Princeton Township Board Meeting

September 15, 2026

In Attendance:

Eugene Stoeckel, David Patten, William Whitcomb, Jessica Knutson, and Ben Wikstrom

Opening and Agenda

Meeting called to order at 7 pm; Pledge of Allegiance; and agenda was reviewed adding CD with ONB; ATF Zoning Verification Princeton Trading Post; Comp Plan Committee; Knife River Partial Payment No. 2; 2026.09.14 Planning Commission Payroll; Special Event Request for Long Siding's Annual Car Show; RV issues at north end of the old Retzlaff property; and Recognition of a gift to the Township. Motion to approve the agenda by Supervisor Whitcomb; Second by Supervisor Patten, Carried 4-0.

Approve the Minutes

The minutes of August 18th Town Board meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes by Supervisor Whitcomb; Second by Supervisor Knutson, Carried 4-0.

Open Forum

1. Brittany Jirik addressed her letter of interest for the Comp Plan Committee; as well, she suggested giving potentially interested individuals the parameters of time the project may take.
2. Ken Henchen gave an update of his work as Deputy Clerk for the past five months.
3. Lucas Jirik addressed traffic concerns; addressing safety particularly on Highway 95.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

1. As of August 31, 2026, total Township funds amounted to $1,539,968.22, distributed as follows: General Fund $32,885.38; Roads and Bridges $1,294,550.96; Fire Department Services $43,167.47; Park Dedication $4,800; CD $101,564.41; Park Dedication CD $63,000
2. September 15, 2026, Gross Pay for Supervisors and Staff is General $5,932; Roads $455; Roads Mileage $162.40

3. September 15, 2026, Claims for Approval are General $14,780.79 and Roads $38,291.20

Motion to approve the Clerk-Treasurer reports by Supervisor Patten; Second by Supervisor Knutson; Carried 4-0.

Old Business

4. Audio and Security Upgrades were addressed by Ken Henchen. Amplified microphones and an SD security card camera were addressed. No action was taken in this matter.

5. City of Princeton – Prior Annexation Properties were paid and the matter is settled.

New Business

6. 2026 Township Mileage Certification: Current certified road mileage: **39.28 miles**

   expected to reach **~41.5 miles** with pending road agreements; Bill to work with Todd to finalize and verify with county

7. Zoning Contract with Ben Wikstrom was presented.

Motion to approve the contract by Supervisor Patten; Second by Supervisor Knutson; Carried 4-0.

Comprehensive Plan Committee

8. Purpose: Review and update the Township's Comprehensive Plan, focusing on land use, transportation, and future development.

9. Recommended Process from Ben:

   1. Monthly one-hour meetings following Planning Commission sessions
   2. Focus: Land use designations and map alignment (last major update: **2009**, 17 years prior)
   3. Public open house to gather feedback
   4. Use of MAT for guidance on structure and timelines

Committee Members Appointed: Supervisors David Patten, Jessica Knutson; Planning Commissioners: Kathy Stoeckel, Brittany Jirik, Dave Persing; At-Large: Eric Minks

Motion to approve the committee by Supervisor Patten; Second by Supervisor Knutson; Carried 4-0.

Former Bank Building in Long Siding

Discussion on preserving a historic brick building across from the bank, no action taken.

Certification of Unpaid Charges

Nathan and Korine Cook

10. Owes **$4,630.50** for unpaid charges tied to a rezoning request (November 3, 2025)
11. Applicant disputes charge due to project denial

Motion to send invoices to Mille Lacs County for collection by Supervisor Knutson; Second by Supervisor Whitcomb; Carried 4-0.

Brent Reynolds

12. Owe **$4,400.78** for unresolved code enforcement issues (noise, overcrowding, sanitation)

Motion to send invoices to Mille Lacs County for collection by Supervisor Stoeckel; Second by Supervisor Whitcomb; Carried 4-0.

Jesse and Lynell Barthel

13. Owes **$1,490.50** for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) in September 2025 for structure replacement
14. After discussion, Board acknowledged the charges were excessive

Motion to reduce the outstanding balance to **$370.50** by Supervisor Patten; Second by Supervisor Stoeckel; Carried 4-0.

Snow plowing for the 2026-2027 now season

15. A notice to the Public will go out requesting bids, with a due date of October 2nd.

Supervisor Study Session

1. Scheduled for **November 17 at 6:00 PM**, prior to the regular meeting

Additions to the Agenda

16. **Park Dedication Renewal**:
    1. Renewed for 126 days despite expired deadline
    2. Chose a four-month term at **3.97% (effectively 4%)** for simplicity
    3. Next renewal due December 30, 2026
17. **ATF Zoning Verification**: Confirmed no issues; business operates legally as a firearm retail storefront
18. **Comp Plan Committee** addressed in prior new business
19. **Knife River** partial payment no 2 will be entered as a payable and Princeton Township will pay 50%. Wyanett is billed for the other 50% and once that payment is received, Princeton Township will submit the balance. Discussion with Knife River was favorable to this plan.
20. **2026.09.14 Planning Commission Payroll** $805 was covered in the Clerk-Treasurer Report.
21. **Special Event Approval**

    Annual Car Show requested permit for **September 19, 2026**

Motion to approve the event request by Supervisor Whitcomb; Second by Supervisor Patten, Carried 4-0.

22. **RVs and issues** at the north end of the former Ratzlaff property will be addressed between Supervisor Whitcomb and Ben Wikstrom.

Zoning

23. **Serenity Meadows** submitted documents requested on a restrictive covenant and HA. The amended CUP converts the structures from 22 twin homes to 11 single family units.

Motion to deny the amended CUP by Supervisor Patten; Second by Supervisor Whitcomb; Carried 4-0.

Road Updates

24. Graveling and grading of roads are ongoing; second mowing is completed.
25. Brush removal continues across the Township.
26. **50th Avenue construction**, contracted to Knife River, was delayed:
    1. Originally due: August 30 or September 4, 2026
    2. Actual projected completion: October 2

Other Business

27. **Signage Recognition**:
    1. A citizen created a new Township sign honoring its establishment **43 days after Minnesota became a state**
    2. Board expressed appreciation for the contribution

Adjourn

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