

## **PRINCETON TOWNSHIP TOWN BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, December 16, 2025: Minutes**

Present Supervisors Gene Stoeckel, Bill Supervisor Whitcomb, Dan Supervisor Hiller, Thomas Duden, Mike Bishman

### **7:00 p.m.**

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance

### **Approve the Agenda**

Supervisor Stoeckel proposed adding 11 holidays to the new business; the Township will be closed on these dates. Supervisor Duden moved to add open and close dates, seconded by Supervisor Hiller. Motion passed 5-0. Supervisor Hiller then moved, with Duden's support, to approve including meeting dates. (The dates will be in New Business)

### **Open Forum**

**Brittany Jirik:** She summarized the letter, which was presented to the Township Board.

**Lucas Jirk:** He expressed his views to the Supervisors for the rezoning Section 26 of the land in Princeton Township. Also, he has contacted many local News Stations. He believes that the Township is breaking laws. He will be the guy holding the torch to the Township. He also stated that the City of Princeton does not have the money to annex the area or the resources.

**Brian D:** He provided a handout on drainage of the area, which was provided to the Supervisors.

**Stephine Johnston:** She is a former Board Member. She stated that with the additional construction in the area that the neighborhood will suffer with all the new traffic. She does not feel the roads will be able to handle all the new traffic. Also, she is concerned that all the new homes will change the area and make it worse for the current residents.

**Nathan Cook:** He spoke to all the concerns that the Township residents have with the new building plans. He stated that just because he has a large amount of houses on the current plan it does not mean that all the houses will materialize in the final plan. He understands that people would like to see the area stay agricultural, but at the same time this rezoning would help grow the community.

**Kristie Bernad:** She is the realtor that works with Nathan. She wanted to speak to the Supervisors about how Nathan had chosen this area for a new development. She stated that after doing research, in part with Scott Richards, this was the area was the most ideal.

**Supervisor Stoeckel:** He reviewed letters submitted to the Township, sharing some of the highlights.

### **Approve Minutes**

- October 21, 2025, November 18, 2025
- October 21, 2025
  - o Supervisor Duden made a motion to approve, Supervisor Hiller seconds the motion; passed 5 to 0
- November 18, 2025
  - o A note of correction page 3 should be at North 2 miles
  - o Supervisor Whitcomb made a motion to approve, Supervisor Hiller seconds the motion; passes 4 to 0
    - Supervisor Duden abstains as he was not present for this meeting

### **Clerk-Treasurer Report**

- November 2025 Cash Control (Fund Balance) Statement - \$9,161.05 General; \$251,140.52 Roads & Bridges (including CD); \$62,997.04 Park Dedication; \$(1,852.35) Escrow; \$(2,410.51) Fire Services= Total \$319,035.75
- December 16, 2025 Gross Pay \$6,961.66
- December 16, 2025 (Accounts Payable) for Approval - \$11,399.67 General; \$28,146.97 Roads & Bridges; \$1,226 206.Betzler; \$2,785.00 N.C. Contracting; \$560 206.Barthel = Total \$44,117.64
- Supervisor Hiller made a motion to approve, Supervisor Duden seconds the motion; passes 5 to 0

### **Old Business:**

- Flooring Quote, Cleaning Update
  - o Maahs quote is good until February 2026. Another quote was suggested from Corrows, which will allow a good comparison of costs
- 2024 Audit work is still underway, with Bremer/Old National Bank funding documentation being reviewed
  - o Representation letter has been received and signed.
  - o The final report will be available at the next meeting.
- Upcoming Election and Annual Meeting
  - o Resolution 2025-18 Resolution Designating Annual Polling Place, Authorize Publishing

- Supervisor Hiller made a motion approve Resolution 2025-18, Supervisor Bishman seconds the motion; passes 5 to 0
  - o Linda Boettcher has agreed to be the Head Judge. She will contact the judges . Supervisor Stoeckel offered to help if needed
  - o Affidavit of Candidacy - Available in the office and on the website
    - The Township will be open on Tuesday January 13, 2026 until 5pm, which is the last day to submit
- 2026 Fee Schedule
  - o Supervisor Whitcomb made a motion to approve with the change amount to \$2,000 for escrow rezoning, Supervisor Hiller seconds the motion, passes 5 to 0
- Preparing for 2026 RFQs - Including Zoning Administrator
  - o Supervisor Hiller would like to have the Township look into what it would take for the County to take over the zoning for the Township, which would dissolve the Planning Commission for the Township. He is questioning the cost of the current Zoning Administrator.
  - o Supervisor Duden stated this may be a good time to look at it with the current Zoning Administrator stepping down.
  - o Discussion went further that by doing our zoning, things will be addressed as to how the township residents would like it vs the County allowing building all over the place.
  - o Supervisor Hiller made a the motion that an RFQ for new Zoning Administrator be prepared. Supervisor Whitcomb Seconds the motion, passes 5 to 0
- Proposed 2027 Budget
  - o There is no update at this time, it will be ready by March 10<sup>th</sup> for the Township's Annual Meeting.

### **New Business**

- Paid Leave, ESST Vacation/11 Holidays - Employee Review
  - o Tabled until next month
- Deputy Clerk - Job Description
  - o Supervisor Duden made a motion to approve the job description and post the position, Supervisor Hiller seconds the motion, passes 5 to 0
- Township Hall Rental Agreement/Policy
  - o Supervisor Hiller made a motion to not pursue any rent of the building, Supervisor Bishman seconds the motion, passes 5 to 0
- Possible Small Farms Event in 2026 - Mille Lacs/Sherburne SWCD
  - o After a brief discussion, issue is discarded
- 2025 Mille Lacs County - Annual Weed Report - due 12.30.2025
  - o Supervisor Duden will prepared this document.
- Awair - OSHA Safety
  - o After a brief discussion, any necessary items will be addressed
- Meeting Dates for 2026
  - o Supervisor Whitcomb made a motion for the dates that the Township will to be closed for holidays' Supervisor Hiller seconds, passed 5 to 0
- 2026 Local Boards of Appeal & Equalization Certifications
  - o Date is set for April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 – 6 pm – Township Hall

### **Zoning**

- Section 26 Nate Cook
  - Supervisors went over the Comprehensive Plan with Mr. Richards. They questioned doing so much development at this time. Supervisors had a chance to talk with the developer about future intentions. There are concerns about developing 80 acres all at once and if it is being done too fast. There is also concern if this property is rezoned that it will encourage other farmers to rezone for future sale.
  - Supervisor Whitcomb has gone over the zoning maps over the last 15 years. In the last 15 years, this area was not the same zone designation, and it was not clear when or whom had changed it.
  - Supervisor Whitcomb made a motion for the Town Board to approve the application to change the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Designation and Zoning District classification for the subject properties to R-1 Residential. He also moves to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2026-1 and schedule second reading for the January 20, 2026 meeting. Supervisor Hiller seconds the motion.

- Role Call Vote:
- Supervisor Bishman: No
- Supervisor Duden: Yes
- Supervisor Hiller: Yes
- Supervisor Stoeckel: No
- Supervisor Whitcomb: Yes
- Motion is Defeated 3 to 2 by Super Majority which was required
  
- Supervisor Duden made a motion that the Town Board deny the application to change the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Designation and Zoning District classification for the subject properties to R-1 Residential. Move to approve Resolution 2025-19 to deny the application for a change to the land use designation and zoning to R-1., Bishman seconds the motion
- Supervisor Bishman: Yes
- Supervisor Duden: Yes
- Supervisor Hiller: No
- Supervisor Stoeckel: Yes
- Supervisor Whitcomb: No
- Motion carries 3 to 2

**Supervisor Reports:**

- Roads
  - Pavement Options - Lucas Chapman from Fahrner Asphalt Sealers
  - The presented working with the township in the future on projects
- Fire Board Liaison
  - No meeting until January 7th

**Adjourn at 8:55pm**

Supervisor Hiller made a motion to adjourn, seconds by Supervisor Whitcomb, passes 5 to 0