

EUREKA TOWNSHIP
DAKOTA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2025

Call to Order

The 2025 Eureka Township Annual Meeting was called to order at 8:28 p.m. by Clerk/Treasurer Liz Atwater and the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Residents Present: Patrick Mahowald, Linda Ripley, Wendy Klager, Kenneth Olstad, Colleen Riley, Donovan Palmquist, Mark Pflaum, Kendyl Storlie, Tim Pope, Michael and Sarah Mahoney, Paul and Deb Burkhardt, Ray Kaufenberg, Linda and Jeff Otto, Gary Gunderson, Dan Ames, Glen Benson, Lu Barfknecht, Dave Wheeler, Melanie Storlie, Katheleen Kauffman, Vern Lang, Leda Blom, Mike Blom, Ashley and Terry Schultze, Bill Clancy, Lee Slavicek, Mark Ceminsky, Pete Storlie, Brian Storlie.

Others Present: Liz Atwater, Amy Liberty.

Zoom Attendance: Jackie, John Olson, Pete, Lynne Olson, Iphone Guest, Travis, Georgie Molitor, Shelly, Julie Larson.

Sheriff's Report

Deputy Sheer reported on fraud issues, where people are calling pretending to be from the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff's office will NEVER call to ask for money or gift cards. When in doubt, hang up and call the Dakota County Sheriff's Office directly. He reported there have been numerous reports of people violating school bus stop signs. The bus company is working with the Sheriff's department to catch violators. Other speeding issues were reported in the Township, and there have been more Sheriff's presence.

Election of Moderator

The floor was opened for nominations for moderator. Mark Pflaum moved to nominate Brian Storlie. Ken Olstad seconded the nomination. Brian Storlie accepted the nomination. The Clerk called for any other nominations, hearing none, the floor was closed. By unanimous verbal consent, the motion carried.

Motion to waive reading of the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

Lu Barfknecht moved to waive the reading of the 2024 Annual Meeting minutes. Mark Ceminsky seconded the motion. By unanimous verbal consent, the motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

Lu Barfknecht moved to approve the 2024 Annual Meeting minutes. Melanie Storlie seconded the motion. By unanimous verbal consent, the motion carried.

Clerk's Report

Deputy Clerk Liberty gave a report on Township Permits:

2024 Eureka Township Permits

➤ Addition	3	➤ Mechanical	21
➤ Building/Accessory	4	➤ New Construction	2
➤ Ag-Exempt	5	➤ Plumbing	14
➤ Commercial Plumbing	1	➤ Interior Remodel	8
➤ Commercial Mechanical	1	➤ Re-roof	11
➤ Commercial Re-roof	1	➤ Re-side	6
➤ Deck/Porch	2	➤ Windows/Doors	11
➤ Demolition	1	➤ Right of Way	8
➤ Fire Rebuild	1	➤ Administrative Fence	3
➤ Foundation Repair	1	➤ Driveway	1
➤ Ground Mounted Solar	1		
Total Permits: 106			

Deputy Clerk Liberty gave a report on the Trick or Treating with the Clerk event and thanked the 348 citizens who have signed up for the News and Notices email distribution list.

Clerk/Treasurer Atwater reviewed State Statue 365.10 and the opportunity to approve a fund and dollar amount specifically for community celebrations.

Mark Ceminsky moved to approve funds for up to \$2,000 for community events. Dave Wheeler seconded the motion. By unanimous verbal consent, the motion carried.

Planning Commission Report

Commissioner Dave Wheeler gave the following report:

Planning Commission members 2024-2025

Melanie Storlie, Chair (2027), Dan Heyda, Vice Chair (2025), Donovan Palmquist (2026), Brin Storlie (2027), Dave Wheeler (2026).

Roles and Responsibilities

Planning Commission responsibilities are outlined in Chapter 62 of the Township Ordinances. The Planning Commission reviews building permit and land use permits, handle document maintenances, such as reviewing forms and instructions, review ordinance for text issues, and act as liaison at the meetings for Town Board, North Cannon River Watershed and Airlake Airport (ALLAC).

Building and Land Use Permits 2024.

<p><u>BUILDING PERMITS REVIEWED</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Addition/Remodel-3 ➤ Building Permits-4 ➤ Deck/Porch-2 ➤ New Construction-2 ➤ Agriculture Exempt-5 ➤ Ground Mounted Solar-1 	<p><u>LAND USE PERMITS REVIEWED</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lot-Splits-1
<p>Total: 18 permits presented to the Planning Commission for research, review and recommendation.</p>	

2024 Accomplishments

- Home Extended Business
- Accessory Solar Energy Systems Application update
- Agritourism Ordinance
- Driveway Address Signs
- Squatters Ordinance
- AG Exempt Building Permit Application
- Cannabis Public Hearing
- Domestic and Nondomestic Animals, Ordinance

Town Board Report

Chair Barfknecht gave the following report:

Town Board members 2024-2025

Pete Storlie, Chair (2027), Mark Ceminsky, Vice Chair (2027), Tim Pope (2026), Allen Novacek (2026), Lu Barfknecht (2025).

Town Board Accomplishments 2024

- New Lighting for Town Hall Exterior (LED)
- New Parking Lot Lighting (LED)
- New Lighting in the Garage (LED)
- Garage Clean-up and Organization
- Town Hall Landscaping cleaned up, removed dead trees and plants
- Exterior Painting Touch up Town Hall and Garage
- Sidewalk cement replacement
- New Fridge with water and ice
- New Website (Eurekamn.gov)
- Ordinance Amendments:
 - 2024-01 Prohibiting Engine Breaking
 - 2024-02 amending Chapter 62- Planning Commission
 - 2024-03 amending Chapter 240- Agritourism
 - 2024-04 amending Chapter 57- Hearing Notices
 - 2024-05 amending Chapter 240- Cannabis Businesses
- Hired Planner (WSB)
- Open House for Citizen input on challenges facing the Township

Concerns for 2025

- Road Budget and Planning
- Road Right of Way Projects
- Ash Trees and Emerald Ash Borer

Goals for 2025

- Work with Planner and Attorney on Solutions to Township Challenges:
 - Annexation
 - Commercial
 - Housing Density
 - Home-based Business
- Continued Communication and Transparency

Attorneys for the Township

Town Law Center: General Counsel

- Day-to-day questions
- Training workshops
- Litigation
- Ordinance Enforcement
- Ordinance Drafting and Review
- Vendor Contract Review
- Mining
- Cannabis

Kennedy & Graven: Special Counsel

- Pending litigation

Road Report

Supervisor Mark Ceminsky gave the following report:

Thank you to the Road Committee Volunteers: John Rees, Dan Heyda and Chad Harmer.

2024 Gravel Hauling Completed

• 225 th (Dodd to Cedar Ave)	1,306.85 Tons	\$17,185.12
• 245 th (Dodd to County Line)	138.95 Tons	\$ 1,834.14
• 245 th Street W. (Essex Ave to Denmark)	1,823.76 Tons	\$22,432.25
• 247 th Street (Cedar to Essex)	1,170.83 Tons	\$14,421.35
• 257 th Street W. (Highview to Cedar Ave)	1,600.42 Tons	\$20,725.44
• 257 th Street (Dodd to Dead End)	654.63 Tons	\$ 8,837.50
• Denmark (255 th to 280 th Street)	3,434.72 Tons	\$45,338.30
• Essex Ave (235 th to 245 th Street)	1,230.45 Tons	\$15,134.54
• Fairgreen (235 th to 280 th Street)	1,680.78 Tons	\$20,986.56
• Fairgreen (280 th to 265 th Street)	2,358.76 Tons	\$29,720.37
• Flagstaff Ave (235 th to 245 th St)	713.88 Tons	\$ 8,780.72
• Hamburg Ave (225 th to 240 th St)	1,998.24 Tons	\$25,177.82
• Highview (267 th to Dead End)	612.43 Tons	\$ 8,267.81
• Iberia Ave (267 th to 280 th Street)	144.05 Tons	\$ 1,944.68
• Ipava (267 th to Dead End)	339.58 Tons	\$ 4,584.33
• Jamaica (280 th to Dead End)	274.93 Tons	\$ 3,711.57
• Spot Gravel	789.98 Tons	\$10,320.59

TOTAL \$259,403.09

Gravel Placement: \$43,203.00

Grading: \$85,916.00

Dust Coating of Gravel Roads

- Approx 80% of 34.8 miles of gravel roads were dust coated in 2024
- Dustproofing: \$69,897.00

Tree Removal

- Approx 23 trees were removed from Right of Way
- Approx 6 fallen trees and numerous broke limbers were removed from roads

Culvert Replacement

- Replaced at the intersection of Fairgreen Ave and 265th Street W

Garbage Removal in Right of Way

- Garbage picked up approx. 9 times from the Right of Ways

Future Work due to Floor Damage 2024

- Working with HSEM, FEMA and Dakota County.
- Flood damage total is approx. \$135,462.00. Which approx. \$64,163.00 has been reviewed and already with a balance of \$71,299.00 still in the review process.
- Total approval of damages will be at a future meeting.

2025 Projected Road Projects

Over-lays

- *240th Street W. Highview Ave to Dodd 3,500 Tons
- *235th Street W. Highview Ave to Dodd 3,500 Tons

Spot Gravel

- *Highview Ave

Tree Removal

- *225th Street W. 300' West of Denmark Ave - 14 Trees and Brush
- *Hamburg Ave/Grenada Drive

ROW Brush Removal

- *Grenada Ave., 272nd St. W, Hamburg Ave.
- *235th Street W.
- *Eureka Estates

2026 Projected Road Projects

Over-lays

- *Highview Ave. Northern Board to 250th St, W 7,000 Tons
- *245th Street W. Dodd Blvd to West Border 2,000 Tons
- *225th Street W. Highview Ave to Dodd Blvd 1,500 Tons

Spot Gravel and Culverts

- *TBD

ROW Brush Removal

- *TBD

Treasurer's Report
Board of Audit Report

Clerk/Treasurer Atwater summarized the Board of Audit Financial Report 2024 on January 14, 2025:

Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2024

2024	Beginning Balance	Total Receipts and Transfers	Total Disbursed and Transfers	Sale of Investments	Purchase of Investments	Ending Balance	Investment Balances	Total Balances
General Fund	\$ 216,310.40	\$ 324,966.21	\$ (348,913.38)	\$ 312,850.03	\$ (330,902.98)	\$ 174,310.28	\$ 168,052.95	\$ 342,363.23
Road and Bridge	\$ 257,646.23	\$ 575,148.44	\$ (589,000.44)	\$ 191,683.13	\$ (206,578.88)	\$ 228,898.48	\$ 104,895.75	\$ 333,794.23
JPA Road Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 3,666.75	\$ (3,666.75)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Permit Escrow- General Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Permit Escrow- Road and Bridge	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,500.00	\$ -	\$ 22,500.00
Petty Cash	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Covid 19-ARPA	\$ 3,829.61	\$ -	\$ (3,829.61)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Building Permits- Building Official	\$ 1,538.44	\$ 37,505.03	\$ (25,726.13)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,317.34	\$ -	\$ 13,317.34
Fire and Rescue	\$ 11,027.60	\$ 116,436.83	\$ (105,865.58)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,598.85	\$ -	\$ 21,598.85
Kelly Aggregates Engineering Fund	\$ 3,240.74	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,240.74	\$ -	\$ 3,240.74
Professional Services	\$ 62,347.38	\$ 4,324.13	\$ (3,620.85)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,050.66	\$ -	\$ 63,050.66
Asphalt/Hard Services Road	\$ 125,931.09	\$ 68,354.80	\$ (38,251.46)	\$ 305,630.14	\$ (440,222.03)	\$ 21,442.54	\$ 284,591.89	\$ 306,034.43
Road and Bridge CIP	\$ 28,485.72	\$ 6,576.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,062.71	\$ -	\$ 33,062.71
Town Hall CIP	\$ 1,303.71	\$ 15,773.60	\$ (29,378.66)	\$ 85,000.00	\$ (71,416.29)	\$ 1,282.36	\$ 36,416.29	\$ 37,698.65
Emergency Road	\$ 20,904.43	\$ 6,368.77	\$ (2,010.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,263.20	\$ -	\$ 25,263.20
Night to Unite	\$ 86.72	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 86.72	\$ -	\$ 86.72
TOTAL	\$ 741,752.07	\$ 1,173,621.55	\$ (1,152,262.86)	\$ 895,163.30	\$ (1,049,120.18)	\$ 609,153.88	\$ 593,956.88	\$ 1,203,110.76

Bank Balances on December 31, 2024

New Market Bank Checking Account	\$ 11,460.29
Outstanding Checks	\$ (803.63)
Genisys Credit Union Checking	\$ 5.45
New Market Savings - General Fund	\$ 5,002.52
General Fund ICS Funds	\$ 262,222.32
Petty Cash Balance	\$ 100.00
Road and Bridge ICS Funds	\$ 331,166.93
Total Bank Balances	\$ 609,153.88
Investments:	\$ 593,956.88
Total:	\$ 1,203,110.76

2024 Financial Highlights

- General Fund Interest: \$15,217.11
 - Road and Bridge Interest: \$10,441.60
 - Professional Services Interest: \$2,086.73
 - Town Hall CIP Interest: \$3,173.60
 - Asphalt Surfaces Interest: \$13,354.80
 - R&B CIP Interest: \$1,076.99
 - Emergency Road Interest: \$868.77
- Total interest for 2024: \$46,219.60**

2026 Proposed Levy and Budget

Clerk Atwater reported that the Statewide Township average increased by 6.3% in 2025, and that Eureka Township increased 5.4%. The proposed levy for 2026 is an increase of 6.31%

2026 Proposed Budget

General Fund	\$258,920
Professional Services Fund	\$18,000
Town Hall/Storage CIP Fund	\$18,000
Fire and Rescue Fund	\$135,717
Road & Bridge CIP Fund	\$5,500
Emergency Road Fund	\$5,500
<u>Asphalt/Hard Services Fund</u>	<u>\$55,000</u>
Total Budget Expense	\$944,847

Levy Category	Budget	Other Resources	Final Levy	% of Budget
General Fund	\$294,920.00	\$55,450.00	\$239,470.00	28%
Road and Bridge	\$514,210.00	\$33,200.00	\$481,010.00	56%
Fire Service	\$135,717.00	\$0.00	\$135,717.00	16%
Total Levy	\$944,847.00	\$88,650.00	\$856,197.00	

Pete Storlie explained that the Town Board initial numbers would have been a 20% proposed increase. However, the Town Board reviewed and moved the numbers to reduce the proposed levy.

Motion: Gary Gunderson moved to approve the 2026 Budget and Levy as presented. Lee Slavicek seconded the motion. Ayes- 7, Nays -20. Motion failed.

Discussion included questions about the cost of grading the roads, amount in reserve accounts, and the idea of increasing the levy by 7% to give more room in the budget. There were comments that the Township had not increased the levy from 2009 to 2019 and have put the Township behind on road maintenance.

Motion: Katheleen Kauffman moved to approve the 2026 budget and a 7% increase to the levy. Jeff Otto seconded the motion. Ayes- 26, Nays -1. Motion carried.

Motion: Jeff Otto moved to set the 2026 Annual Meeting for March 10, 2026, at 8:15pm at the Eureka Town Hall. Lu Barfknecht seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Storlie announced that the Polling Place for Eureka Township Elections 2026 will be March 10, 2026, from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Eureka Town Hall.

Kathleen Kauffman and Tim Pope thanked Lu Barfknecht for her time on the Town Board.

Adjournment

Lu Barfknecht moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave Wheeler seconded the motion. By unanimous verbal consent, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

E. Atwater 3/10/26
Clerk Date

Cashley DeHutts 3/10/26
Moderator Date