

Turtle Lake Township Regular Meeting Minutes February 2, 2026, 19143 Lake Julia Dr. NW Bemidji, MN

The regular meeting of the governing body of Turtle Lake Township, Beltrami County MN was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Michelle Anderson. Also in attendance are Vice Chair Kenneth McBride, Supervisors Leigh Sovde, Mark Haugen, Corey Wright, Treasurer Christine Malterud, Road Supervisor/Zoning Administrator Kelly Booge and Clerk Lynn Johnson.

Public Attendees

Luke Upgren, Neal Adams, Vince ?, Tony Johnson, Kristy Roberts and David Harrington.

Approve Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Vice Chair McBride, second by Supervisor Sovde. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2026

Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 6, 2026 by Chair Anderson, second by Supervisor Wright. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve February 2, 2026 Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve treasurer's report of February 2, 2026 by Supervisor Haugen, second by Supervisor Sovde. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve Claims and Payroll

Motion to approve claims and payroll by Chair Anderson, second by Vice Chair McBride. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Fuller Old Long Lake Road

Mark Fuller with Freeberg & Grund updated the Board on the progress of the Old Long Lake Road project. Estimate on the cost of the project is \$219,000.00 plus a 10% contingency of \$22,000.00 for a possible total of \$241,000.00. The topo and soil borings have been done and design is at 95% completion. The project plans will be available to contractors on Thursday February 5th. He also discussed the fencing within the right-of-way that will need to be removed. The way this situation is handled typically is either the township removes the fence and the owner can replace it, this would require a bid on removal or the owner can be given a time frame to remove and replace themselves. Giving the owners a time frame to remove the fence was agreed upon. Mark and Kelly will discuss this with the owners.

General Road/Zoning Update

Road Supervisor/Zoning Administrator Booge reported there were no zoning calls in January and roads are in good winter shape.

Black Lake Road

Discussion concerning surveying Black Lake Road from CSAH 22 to the Siems property was had. Topic was tabled until a later date.

Proposed Durand Road Agreement

A proposed road agreement with Durand Township for Julia Way NW was reviewed. The agreement will be sent to Durand Township for their review.

NEW BUSINESS

Gryce Styne Road

Residents commented on what they would like to see done for improving the road. No one wants the pines taken down but would like better clearing of brush around corners to increase visibility. Gravel is needed on the road and ditching on east end to direct water off of the road was suggested. Putting asphalt on the washout area at the east end was also suggested.

RFA Meeting

RFA Rep McBride was unable to attend the meeting.

Northern Road Agreement

Road Supervisor Booge spoke with Chris Lahn from Northern Township about the cost sharing agreement for Lake Beltrami Road. The original agreement from July 1992 was Turtle Lake would pay 70% of maintenance costs and Northern would pay 30%. This was agreed to by both townships. In May 2010 Northern passed a resolution that Turtle Lake was to pay 80% and Northern 20%. This was not agreed to by Turtle Lake. Road Supervisor Booge was also told that Northern's understanding was that following the paving project the agreement ended. Turtle Lake had no knowledge of this. It was decided that a new agreement should be drafted and sent to Northern for their review.

Resolution Appointing Election Judges

Motion by Chair Anderson to approve resolution appointing election judges for the March 10, 2026 elections, second by Supervisor Haugen. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Chair Anderson and Supervisors Haugen, Sovde and Wright voting for and Vice Chair McBride abstaining as he is appointed as a judge.

Election Judges appointed are as follows:

Amy Haskell – Head Judge
Kenneth McBride
Gail Dockendorf

Township Day at the Capitol

Reminder of this MAT event.

Tower Road Closure Resolution

A resolution to close Tower Road Minimum Maintenance beginning on March 1, 2026 was presented. Motion to approve resolution by Chair Anderson, second by Vice Chair McBride. Motion carried 5-0.

Archaeologist

Chair Anderson informed the Board that the archaeologist working for the town passed away on January 23rd.

Public and Other

A resident commented on the Tower Road closure and wanted to say he was relieved that it was a temporary spring thaw closure.


Correspondence

Donation request from Support Within Reach and a notice from Minnkota Power about highline clearing on township property.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. by Supervisor Haugen, second by Chair Anderson. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of these Minutes from the February 2, 2026 Regular Township Meeting

Approved  Date 3/2/2026
