asphalt tie-ins on driveways).
- **Flood Protection Confidence:**
Officials stressed that if another flood like 2012 occurs, the raised sections should now hold. The elevation corrections were essential to avoiding major problems, and although communication missteps caused stress, the final result is that the road is now built to plan.
- **Brian Napstad reviewed past conversations with engineer Paul Sandy (WSB), both in meetings and on the phone. He explained that when concerns about road elevations came up, Paul Sandy noted that different measurement scales were being used (Army Corps vs. NAVD88) and advised not to focus on the technical numbers. Instead, Paul Sandy asked how much water residents were willing to tolerate on the road in a future flood event and said he would calculate the elevations accordingly. From that point forward, discussions shifted away from specific elevation benchmarks and toward setting a target (such as allowing 12–13 inches of water on the road). Brian Napstad said that while the road built is good, somewhere along the way there was a breakdown in communication or follow-through on how those numbers translated into the final design. Brian reiterated the Board previously emphasized that the critical issue is confirming what was promised in those earlier discussions: that Paul Sandy would do the math to match the community’s tolerance for water on the road, rather than residents trying to reconcile differing elevation systems themselves.**
- **During discussion of Bridge Road, it was noted that during heavy rains, water coming from Vern Awes’s property flowed around his driveway and into the yard of Travis Erickson. It was indicated that a culvert is not necessary at this time, unless water begins reaching his garage. It will be monitored and revisited. However, drainage issues at Ericson’s driveway were identified, as his small culvert is not adequately handling runoff, causing water to collect. Options discussed included installing a new culvert, adjusting the alignment closer to the lake where right-of-way is available,**

and enlarging the sump area to improve flow. Mr. Erickson was supportive of these improvements, and the board agreed to place the issue on the township's to-do list for follow-up.

Road Report – Tim Turner reported that cleanup efforts are ongoing following recent storms, including the removal of fallen trees affecting the roads. There have been many wash-out issues due to heavy rains and storm damage, which are causing township roads to be in rough condition and are being repaired as best as possible with available equipment. The leaf sites are getting very full with the storm clean-up from local residents. He also informed the Board that the township grader was repaired and brought to the Township. It then had to be returned to Caterpillar in Brainerd for additional transmission repairs. Caterpillar brought a machine to use while they fix the township's grader. They have been mowing lawns, hauling gravel and performing regular maintenance on machinery. New sign posts placed at the public access by Hillcrest. Next week the township will begin working on the mail boxes that are too low on Bridge Road.

218th Place- 505th Lane – The Board noted that the Water Drainage Project will be moving forward. Tim has contacted the affected landowners, who have granted permission, and he will be reaching out to the County Engineer to proceed with next steps.

210th Place – The Township will proceed with drainage improvements once the homeowner installs the required driveway culvert.

218th Place and 482nd Lane Road View Summary was presented to the Board.

Dan & Candy Urch - 51291 190th Place has a culvert that has repeatedly filled with sand following heavy rains, causing sand and debris to drain onto their property. Tim cleaned out the culvert, but it became clogged again after the next storm. A board member has visited the site and the township will request assistance from the fire department to help clear the culvert.

Dan Montague - 19914 472nd Street property owner expressed concerns with water runoff and agreed to allow the Township to use their property as needed to improve drainage. Board members inspected the area and noted how runoff from the road is impacting the lakeshore. Tim will contact Aitkin Soil and Water to explore potential funding for the project.

Alan Eld presented the Board with the road improvements he has made to bring his road to the township's guidelines for accepting a road for maintenance. The Board will do a road view.

The Planning Commission approved the Gravel Crush Permit (Mining Operations CUP/IUP Permit #2025-0477). The permit is set to expire on July 21, 2030, and is expected to cover two gravel crushes for the township, providing a cost-saving benefit.

Technology Upgrade - No new updates were reported. The Board noted that alternative, lower-cost options will be explored.

Motion made by Tom Meyer; Seconded by Brock Hayes to approve SCI/Midcontinent Resolution 2025-16 (transfer of) Consent to Assignment of Franchise; Motion passed unanimously.

Information from the ACAT Meeting was presented to the Board.

Motion made by Tom Meyer; Seconded by Brock Hayes to approve SCI/Midcontinent Resolution 2025-16 (transfer of) Consent to Assignment of Franchise; Motion passed unanimously.

Ernie Darlow presented the Board with information about the severe weather siren that is currently not working and residences are concerned. The Aitkin County Sherrif's office is looking into possible funding that may be available to cover the cost of fixing the siren. More information will come as it becomes available.

Motion made by Tom Meyer; Seconded by Brock Hayes to approve and sign Resolution 2025-18 – Resolution Accepting Donations for the Shindig; Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Ron Flatten will contact the Pickleball Club to clarify the signage they wish to place on the courts. The Board has no objections to the club purchasing a shed for storing pickleball equipment, noting that this will be at no expense to the Township.

A contractor presented the Board with a quote to install a 48' x 50' concrete basketball half court. The Board will follow up to see what donations might be available for the basketball court.

The Board was given the MAT District 11 Meeting Notice and MAT Invitation: Legislative & Research Committee Fall 2025 Meeting.

Township Legal Seminar – Couri & Ruppe is September 13, which is the same day as Clean-up day. Tom Meyer and the Clerk will attend while the rest of the supervisors participate in clean-up day

Ernie Darlow and Tom Meyer went to the CYC property to look at the elevation of the location for the Fishing Pier. Elevations were discussed along with possible solutions. Erick Haveman, Camp Director for the CYC apologized for any lack of communication and presented the Board with a letter in response to the township's request to move the cabin and archery range. The Board will review the letter and discuss at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Candace Kral
Clerk

Ron Flatten
Board Chairman

MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, REGULAR BOARD MEETING