

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2025
Location: Liberty Town Hall, Bemidji, MN

Call to Order- Sup. Oestreich called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call Attendance:

Supervisors: Karl Oestreich, John Gilbertson, Steve Reznicek

Clerk: Colleen Oestreich

Treasurer: Peggy Curtis

Others: Travis Kelm, Willard Kelm, Jay Stubbe, Jason Stubbe, Kelly Booge, Gary Bernard, Karl Vigen

Northern Township Request – Gary Bernard provided information regarding Northern Township's intent to incorporate. Liberty Township receive legal notification via certified letter. They are now asking for support from other townships in the form of an adopted resolution. Gary Bernard explained issues they are having with annexation from the city of Bemidji. If they are successful, they do not intend to annex from neighboring townships. He also provided a brief update on their project to provide sewer/water to their residents along Lake Bemidji.

Sup. Reznicek read the proposed support resolution. Motion by Sup. Oestreich, second by Sup. Reznicek to approve of the resolution. M/C

Clerk's Report –

- 4/9/25 Regular Business Meeting Minutes – Motion by Supervisor, Gilbertson second by Supervisor, Oestreich to accept minutes. M/C
- 4/25/25 Board of Appeal/Equalization – Motion by Sup. Reznicek, second by Sup. Oestreich to accept minutes. M/C
- 4/26/25 Road Inspection – Motion by Sup. Oestreich, second by Sup. Gilbertson to accept minutes. M/C

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer, Peggy Curtis presented a corrected (\$1.98) report for March. Motion by Sup. Gilbertson, second by Sup. Oestreich to accept report as written and subject to future audit. M/C. Board reviewed the April report. Motion by Sup. Oestreich, second by Sup. Reznicek to accept report as written and subject to future audit. M/C.

Treasurer Appointment – ballot question on whether to move to appointed clerk and treasurer positions passed at the annual meeting. The treasurer position will be appointed immediately since it was up for election. Clerk position will be appointed at the end of current clerks elected term (2026). Sup. Oestreich asked for nominations for the treasurer position. Motion by Sup. Gilbertson, second by Sup. Reznicek to appoint Peggy Curtis as treasurer. Sup. Oestreich asked for other nominations. Hearing none – he called for a vote. All voted yes. M/C

Partnership work – Schultz invoice is still outstanding.

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BATO Meeting – was held on 4/29/25. Peggy Curtis provided the highlights. Bruce Hasbargen reviewed upcoming road projects. County Commissioner, Scott Winger brought up unfunded mandates & county budget deficits. MAT District 12 meeting will be held at Eckles Community Center on 8/26/25. BATO will continue to help fund members attending MAT Statewide events.

Werner Road – Kelly Booge updated the board of Turtle River Township’s plans to work on Werner Road. They will document the road easement and legally record it. Easement for the west side which is in Liberty Township will come to Liberty. Turtle River Township will handle all expenses to do this. He also asked for a copy of the maintenance agreement between the two townships.

Road Report – Liberty Township received the following quotes:

1. Gravel – Anderson Contracting quoted - \$17.50/CY or \$12.51/T Class V; Motion by Sup. Oestreich, second by Sup. Reznicek to contract with Anderson for gravel.
2. Grading/Mowing/Brush Cutting/Reg Maintenance – Travis Kelm, Kelm Grading quoted \$105/hr grading; \$100/hr mowing; \$120/hr brush mowing; trackhoe \$120/hr; dozer \$150/hr; loader \$200/hr; dump truck \$110/hr; Tractor & 9 wheel roller \$100/hr; Motion by Sup. Gilbertson, second by Sup. Oestreich to contract with Travis Kelm, Kelm Grading for service.

Bemidji Rural Fire Assn – Sup. Oestreich presented a brief summary. Chief is going for grants. Board discussed potential impact if Northern Township would become a city.

Approve and Pay Bills – Motion by Sup. Oestreich, second by Sup. Gilbertson to pay claims 5381 – 5390, PC, JG, CO Reimbursements totaling \$3,764.37. M/C

Mail & Upcoming Meeting;

- Liberty Twp Regular Monthly Meeting – 6/11/25 with zoom participation by Sup. Oestreich & Clerk, Oestreich at Palmer, AK library.
- Giziibii RC&D sent a thank you letter for donation from Liberty Township

Adjourn – Motion by Sup. Gilbertson, second by Sup. Reznicek to adjourn at 7:55 PM. M/C

Colleen Oestreich, Clerk

Karl Oestreich, Chairman