

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-10

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF MILLE LACS
PRINCETON TOWNSHIP**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THAT THE
APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY MELLISSA GRISWOLD FOR A
FRONT/SIDE YARD SETBACK VARIANCE FOR A GARAGE AT
6538 ALPHA ROAD, PRINCETON TOWNSHIP BE APPROVED
WITH CONDITIONS**

WHEREAS, Princeton Township received a request from Melissa Griswold (Applicant) for a front yard / side yard setback variance to allow construction of a garage at 6538 Alpha Road, Princeton Township, PID# 16-035-2100 ("Property");

WHEREAS, the Property is legally described as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto;

WHEREAS, the application materials, supporting documentation and staff planning report are incorporated herein by reference;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing at their August 4, 2025, meeting, took comments from the Applicant and public, closed the public hearing, and forwarded the application with no recommendation of approval or denial. On the motion to approve the application, the Planning Commission voted 3 to 3, and the motion failed;

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Supervisors, at their August 19, 2025, meeting, denied the application, finding there was no practical difficulty in meeting the required front / side yard setbacks as there is adequate area on the lot for the proposed garage near the west property line, behind the house, and that the Applicant had created their own hardship by taking an existing attached garage and making it living space. It was also determined there were no exceptional or extraordinary circumstances applying to the property such as topography, preservation of trees, that would limit the placement of the garage;

WHEREAS, subsequent to the Town Board of Supervisors decision on the variance, the Applicant commenced litigation against Princeton Township (*Melissa Sue Griswold v. Princeton Township Board of Supervisors, Eugene Stoeckel, Bill Whitcomb, Mike Bishman, Dan Hiller and Thomas Duden*, Mille Lacs County District Court, Case Number - 48-CV-25-1656) asking the District Court, Seventh Judicial District to reverse the decision of the Town Board of Supervisors and allow the variance for construction of the garage; and

WHEREAS, The District Court, on June 18, 2026, ordered that the Township's denial of the variance was reversed, the matter was remanded to the Township's Board of Supervisors and that the Board of Supervisors shall issue the variance, subject to reasonable conditions, including those conditions recommended by the staff planning report. The District Court order is attached to this Resolution as Exhibit B.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR PRINCETON TOWNSHIP THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVES THE VARIANCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GARAGE ON THE PROPERTY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLANS SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT AND SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. The garage shall be constructed according to the plans submitted by the Applicant with the Variance application dated July 10, 2025.
2. The garage shall not contain living space or serve as an additional dwelling unless a Conditional Use Permit is granted.
3. The garage shall be sided in materials and a color to match or is complimentary to the house.
4. The garage will need to be built at a proper distance from the main structure or comply with building code requirements for construction.

Approved by the Board of Supervisors of Princeton Township on this 21st day of July 2026.


Eugene Stoeckel Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:


Tammy Creasy, Township Clerk/Treasurer

