

TOWN OF SCHROEDER

Minutes for Regular Board Meeting on July 14, 2026

Present: Supervisors Tina McKeever, Bruce Martinson & Horace Lamb; Treasurer Jennifer Yeary, Clerk Amy Brugge (via Zoom), Fire Chief Cody DeWandeler, MNDOT Representatives Joe DeVore & Erika Shepard, Beverly Sildo-Tolliver (ARDC); Cathy Johnson, & residents of Schroeder.

Chair McKeever motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Supervisor Martinson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Martinson motioned to approve the June 9, 2026 regular meeting minutes. Supervisor Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MNDOT North Shore Resiliency Study – Joe DeVore, Erika Shepherd, & Beverly Sildo-Tolliver (ARDC) presented on the MNDOT North Shore Resiliency Study and discussed potential detour routes to be considered in the event Highway 61 had to be closed. The project is currently in its data collection phase with analysis planned for the fall. The intent is to have closure action plan recommendations to present to various stakeholders and then pursue funding resources to improve potential alternate routes. There was group discussion around detour lengths, travel times to hospitals, and the need for helicopter landing zones in the event Highway 61 is inaccessible. There was discussion of current conditions of county & township roads, need for culvert improvement, lack of cell phone coverage, fuel deserts, & lack of EV charging on alternate routes, necessary signage, roads with multiple naming conventions, school bus routes, and communication needs overall.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Yeary provided the treasurer's report that included an overview of investments and monthly expenditures.

Disbursements = **\$35,618.08**

Receipts = **\$300 + \$2010.18** in interest

Total Financial Assets = **\$370, 742.46**

Vice Chair Martinson motioned to accept the treasurer's report and approve claims presented of \$17,110.95 paid by checks #6275 - #6289 and \$2,714.20 in payroll for a total of \$19,825.15. Supervisor Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

West End Lodging Tax – No new updates since April amount

Commissioner Storlie – N/A

West End Emergency Group – Cathy Johnson is seeking volunteers for 8/15 from 11am – 2pm. There's a good group of presenters & demonstrations planned. Chair McKeever volunteers to assist & Jane Eide will handle silent auction table.

Fire Department – Chief DeWandeler is away with the Lutsen Fire Department to assist with fires outside of Ely, but provided a written update to Chair McKeever in advance. There was 1

call in June. There was a good turnout for the 4th of July pancake breakfast, but was a little slower than last year. Clerk Brugge reports that the township received DNR payment for assistance with May wildfire.

Road and Bridge – Skou Road – there was an issue with a ditch washout, authorized contractor to repair, but Supervisors are unsure if it has been completed yet at this time. Supervisors will check in on this.

Cemetery – No update at this time on the gate repair. Some monuments reset that were sunken and black dirt was spread to assist in level other area. Brush removal was also completed along the ditch.

Recreation – There was discussion about additional lawn services along Cross River Wayside. Clerk Brugge had discussed the weeding and additional mowing requests with contractor and reported that there would be an additional \$500 charge each time those items would be requested, as they are outside the scope of the contract. The Board declined to pursue additional landscaping services at this time.

Beach sign – No action has been taken thus far on the private beach sign posted by a property owner new the town park. There haven't been any complaints at this point. Supervisor Martinson may measure the length of how many feet of beach to property boundary

Supervisor Martinson met with Kevin Johnson from the DNR regarding Dyers Lake and the potential for the township to buy the dock. There was discussion about expanding the parking lot, so Supervisor Martinson & the maintenance staff weed whipped things down around the area and are trying to determine if things are acceptable to the DNR. There may be reason to formalize a joint agreement with county, township, and DNR regarding the dock and parking lot at this property.

Supervisor Martinson suggests the township requests a formal boat landing/dock at Dyers Lake from the MN DNR as part of public water access.

Chair McKeever motioned that there be a letter to the DNR requesting a concrete boat ramp & land leveling. Supervisor Martinson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Lamb discussed the brush growth around the outside around the ball field and the need for fence repair. Supervisor Martinson will discuss this project with maintenance worker upon completion of the cemetery projects. It was suggested that the Robert Silver sign at the entrance to the baseball field should be re-painted. Supervisor Martinson will contact Dave Woerheide and asked that Clerk Brugge look up the last payment for this task, which occurred approximately 9 years ago.

Supervisor Martinson motioned to be authorized to hire a contractor to paint the Robert Silver sign at the ballpark at up to 30% more than the last occurrence. Supervisor Lamb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Hall – Drywall repair – no updates at this time, but will be added to the maintenance task list. Supervisor Lamb talked to a contractor about door replacement work, which he agreed to do a late summer or fall.

Other Business:

Website Transition Updates – Communicated with website designer last Thursday and work is still in progress with hope for all items to be finalized in August.

Review of MATIT Insurance Coverage – The board reviewed current property insurance coverage and agreed that upon repair of the cemetery gate, the insurance coverage should be increased to \$10,000. Clerk Brugge will connect with Chief DeWandeler to review all fire department vehicles currently covered by policy.

2026 Funding Request – The board discussed the funding request from the Schroeder Area Historical Society (SAHS) and current leasing arrangement and associated utilities. Clerk Brugge reviewed guidance document published by the Minnesota State Auditor's office regarding donations from townships to non-county historical societies. Supervisor Lamb has a copy of a payment demonstrating their dues to the Minnesota Historical Society. Supervisor Lamb intends to inquire about their budget planning for next year. The Board then tabled discussion of the funding request for SAHS.

Schroeder Place & Fredenburg Land – Supervisor Lamb discussed the township looking at Fredenburg land and considering dividing a parcel into 2 lots and possible place on the market. Supervisor Lamb believes there is enough property for 2 plots along creek and a wetland delineation study had been done. The board discussed hiring someone to conduct a survey to determine property lines, address setbacks, etc.

Chair McKeever motioned to be authorized to Supervisor Martinson to contact a surveyor to continue the plan to further parcel Fredenburg lots. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Martinson. Motion carried unanimously.

Schroeder Place – the property along Schroeder Place is owned by MN Power (ALLETE) and Supervisor Lamb believes the township should continue to inquire about their desire to sell the land.

The board will invite representatives from MN Power to a town board meeting in the fall to further discuss the matter.

Correspondence

Sent – MN Unemployment Q2 Wage Report, MN PFML Q2 Report

Received – N/A

Public Comments – N/A

Vice Chair Martinson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Supervisor McKeever. Meeting adjourned at 9:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Brugge, Town Clerk