

UNOFFICIAL STANTON TOWNSHIP 2026 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

March 10th, 2026

31186 40th Avenue Way
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Clerk Cheryle Peters called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM. (note: 36 residents signed the attendance roster; one Belle Creek resident signed, in addition for 37). The Zoom feature was available; 4 viewers were addressed as attending: Karl Kuhn, Colton Muehring, Jack Schlichting and one person unnamed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The call for a motion to nominate a moderator, for the evening, went out. Bruce Ohmann made a motion to nominate Mike Althoff as moderator, for the meeting. Phil Muehring seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. No opposition was heard.

Minutes of 2025 Annual Meeting:

Cheryle read aloud the 2025 Unapproved Stanton Township Annual Meeting Minutes; Mairi C. Doerr made a motion to approve the minutes from March 11th, 2025. Belinda Kuhn seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Goodhue County Guest Speaker:

Moderator, Mike Althoff, invited Goodhue County Sheriff, Marty Kelly, to the conference table to speak; Sheriff Kelly commented on several topics concerning to Goodhue County Law Enforcement including:

- ❖ Good and Bad Aspects of Artificial Intelligence
- ❖ Updating Aging Warrants for Arrests-650 Outstanding Including Some Individuals Now Deceased
- ❖ Efficiency of Drone Programs, Including Infra-Red Capabilities, Drone Pilots and Water Patrol Use
- ❖ K-9 Units Carry a High Value But Are Expensive
- ❖ A Civilian Forensics Specialist Had Been Hired; Sheriff Kelly Indicated That He Would Propose Hiring More Staff For Fraud Investigations
- ❖ Goodhue County Employees, 14 Dispatchers
- ❖ Rural Law Enforcement Officers Wear Many Hats
- ❖ Violent Crimes Are Few in Number in Goodhue County
- ❖ Sheriff Kelly Declared That He Will Pursue a Third Term For the Office of Goodhue County Sheriff

Sheriff Kelly was thanked for his visit and acknowledgements were made.

Phil Muehring made a motion to suspend the reading of the Details of Checks and Deposits; Belinda Kuhn seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Road Report for 2025/Fund #201

Vice-chair, Bruce Ohmann, presented the costs of mostly road related expenses and some net amounts:

Gravel- \$69, 071.56 for continued work of grading, reshaping, and maintaining roads;

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Chloride-\$18, 431.27 less reimbursement of \$9350.00 = \$9081.27;

Also, received \$2074.80 from Christmas Tree, Farm for Chloride per gallon applied;

Tree/Brush/ Noxious Weed Removal and Stump Grinding in ROW \$8,181.08;

Signs-\$2,477.85;

Seal Coating and Black Top Repair- \$29,750.90;

Bridge Repair- \$18, 762.00 less \$18, 292.95 FEMA PA Emergency Grant;

Fire Protection 2025/Fund #225

Total: \$40, 163.69

Randolph/ Hampton \$22,953.83 and Cannon Falls Rural Fire Association \$17,209.86;

2026 Reading of the Treasurer's Report of 2025-Clerk, Cheryle Peters (Schedule 1)

Clerk, Cheryle Peters read aloud Schedule 1 for the Year of 2025.

Moderator, Mike Althoff, read aloud a letter from the Goodhue County Fair; the letter requested a monetary donation from the township. Mary Lundell made a motion to donate \$200 to the Goodhue County Fair. Steve Burgstahler seconded the motion to donate \$200 to the Goodhue County Fair; Passed by voice vote, one opposed.

Moderator, Mike Althoff, read aloud a letter from the Goodhue County Historical Society; the letter requested a monetary donation. Mary Lundell made a motion to donate \$200 to the Goodhue County Historical Society. Steve Emery seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote; 2 ayes online, one opposed online.

Moderator, Mike Althoff, read aloud a letter from the Randolph Area Historical Society. The matter was tabled, no motions, no vote was taken.

Some brief discussion had ensued regarding legislative controls placed upon townships regarding donations. Townships are, generally, not allowed to donate township funds. It can be allowed if the "Society" is subordinate to a government entity. In these cases, Goodhue County.

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Review of the Proposed 2026 Levy Payable in 2027: Presented by Treasurer, Mary Lundell
Stanton Township Supervisors recommended the following increases for the 2026 Levy, Payable in 2027.
General discussion ensued regarding Levy history.

2026 Levy Vote Payable in 2027

- 1.) **General Fund:** Current \$59,000; Recommended \$67, 000; Bill Peterson made a motion to increase the General Fund to \$75,000. Kris Jacobsen seconded the motion. The motion passed 19 in favor, in house; 2 ayes on-line; one opposed on-line, 18 in house. The motion passed 21 to 19.
 - 2.) **Road and Bridge Fund:** Current \$130,000; Recommended, no increase. Steve Burgstahler made a motion to accept the recommendation for \$130,000. Steve Emery seconded the motion. The motion passed 32 to 5.
 - 3.) **Fire Fund:** Current \$38,000; Recommended increase to \$55,000; Belinda Kuhn made a motion to maintain the Fire Fund at the amount of \$38,000. The motion failed for lack of a second. Nora Felton made a motion to increase the Fired Fund \$10,000 to \$48,000. Phil Meuhring seconded the motion. The motion passed 26, in house+3 online ayes; 6 nays; Motion passed 29 to 6.
 - 4.) **Heavy Equipment Replacement Fund:** Current \$34,000; Recommended, no increase. Some discussion ensued. Nora Felton made a motion to maintain the Heavy Equipment Replacement Fund at the amount of \$34,000 recommended by the board. Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed 36-5.
 - 5.) **Building Fund:** Current \$2,000; Recommended, no increase. Phil Meuhring made a motion to maintain the Building Fund at the amount of \$2,000. Steve Emery seconded the motion. The motion passed 36-5.
- Total For Voted Levy Amounts** \$289,000; Nora Felton made a motion to approve the total of \$289,000 for the 2026 Levy payable in 2027. Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed 33 to 5.

Treasurer, Mary Lundell, summarized the total 2026/payable 2027 Levy as \$289,000.

Phil Meuhring made a motion to select the Beacon as the official publication, the front door as the official posting place was added. Nora Felton seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Phil Meuhring made a motion to set the date, place and time of the 2027 Annual Meeting for Tuesday, March 9th, 2027 @ 8:10pm. Steve Emery seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Old Business:

New Business:

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Interaction Between Board and Citizens:

- 1.) Scott Olson made a motion requesting township supervisors secure three estimated quotes with itemizations suitable for reviews and considerations for a possible outsourcing of road maintenance activities. Peggy Lake seconded the motion. One nay was heard. The motion passed by voice vote.
- 2.) Ruth Sternitzky, 30991 Oxford Mill Road, Cannon Falls, MN 55009, thanked all of the township personnel for their service.
- 3.) Peggy Lake, 31190 55th Avenue Way, Cannon Falls, MN 55009, commented on the meeting calling it good; she suggested a code of conduct; conversation should be addressed to the Chair in a professional manner.

Call for the Election Results of Two Races:

Three Year Term Supervisor-Robert Benson	27
Under Vote/Blank Ballot	04
Write In- Sue Mieske	02
Write In- Jack Schlicting	01
Write In- Jim Peterson	01
Absentee Ballot	05
Total Voters	40
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Two Year Term Clerk- Cheryle Peters	32
Under Votes/Blank Ballot	0
Write In- Sue Mieske	06
Write In- Ken Burns	02
Total Voters	40

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Adjournment:

Nora Felton made a motion to adjourn. Steve Emery seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 10:26pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Cheryle A. Peters,

Clerk, Stanton Township

Mike Althoff,

Moderator, Stanton Township