

OFFICIAL STANTON TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

March 11th, 2025

31186 40th Avenue Way
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Clerk Cheryle Peters called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM. (note: 25 residents signed the attendance roster.) The Zoom feature was available; eight viewers were addressed as attending.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The call for a motion to nominate a moderator, for the evening, went out. Karen Slininger made a motion to nominate Mark Dubbels as moderator, for the meeting. Jack Schlichting seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting:

Cheryle read aloud the 2024 Unapproved Stanton Township Annual Meeting Minutes; Mary Lundell made a motion to approve the minutes from March 12th, 2024, editing “Sciota” Trail to “Stanton” Trail. Bob Benson seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. No opposition was heard.

Goodhue County Guest Speakers:

Moderator, Mark Dubbels invited Goodhue County Commissioner, Brad Anderson, to the conference table to speak; Commissioner Anderson commented on several items concerning Goodhue County.

Noted Subjects Included:

- ❖ Property Tax Assessment Process
- ❖ Goodhue County Tax Assessors Efforts to Affect Tax Base Determinations-Set by State of Minnesota
- ❖ Broadband
- ❖ Goodhue County Financial Position
- ❖ Unspent Allocated ARPA Funds Approximately \$500,000 Tagged For Broadband Purposes
- ❖ Park Pavilion Fish Cleaning Station
- ❖ Data Center in Farmington, Dakota County
- ❖ State Sales Tax
- ❖ Goodhue County High Rating for Pavement Conditions in MnDot District 6/About 20 Counties
- ❖ Public Health Insurance
- ❖ Goodhue County Website Navigation For Documents

Salutations were given.

Moderator, Mark Dubbels, invited Goodhue County Sheriff’s Office Deputy, Trevor Sullivan, to address the audience. Deputy Sullivan introduced himself and thanked the audience for the opportunity to speak. He offered the 2024 Goodhue County Sheriff’s Office Annual Report.

He spoke briefly about the department’s efforts regarding a variety of topics including:

- ❖ New Deputy Hires Constitute Approximately One Half of Current Patrol Staff
- ❖ Calls Regarding Internet Crime Up 16%
- ❖ Three New K-9 Units
- ❖ Swat Teams Respond to Warrant Issues

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- ❖ 67,000 Calls Dispatched
- ❖ 1.5 Million Activations
- ❖ Goodhue County Jail is Fully Staffed
- ❖ Enforcement of New Marijuana Laws Lacks Case Law for Reference
- ❖ DWI Violations Remain Public Safety Issue
- ❖ Appropriated Use of Drone Devices
- ❖ Rochester Community and Technical College Connection
- ❖ New Employee Training in a Difficult Recruiting Market-Rural Environment Attractive
- ❖ City of Goodhue Disbanded Their Police Department
- ❖ School Resource Officers

Deputy Sullivan was thanked for his service and salutations were made.

Bob Benson made a motion to suspend the reading of the Details of Checks and Deposits; Jack Schlichting seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Road Report for 2024:

The costs of major expenses, mostly road related, were reported as follows:

Chair, Karen Slininger addressed the audience;

2024 Major Expenses

Roads

Gravel- \$79,000 for continued work of grading, reshaping, and maintaining roads

Gravel- \$ 5,760.28 for Flood Repair

Chloride-\$19, 750.50 less reimbursements of \$8,400 = \$11, 350.50

Received \$1,950.00 from Christmas Tree Farm for 2023 Chloride and received \$1,000 from the Boy Scout Camp Northern Star Council for 2023.

Tree/Brush/ Noxious Weed Removal-\$10,000for tree and brush removal and stump grinding in ROW

Seal Coating and Black Top Repair- \$142,777.00 for Seal Coating

Fire Protection-Total: \$39 501.77 Randolph/ Hampton \$22,953.83 and Cannon Falls Rural Fire Association \$16,547.94

2025 Reading of the Treasurer's Report of 2024-Clerk, Cheryle Peters (Schedule 1)

Clerk, Cheryle Peters read aloud Schedule 1 for the Year of 2024.

Moderator, Mark Dubbels, read bullet points of a letter from the Goodhue County Fair; the letter requested a monetary donation from the township. Mary Lundell made motion to donate \$200 to the Goodhue County Fair; Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed, in house, with one nay vote on line.

Mr. Larry Lee was invited to address the audience regarding the Randolph Area Historical Society. Mr. Lee described the Randolph Area Historical Society as representing the areas of Hampton Township, Stanton Township, Waterford Township, Castle Rock Township, Randolph Township, City of Hampton, and City of Randolph. Mr. Lee stated that he was interested in raising funds to develop the newly constructed building located in downtown Randolph near the Randolph Fire Department.

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Some discussion ensued regarding legislative controls, placed upon townships, regarding donations. Townships are generally not allowed to donate township funds.

Review of the Proposed 2025 Levy Payable in 2026: Treasurer, Mary Lundell

Stanton Township Supervisors recommended the following increase for the 2025 Levy, Payable in 2026.

General Fund: \$59,200

Road and Bridge: \$130,000

Heavy Equipment Replacement Fund: \$34,000

Fire Fund: \$38,000

Building Fund: \$2,000

Total For Supervisor Recommended Levy Increase: \$263,200

Nora Felton made a motion to levy \$63,200 for the **General Fund**. Jack Schlichting seconded the motion for discussion. Some discussion ensued regarding records; with the motion on the floor, Phil Muehring made a motion to call the question for a vote, ending discussion; Bruce Ohmann seconded the motion, ending discussion, for a vote. The motion, on the floor, to levy \$63, 200 for the **General Fund** failed 14 opposed, 12 in favor.

Jack Schlichting made a motion to levy \$59,200 for the **General Fund** per the Supervisors recommendation for an 8.2% increase; Ken Burns seconded the motion to levy \$59,200 for the **General Fund**. The motion passed by voice vote, in house; 2 yes online; 1 nay online.

Phil Muehring made a motion to levy \$130,000 for the **Road and Bridge Fund**. Nora Felton seconded the motion to levy **\$130,000** for the **Road and Bridge Fund**; the motion passed by voice vote, in house; 0 online.

Phil Muehring made a motion to levy \$ 34,000 in the **Heavy Equipment Replacement Fund**. Nora Felton seconded the motion to levy \$34,000 for the **Heavy Equipment Replacement Fund**. Discussion ensued regarding a comparison for contracted services. Karen Slininger shared a rough estimate from Otte's for the 32 miles of roadway: grading (325 hours), snowplowing (330) hours, mowing and sign work; brush work, tree trimming @\$95,785.00; backhoe work, skid loader, barricading, pay loader, etc., would be invoiced at hourly rates. Contracted summer grader work alone, was estimated at \$43, 875 for 325 hours. The motion passed by voice vote, in house; 5 online in favor; 0 online opposed.

Phil Muehring made a motion to levy \$38,000 for the **Fire Fund**. Jack Schlichting seconded the motion to levy \$38,000 in the **Fire Fund**. The motion passed by a voice vote, in house, one nay; Online, two nays.

Phil Muehring made a motion to levy \$2,000 for the **Building Fund**. Danny Lundell seconded the motion to levy \$2,000 for the **Building Fund**. The motion passed by voice vote, in house; Online 4 in favor, 0 nays.

Treasurer, Mary Lundell, summarized the **total** 2025/payable 2026 levy as \$263, 200; Nora Felton made a motion to accept the **total** 2025 levy vote, as \$263,200. Jack Schlichting seconded the motion to accept the total 2025 levy vote, as \$263,200. The motion passed by voice vote, in house; Online 4 in favor, 0 nays.

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Nora Felton made a motion to select the Cannon Falls Beacon as the official newspaper. Danny Lundell seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Jack Schlichting made a motion to select the Stanton Town Hall as the official posting place; Phil Meuhring seconded the motion; the motion passed by voice vote, in house. Online, 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Jack Schlichting made a motion to set the date, place and time of the 2026 Annual Meeting for Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 @ 8:10pm. Phil Meuhring seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Old Business:

New Business:

Interaction Between Board and Citizens:

Hannah Regenscheid, Planning Commission Chair, spoke briefly regarding the township's Planning and Zoning Ordinance. The commission has been reviewing language that would add an Interim Use Permit to the list of permits regulating land use considerations. The Interim Use Permit definition might apply to uses that require less capital outlay; an ending time or event might be applied to the permit conditions. The intent is to provide some flexibility to local zoning controls.

Feedback was given regarding tracking of Conditional Use Permits and possible end times. Jack Schlichting offered his compliments and appreciation to all of the Stanton Township personnel for their efforts to support local government.

Call for the Election Results of Two Races:

<u>Three Year Term Supervisor-Karen Slininger</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Write Ins- Danny Lundell</u>	<u>05</u>
<u>Under Vote/Blank Ballot</u>	<u>03</u>
<u>Absentee Ballot</u>	<u>03</u>
<u>Total Voters</u>	<u>49</u>

<u>Two Year Term Treasurer- Mary Lundell</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Under Vote/Blank Ballot</u>	<u>07</u>
<u>Absentee Ballots</u>	<u>03</u>
<u>Absentee Ballot Under Vote</u>	<u>01</u>
<u>Write In- Cassandra Muehrig</u>	<u>01</u>
<u>Write In- Belinda Kuhn</u>	<u>06</u>
<u>Jack Schlichting</u>	<u>04</u>
<u>Mary Ohmann</u>	<u>03</u>
<u>Total Voters</u>	<u>49</u>

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Adjournment:

Phil Muehring made a motion to adjourn. Danny Lundell seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 10:58pm.

The Board of Canvas will meet immediately to verify election counts. (Note: This is considered a paid board meeting.)

Respectfully Submitted

**Cheryle A. Peters,
Clerk, Stanton Township**

**Mark Dubbels,
Moderator**