

**ELLSWORTH TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**7:00 PM February 19, 2026**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alan Skjefte -Chair, John Smith- Supv., Dave Jutz -Supv, Jilann Axt – Clerk, Dawn Renner-Treasurer

Other Attendees: Connie Johnson

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM on February 19, 2025, by Alan Skjefte**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**TREASURER REPORT:** Dawn Renner presented the treasurers report

Accounts Payable

1. Miller Outdoors Insurance - \$250.00
2. Miller Outdoors Snowplowing 2-1-26 - \$135.00
3. Landfill Billing Jan '26 - \$15.00
4. Jacks Oil - \$58.11
5. Jilann Axt – Ink for 340 mailings - \$71.84
6. Jilann Axt – postage for mailings - \$312.00
7. Abel West – Plowing for 217<sup>th</sup> Dead end - \$50.00
8. MCAT Dues - \$200
9. Dawn Renner – Vacuum - \$150.11

Accounts Receivable –

1. Candidate filing - \$2.00
2. \$2396.93
3. \$247.86 – Nuvera Franchise Fee
4. \$2433.90 Meeker County

Balance 1/15/26 -Checking - \$57134.12

*Motion to approve Treasurer's report and pay all bills by John Smith and second by Dave Jutz. Approved*

**CLERKS REPORT:** Jilann Axt

- a. Approve January 15, 2026, meeting minutes.

*MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY '26 MINUTES.*

*Motion to approve Jan '26 meeting minutes by John Smith and second by Dave Jutz. Approved*

- b. 340 letters were mailed February 2, 2026, reminding residents we return to in person voting in 2026.
- c. MN Township Day at Capital is Monday, March 2, 2026; 10 AM to 5 PM
- d. Absentee ballots mailed out for Township Elections on March 10, 2026. Townhall will be open from 10 AM-12PM on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, for voting and again on annual election day from 4-8 PM
- e. Approve Election Judges for 3/10/26. Brenda Rick, Winona Vold, Mike Schiesl. Motion by Dave Jutz to approve the election judges for Annual Election with a second by John Smith. Motion Approved.
- f. Jilann requested a raise to our Election Judge rate per hour of \$14. We are very low comparatively. Dave Jutz motioned to move to \$20 per hour for EJ's with a second by John Smith. Motion Approved.
- g. Spring Short Courses start March 16<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Closest to us are St. Cloud area on Tuesday, March 24, 2026: Holiday Inn and Suites, 75 37th Ave, St Cloud, MN 56301

Arlington area on Wednesday, March 25, 2026: Arlington Event Center, 204 Shamrock Dr, Arlington, MN 55307

Willmar area on Thursday, March 26, 2026: Willmar Conference Center, 2100 Highway 12 E, Willmar, MN 56201

**OPEN MEETING:**

Connie Johnson asked what was found with the resident in Greenleaf where there is a structure that has blocked the view as you enter intersection. John Smith investigated and will have the county put up a 'blind intersection' sign.

Connie also asked about the Rettman land with 170<sup>th</sup> tilled up. Dave Jutz will go back to lawyer. Jilann Axt asked that Lynn Mackedanz as land renter be asked to come to township meeting and explain the situation.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. John Smith was tasked with investigating installing a water softener. Found out that we don't use enough water to make a water softener a viable solution. It was suggested we install an iron filter for ~\$350. Dave Jutz motioned to approve the purchase and install of an iron filter, John Smith seconded and motion was approved. John will contact and get it installed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Annual Meeting is coming up on March 10, 2026.
- b. Dave Jutz made a motion to up General to \$40K and Fire to \$70K and leave Roads the same. John Smith seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Dawn Renner questioned our ability to utilize the 'bond' dollars, which is essentially a savings account. Dave Jutz then made a friendly amendment to have Dawn check what the minimum to be maintained in that savings account is and move from there to Fire to get us out of the red, and then we would only up General to \$40K. Second by John Smith. Approved.
- c. Other discussion followed around how the annual meeting report would look, projects to be listed.

***ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn by John Smith and second by Dave Jutz at 8:07 PM***

*Items that will be carried forward to Road Work Season of 2026:*

180<sup>th</sup> also washing out due to August rains – move to 2026  
672<sup>nd</sup> shouldering work. Gravel there, waiting for skid loader work.  
Road Ditch sink hole needs to be fixed on 654<sup>th</sup>  
Culvert Repositioning on 215 st (1/2 mile west of 640<sup>th</sup> Ave)