

Tofte Township 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

Present: Supervisor Craig Horak (remote), Supervisor Sam Crowley, Supervisor Teresa Schmit, Treasurer Gordon Engstrom, Deputy Clerk Genevieve Hirschboeck, Fire Chief Richie Nelson, Rescue Chief Kim Jahnke

Unless otherwise stated, all actions have been approved by unanimous ye a vote.

1. Deputy Clerk Genevieve called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM on March 11, 2025, at Birch Grove Community Center. All attendees were asked to sign in.
2. Deputy Clerk Genevieve called for meeting nominations of the meeting moderator. Supervisor nominated. Rescue Chief Kim Jahnke seconded. Deputy Clerk Genevieve called for any other nominations, with no response, called for a vote to appoint as the meeting Moderator.
3. Moderator asked those in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Approval of Agenda – Deputy Clerk Genevieve moved to approve the agenda. Supervisor Teresa seconded.
5. 2024 Annual Meeting minutes were motioned for approval by Treasurer Gordon Engstrom. Fire Chief Rich Nelson seconded.
6. 2024 Continuation Minutes Treasurer Gordon, Teresa seconded
7. Clerk’s Financial Report –
 - a. **Grand Marais State Bank –**

i. General Fund:	121,996.62
ii. Road & Bridge Fund:	43,210.01
iii. Fire Department:	13,878.17
iv. Rescue:	117,338.16
v. General Capital Projects:	101,817.00
vi. Various CDs:	421,218.13
 - b. **North Shore Federal Credit Union –**

i. General Fund:	55,054.23
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 - c. **Charles Schwab –**

i. General Fund:	313,244.62
ii. Water & Sewer – Capital Project:	31,903.67
iii. Birch Grove Building Fund:	99,076.17
iv. Cemetery Sinking Fund:	31,239.27
v. Park Sinking Fund:	82,783.83
vi. Fire Truck Sinking Fund:	164,447.31
vii. Rescue Truck Sinking Fund:	<u>37,128.88</u>
 - d. Grand Total: 1,333,775.49
 - e. The report indicated there was no outstanding debt. **Gary Hanson motioned to approve the report. Rescue Chief Kim Jahnke seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Election Results – Registered votes prior to polling 186. 14 signatures on the polling place roster. Number of absentee ballots 0. Election Judges Tammy Supervisor with 14 votes, Teresa Schmidt. Treasurer with 14 votes, Gordon Engstrom.

Two write in votes for Genevieve Hirschboeck for Clerk.

Resolution to change from elected to appointed

12 for and 1 against for a total of 13.

This will allow the board to appoint the clerk. The treasurer could be appointed after the current term served.

REPORTS:

COUNTY COMMISSIONER:

NO REPORT

COMMUNITY CENTER: CRAIG

Craig: Full carpet replacement. Doors on the far end need replacing as they were sticking which failed the fire inspection. New doors will be replaced.

Picnic tables have been ordered. The ice rink liner is working and we have been able to make good ice. Two water pumps that were installed were working well.

The gym roof has some leaks. We are looking into roof repair or replacement in the next year.

We are researching adding a bathroom for the Saplings programs. We are in the beginning stages.

A new commercial stove was installed in the kitchen. The previous stove was 30+ years old and the oven wasn't working. Parts were replaced but it was still not working. We were able to shop online and order one for significantly less than a commercial installer.

We are looking to make updates/repairs to the girls and boys bathrooms.

The school has a building inspection annually. The fire alarm system was updated so it is up to code.

The fire Marshall had us install an alarm that dials out.

Paining and general up keep.

PARK REPORT:

Sam: Tofte Park – we will try to get the erosion control. New asphalt is looking good. The water level is almost to the dock. The main line of the hydrants in the park is starting to deteriorate. We are looking to replace with HDPE fused pipe from the lake. Pump has been running at 300 gallons/min which is very efficient. A park bend will be added at the playground so parents have a place to sit while watching their kids. One memorial tree is available, three more have been ordered. A spruce tree fell by the pavilion and will be cleaned up.

Rich: If they redo the road this summer, it would be nice to make a swale in front of the town hall building so that when there is rain it doesn't enter the fire hall.

FIRE/RESCUE:

Fire Chief Rich reports 27 fire calls: 7 vehicle accidents, 8 false alarms, 2 carbon monoxide, 2 wildfires, 1 ATV accident, & 1 power line fire. There are currently 14 members on the fire department. Connor Smith is the newest member. Department will be working on getting a new tanker, as truck was damaged during the Lutsen Lodge fire. The pressure tank is damaged. The air tanks are outdated and will be replaced. The compressor for air packs was tested and the team is keeping up with changing OSHA regulations. Golf course hydrants have been repaired. Corey has been cancelling false alarms.

Town board has requested that false alarms are charged since the members are paid for calls. Still working closely with Lutsen on training and Schroeder Fire Chief Phil Bonin is retiring this month.

Rescue Chief Kim reports 86 total calls with 63 being medical and the remainder a mix of false alarms and vehicle accidents. There are 7 department members and they are currently seeking more members. Completed May Days training with Lutsen. A stair chair was donated by Grand Marais which helps lower patients down staircases. Kim expressed great appreciation for her team and reported completing a lot of solo calls this year and is hopeful more people will join the department. Will also be looking for a new rescue vehicle this year.

TOWN BOARD:

Supervisor Teresa Schmidt and Clerk Genevieve will be good additions to the board.

TSSD - Originally founded to put a pipe under the road. Secured grants to assist residents to repair or replace sewer systems. The county will fix or repair or replace a sewer and will add it to your taxes. If you sell before it's paid off, the new buyers will take over the payments.

The TSSD does not have any new funding. The maintenance staff at Bluefin requested the feasibility of adding commercial buildings on the north side of 61 to their sewer. The cost of the pipe installation made the project not feasible.

AmericInn was not interested, Holiday was not interested. All the businesses have water meters.

Dave is trying to get the names of the people in the district. His goal is to put together a Town Hall meeting to discuss what to do with the TSSD. A big pipe isn't feasible. Residents can get sewers repaired by the county.

TSSD looking for new board members. Dave has been on the board for 17 years. Please contact Dave with any questions. The next meeting is in June. They meet four times a year. They hope to set the date for the town hall.

Tofte Park Rd

Construction on Tofte Park Road will not impact the 4th of July as work will begin later in the summer. There are some sizeable pot holes in the road currently.

Temperance Trails

The township can't legally own houses. Township sold the property to the HRA. The HRA found a developer and they are going through the permitting process currently and are going through the process to get a PUD.

Jason Hale from the HRA has resigned.

This has been in process for almost 10 years.

2026 Budget/Levy Discussion: Planning meeting was March 6, 2025

The final budget will be determined in the continuation of the annual meeting in August.

The donation requests were updated for 2026

Insurance for vehicles and buildings increased because insurance was changed to replacement coverage.

Donations of \$5,000 for Senior Lunch were requested from Lutsen and Schroeder. Food costs have gone up. Residents of Lutsen and Schroeder attend.

Largest expenditure for Road and Bridge is snow removal on the bike trail.

Road to the cemetery was asphalted this year. Two-thirds was paid by the stock pile lease.

Capital "Sinking funds" are contributed in advance so funds are available when they are needed.

Resident Question - Lives on the bike trail, many people use it and it's wonderful. Wanted to clarify if it costs \$10,000 to snow plow? Gordon explained that is the budgeted amount. It has been much lower in previous year.

Approval of 2026 Levy: Will be approved at the continuation

Move to table discussion and continue the meeting in August Fire Chief Rich motioned, Kim seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Business:

Marsha asked if there will be a Tofte Picnic this year. Sam answered yes. It is being planned with a \$4,500 budget.

**Motion to have the next annual meeting Second Tuesday of March 2026 at 8:01pm
Rich motioned, Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion to adjourn by Dave Rude, Kim seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm

Board of Canvass

Meeting called to order 9:10, Sam motioned, Teresa seconded

Motion to certify the election results of the March 11, 2025.

Sam motioned, Teresa Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Sam, Teresa seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:14pm