

Princeton Township Board Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2026

Opening and Agenda

Meeting called to order at 7 pm; Pledge of Allegiance; and agenda were reviewed adding the Planning Commission payroll from meeting on April 13, 2026. Motion by Supervisor Patten, Second by Supervisor Knutson, Carried 4-0.

Chairman Stoeckel opened with a statement to the Town Board as a whole: "When we go to Legal seminars, it is emphasized to us that we are a Board, as a whole. If someone approaches you about a concern that will arise at a Township meeting, you should not state an opinion. If you were to assure someone you would vote for or against this concern, you may have violated State statute. If someone challenges this statement, MAT nor MATIT will defend you. Multiple offenses of this State statute carry a fine and removal from the Township Board. Remain neutral and tell those citizens to get this matter on the agenda by contacting the Township Clerk/Treasurer."

Approve the Minutes

Supervisor Whitcomb proposed corrections to the March 24, 2026, minutes: Clarified road improvement discussions, corrected state aid loss to \$40,000, updated "Wyman" to "Whitcomb" for bid securing, specified "Princeton City" for clarity, and corrected gravel budget. Corrections were assigned to Clerk/Treasurer Creasy. Motion by Supervisor Patten, Second by Supervisor Knutson to approve minutes as amended, Carried 4-0.

Historic Flag Donation and Display

Resident Joel Minks graciously donated the former Minnesota flag, which was presented to him from Betsy Wergin.

Board accepted the donation, with tentative plans potential to display with plaque indoors or fly the flag outdoors. No decision was made, research on proper protocol deferred to next month.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

March 2026 Cash Control (Fund Balance) Statement - General Fund: \$14,855.09; Roads & Bridges (including CD); \$564,181.91; Park Dedication: \$62,997.04; Fire Services: \$41,972.29 = **Total Fund Balance:** \$684,006.33. 2026 Accounts and Escrows Receivable: Code Enforcement \$4,400.78; Escrows Receivable \$13,279.25; Road Share with Wyanett Township \$1,261.15 = **Total Accounts and Escrows Receivable** \$18,941.18. Code Enforcement is due to a property where zoning enforcement and legal

fees have been incurred by the Township. It will be assessed to the property at the point of sale if collected prior.

QTR1 2026 Statement of Position and Actual to Budget = **Total Assets of the Township** \$1,275,638.97. **QTR1 2026** showed a net surplus of \$1,147.76 to the General Fund.

April 21, 2026 Gross Pay - \$5,744.50

April 21, 2026 Claims for Approval (Accounts Payable): General Fund: \$1,159.29; Roads and Bridges: \$10,380.00; **Total Claims:** \$11,539.29

April 21, 2026 Additional Planning Commission payroll - \$230

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb to approve the Clerk-Treasurer Reports, Second by Supervisor Patten, Carried 4-0.

Old Business (Reminders)

Local Boards of Appeal and Equalization – April 22, 2026; 6 pm Note:

A quorum of the Supervisors is required.

Clean Up Day – May 2, 2026: 7:30 am to 11:30 am

Logistics finalized: **one roll-off and one garbage truck** from Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal; electronics will be picked up at no cost; tires to be stacked on ground; Supervisor Duden may bring a skid steer; Dave Persing and Assistant Fire Chief to provide personnel. Motion by Supervisor Knutson for Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal to provide one roll-off and one garbage truck, Second by Supervisor Whitcomb, Carried 4-0.

Social Media Policy Update

Public comments will be disabled on the Township's social media to avoid moderation issues and reputational risk. The posts would be sharable.

Page will serve as **one-way communication** (agendas, newsletters, events) managed solely by Township Clerk/Treasurer.

Public interaction redirected to phone/email, with input brought to meetings.

Sections G, H, I (on comments/moderation) to be deleted; Section J (one-way communication) retained and renumbered as G. Remove Appendix.

Motion by Supervisor Knutson to approve the social media Policy as amended, Second by Supervisor Patten, Carried 4-0.

New Business

Park Dedication Fund

The Fund currently holds \$62,997.04.

Supervisor Patten offers to draw up preliminary plans for its future use.

Supervisor Stoeckel will go to Old National Bank and open a CD for the entirety of this Fund, assessing best rate options. The rate may be approximately 4% and time in the range on three to five months.

Interest will be re-invested at the time of maturity. Resident Minks suggesting a sustainable "nest egg," where the interest could eventually be used for maintenance leaving the principal intact.

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb to open a CD at Old National Bank in the amount of \$62,997.04, Second by Supervisor Patten, Carried 4-0.

Resolution 2026-07: Certificate of Indebtedness

Approving \$900,000 in Certificates of Indebtedness at 5.19% interest to fund 50th Avenue repairs (County Road 1 to 13) in partnership with Wyanett Township.

Early repayment is allowed with no penalty, payments twice yearly, aligned with County Levy receipts.

As this requires a Super Majority requiring four-fifths majority, roll call vote was taken.

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb to approve Resolution 2026-07, Second by Supervisor Knutson: Supervisor Patten AYE, Supervisor Whitcomb AYE, Supervisor Stoeckel AYE, Supervisor Knutson AYE, Carried 4-0.

Planning Commission Appointments

Supervisor Knutson raised concerns over the appointment process of Planning Commissioners.

In email communication with Township Attorney Jason Hill, he stated that committee and commission appointments are entirely at the discretion of the Town Board and the process used in this situation appears to be in compliance with the code and meeting procedures.

Minnesota Association of Township's General Counsel Steve Fenske confirmed process was legally valid, but recommended transparency improvements.

Motion by Supervisor Knutson to rescind the Appointments and re-do the process, Second by none, motion is defeated.

Motion by Supervisor Knutson to establish procedure, including optional rank voting, Second by Supervisor Patten, Carried 4-0.

Resident Welfare and Zoning Issues

Resident complaint was received regarding an illegal homeless campground on private property with sanitation, health, and safety concerns (human waste, rats, vulnerable individuals).

It stated a vulnerable adult was involved, initiated a welfare check, Sheriff confirmed issues, and referred case to Social Services.

Zoning administrator Scott Richards will handle land-use violations.

Job Reorganization: Deputy Clerk and Maintenance

Deputy Clerk position was evaluated, along with the building maintenance and roadwork duties and upon consolidation it was offered to Ken Hennen. Ken brings 20 years of Township experience into this role. The benefits strive to provide cost savings, better skill use, and improved efficiency.

Office landline was converted to cell system; second line issued to Ken for shared call routing.

Liquor License Approvals

Five applications were considered from Shooters, Long Siding Station, Moonshine, Old Log Liquor, and Princeton Lanes. All five have paid the required fees.

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb to approve the five applications, Second by Supervisor Patten, Carried 4-0.

Zoning

Planning Commission held an introductory meeting; Dave Persing was elected as Chair; Jim Kusler as Vice Chair.

Roads Update

Gravel roads recently graded; mowing to begin late May; Brush/tree removal ongoing along 50th Avenue; Baptist Church Road is low priority due to minimal traffic; future options: revert to gravel or reclaim/repave; stakeholder engagement planned.

Roads budget projected cash balance at end year to be over \$150,000; surplus aids early next year. CD is not included in cash flow, preserved as rainy-day fund.

Adjournment at 8:35 pm

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb to adjourn, Second by Supervisor Patten, Carried 4-0.