

(Unapproved Minutes)

CROOKED LAKE TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 11, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by the Clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Attendees were reminded that copies of the Agenda, Board of Audit Minutes, Road Report and the minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting were available. They were also reminded to sign in as residents or non-residents and that only those eligible to vote in Crooked Lake Township, had residency, were eligible to vote tonight.

Kurt Hoffman nominated Glen Goodwin as Moderator, he accepted, all in favor. All were offered copies of Agenda, dispensed with reading of Agenda.

Clerk provided minutes from 03/12/24 Annual Meeting. MOTION KURT HOFFMAN, 2ND MINDI GENZ TO DISPENSE WITH READING OF 03/12/24 MINUTES. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED. MOTION SEAN WALSH, 2ND KEITH AHLQUIST TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE 03/12/24 ANNUAL MEETING. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

The Clerk read 2025 Board of Audit Report from Board minutes of 02/13/25: The Board reviewed a sampling of 2024 receipts and disbursements and matched them to records of the Clerk and Treasurer. The Board checked Cass County receipts all listed between the clerk and treasurer, as well as the outstanding checks as of 12/31/24 and the Cash Control statement from 01/01/24-12/31/24 and everything matched. MOTION PALKOVICH, 2ND THIELEN TO ACCEPT THAT THE TOWN BOARD SUPERVISORS REVIEWED DISBURSEMENTS AND RECEIPTS, AND TREASURER REGISTER MATCHED CLERK REGISTER. THREE RECEIPTS ON THE CLERK BOOKS HAD NUMBER TYPOS BUT WERE PROPERLY LISTED IN RECEIPT REGISTER. NO OTHER DISCREPANCIES WERE NOTED. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Outing Quick Response Report was given by Chief Connie Pollock. They had 80 calls for emergency medical care. They currently have 13 members. Members present were asked to stand. All responders are certified by the EMSRB (Emergency Medical Service Regulatory Board). We have a combination of EMT's and EMR's. We train on various emergencies through CRMC along with some additional training with our fire dept. All members are required to attend meetings, training, and calls to maintain active membership within our group. Our group is dispatched by Cass County 911 for both Crooked Lake and Beulah township. All members carry their own supplies and arrive in their personal vehicles. Our ambulance service comes from Remer Ambulance and additional resources will be paged out as necessary including ALS (Advanced Life Support) from CRMC or North Memorial and air care services if available. OQR is self-funding, which is received by the Remer Ambulance tax district, private donations, RALALA, Lake Washburn Assoc and the Outing Chamber of Commerce. It costs \$15,000 - \$18,000 per year to run and maintain our organization. This covers the training, equipment, and reimbursement to the members for responding to calls and attending training meetings. OQR is a team effort, we respond as we are available to calls, and would like to also acknowledge the Crooked Lake Fire Dept for always assisting us on calls and being there for support as needed.

Crooked Lake Volunteer Fire Department Report was given by Chief Nick Usherwood. Firefighters present were asked to stand up. The Crooked Lake Fire Department continues to be proficient in the service we provide in Crooked Lake Township and Beulah Township. We have continued with our structured training with the help of FIRE Inc. Some of our training this year includes Ice Water Rescue with our new Rapid Deployment Craft, Radio and Report, Auto X, Low angle Rescue with our new Equipment, Apparatus Drivers Training, SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) training, Incident Command Leadership, and mutual aid training with local fire departments. We had 70 calls which included (18) Fire/Accidents and (52) Medicals. Which is down from last year. (19 Fire, 55 Medical). Equipment: We were able to replace

Unit 635, which was a 1993 Chevy van 2-wheel drive Walk around rescue rig with a used 2014 International 4x4 Walk around rescue rig that has been refurbished. Emily Fire Department bought a new Engine last year and we were able to purchase their old pumper engine. So, we were able to replace Unit 632 which was a 1982 Ford gas Pumper to a 1999 Chevy diesel with Auto transmission. Some of you know that we are continuously doing fundraisers to help pay for fire gear and apparatuses. We currently have 2 apparatuses that are 28 years old. These are our Water Tender trucks. These are the next two trucks to get updated. We are working on updating our equipment as funds allow us to. We currently have 17 Fire Fighters; we have one new firefighter this year (Randy Buchite) Currently in Fire Training. We are always looking for new fire fighters! Our Facebook page for the fire department is up and running. We have a few training events posted and are trying to keep it updated. Check it out!! Resident asked about personal fire ext. getting tested, Usherwood mentioned calling Maint. Dept. for when annual testing done with whom. Dave Olson, last original firefighter, 43 yrs. To retire.

CLVFD Pension Fund Report was given by Brian Palkovich. Pension Fund at RBC Wealth Management balance currently is \$387,920.64. Full vested annual retirement benefit at \$2400.00 per year of service. Members of Outing Quick Response participate in the pension fund, bringing the total number to 27.

Palkovich mentioned Citizen Recognition Board and Glenn Mechelke & Clint Converse recognized 2024.

Outing Volunteer Library Report was sent by Nancy Toth, Chairperson, read by Clerk. The library has had a makeover. There will be 2 used book sales this year. Stop by to see the cleaned-out version. Mentioned the library reorganization. Approved financial statement ending 12/31/2024: beginning balance 4096.16 - debits \$5315.41 + credits \$7038.66 = 12/31/24 balance \$5819.41.

Dave Thompson, Road Supervisor gave a report: Graveled approximately 4.5 miles of township roads. The graveled roads are Parsonage Trail, Parsonage Lane, part of Longwood Point. Muchow Road, and part of Peninsula Road. There were many strong, windy days that blew down many trees and branches removed as needed. Heavy rains of June and July washed out many parts of our roads. All areas were repaired as needed. These storms caused enough damage that the Township was part of a FEMA grant reimbursement program. All roads were bladed when conditions allowed for the best result of our efforts. Roads were mowed. All culverts were checked and monitored to make sure water could flow through them.

Equipment: Grader received its 1500-hour service, Dump truck serviced as needed and Annual DOT Inspection completed, 2017 Pickup had number 4 injector fail, repaired. It had emissions failure that was repaired as well. Annual DOT Inspection completed. Skid loader serviced as needed. Two hoses on the front coupler replaced. Massey Ferguson Tractor while mowing had a transmission problem the needed to be addressed. The tractor is currently at a repair facility getting repaired. All miscellaneous small equipment was used and maintained as needed. This includes chainsaws, Hotsy pressure washer, leaf blower, generators, weed whips and air compressor. One new chainsaw was purchased. Culverts: ongoing inspections, steaming and maintenance as needed, all culverts had brush removed from the opening or the outlet if needed. Items of interest: Calcium chloride was applied on May 31 to all areas where residents paid to have this service. Fire extinguishers are checked annually. CLT maintains County Road 58 at County's request. Maintenance employees and equipment removed the old fire hall concrete slab and class-5 the area. Received the new AIS steamer/pressure washer, learned how to maintain it. The maintenance employees deliver and pick up the machine every week, so the AIS inspector has use of the machine at the public landing. Built spillway for storm water at the canister station.

Thompson mentioned training with Cass County Sheriff's Office and Red Cross Shelter Training in regard to Emergency Operations.

Lakes and Shores report was sent by Committee Chair Peggy Parks, read by Bob Holman. The Crooked Lake Township (CLT) Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee was formed in 2012 by a group of CLT residents. In 2013, the Committee received CLT approval for a \$5,000 annual amount to be used for AIS including inspections, equipment, educational material, banners, posters, and other signage. We can take pride that CLT was one of two townships with a DNR grant and delegation agreement for an AIS inspection

program - the first in Cass County. Our mission is to preserve and protect our lakes and watershed for today and future generations. The CLT AIS Committee comprises representatives from Crooked Lake Township, two lake associations, lake property owners and concerned township citizens. For the first few years, Crooked Lake Township and the CLT AIS Committee, with support from the Lake Washburn Association (LWA) and the Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lake Association (RALALA), were responsible for watercraft inspections, lake treatments and overall control of AIS for our township lakes: Roosevelt, Washburn, Lawrence, Smoky Hollow and Leavitt. This included the organization and operation of watercraft inspections at three township public landings; furnishing equipment for the inspectors; and scheduling weekend inspection hours. In 2014, the Minnesota State Legislature passed a bill delegating \$10M per year for AIS to be distributed to lake counties. From this monetary distribution, Cass County, with its AIS Prevention and Management Plan developed, took over the management of the AIS watercraft inspections at selected county public landings. For CLT and our Committee, this meant working closely with the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to ensure adequate inspection coverage was considered for our three township public landings. Lake Washburn has had Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) since 2009; Lake Roosevelt most recently. Both instances were identified through surveys. AIS surveys for lakes are necessary and expensive, often exceeding \$5,000 depending on the lake area surveyed. They allow us to act early and reduce the spread through timely treatments. Treatments for EWM found during the survey often exceed \$20,000 for each treatment. Consider what AIS control means: tourism, fishing, hunting, property sales for increased business trade, stable/increased on and off-lake property values to maintain a good tax base - even CLT recognition by DNR, MLR, ACCL as a leader in AIS efforts. In 2016, we requested and received CLT approval for an annual increase to \$15,000. The LWA and RALALA combined AIS Service Provider expenses in 2023 was \$39,340 and in 2024 significantly increased to \$79,985. The CLT Committee's budget for 2023 was \$15k (\$14,831 spent) and for 2024 the disbursements were \$15,650. Projections for 2025 will approach \$100,000. We had submitted meaningful proposal requests for increases in 2023 and 2024 to the CLT Board. Because a budget surplus was not available, the increase requests were not approved; however, we credit the Board for finding an additional \$3,000 to help defray AIS expenses for 2024. Let's review how some of these funds are used: AIS and GTLO Signage on trailers, in businesses, educational material - awareness. Luscher's Park Shoreline Restoration at the public landing - shoreline preservation. Monofilament tubes at the 3 public landings - collect and recycle. GTLO campaign - 3-year collection over 100# - benefits eagles, loons, turtles. Coordinated efforts with Cass County AIS Technician for inspection hours, - 3 days per week, 10 hours per day from Opener through mid-September. Supported lake surveys, treatments and public landing decontaminations. Lakeshore Stewardship Program with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates. According to local real estate agents, lake property buyers want to know about the quality of the water, the strength of the local lake associations and what is being done to keep aquatic invasive species out of our lakes before investing in lakeshore property. This underscores the crucial importance of preserving beautiful, clear, clean and AIS free lakes to residents and local businesses alike. Studies have shown how extreme AIS infested lakes reduce property values from 15 to 20%. The Cass County AIS Technician reviewed Lake Roosevelt, noting that a 15% reduction in property values (\$135M) would impact taxation. The recommendation is to continue strong treatments to manage the EWM infestation. As AIS is controlled, the costs for treatments are reduced and property values are strengthened. Because of these AIS efforts, 90% of Cass County lakes are AIS free and any outbreaks have been effectively managed. Consider that lake association members, along with the CLT Lakes and Shores Committee (formerly the CLT AIS Committee) invest thousands of hours each year testing lake water, monitoring our loons, educating people about the value of restoring shorelines with native planting, educating about invasive species and the dangers of lead in our lakes, educating our youth about safe boating and keeping a watchful eye on Enbridge, just to name a few of our contributions. We are working, even when the ice is on the lakes, to plan for the coming 2025 season. When you consider the cost the township would pay for the services we provide, it's important to remember that we are all dedicated volunteers working for the good of this community. One of the best ways for residents to support these efforts is to become a lake association member and volunteer. Membership donations help our lake associations with the increased costs of protecting our water. In closing, the CLT Lakes and Shores

Committee, the Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lake Association (RALALA) and the Lake Washburn Association (LWA) request the CLT Board increase the 2025 AIS Grant to \$30,000. We realize the 2025 funding is already approved based on the current levy but are offering to work with the CLT for the 2025 potential financial AIS cost assistance and offer our support to participate in CLT 2026 budgetary planning.

Road Ambassador Report by Vicki Lipstreuer: The Road Ambassador Committee is a group of 30 volunteers who are CLT residents. We serve as the communication conduit between the residents and CLT. We ask residents to send reports of severe weather events to their nearest RA who will then text the CLT - thereby reducing the communication congestion to the CLT. The process is two-way - meaning an RA is expected to pass on updates from CLT. An RA is not expected to remove trees or deal with downed power lines. The RA Committee was directly responsible for: Initiating the discussion which led to the purchase of backup generators for the Fire Hall and Town Hall. Establishing opening procedures for the Town Hall during severe weather events and using an Open sign for the hall during such events. Working with the CLT to post updates on the Outing Facebook page during storms. For initiating the use of signage at Land O'Lakes Marine and Our Savior's Lutheran Church to keep residents informed of developments during storms. The launch in 2023 of the Emergency Guideline magnet, containing important contact information for power outages and NIXLE weather alerts. Informing the residents of programs such as NIXLE and Skywarn Storm Spotter classes. With all that being said, the RA committee is constantly trying to improve and re-imagine how we can best help our neighbors. To that end we are pursuing options for obtaining devices to aid CLT residents during severe weather. These would include NOAA Weather Radios which broadcast alerts or Emergency Portable Power Banks which can be solar or hand cranked power and are equipped with weather radios, cell phone charging port, a flashlight, and SOS alarm. We are also considering establishing a portable generator service check. We know several residents own portable generators, but many are not properly maintained on a regular basis. We are always looking for additional volunteers and ideas - so please contact Keith Ahlquist or the CLT RA Liaison, Jim Thielen, if interested. Their contact info is on CLT website.

MOTION SEAN WALSH, 2ND MINDI GENZ TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWNSHIP TO CONTRACT WITH VARIOUS NONPROFIT SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS THAT SHALL SERVE LOCAL NEEDS IN CLT AND THE IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING AREA, UP TO \$3000.00 TOTAL WITH A LIMIT OF \$300.00 EACH. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION DICK OMANN, 2ND KEITH AHLQUIST TO USE PAPER BALLOT FOR LEVY VOTE AS THE DEFAULT METHOD FROM THIS POINT FORWARD, WITH MODERATOR AND ELECTION JUDGE TO TALLY VOTES WITH CLERK OBSERVING. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Board recommends no change to the 2025 levy for collection in 2026. BOARD RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING LEVY FOR 2025 TO BE COLLECTED IN 2026 WOULD BE: GENERAL REVENUE \$303,537.00, ROAD AND BRIDGE \$261,250.00 AND FIRE FUND \$136,563.00, FOR A TOTAL OF \$701,350.00. Discussion as to increasing general fund for Lakes N Shores, which can't be designated. A paper ballot was passed out and information repeated that only those who are eligible to vote in CLT may vote. Moderator Glen Goodwin, Election Judges Tom Brinkman and Cindy Thompson passed out ballots and tallied votes, with Clerk observing the count.

MOTION VICKI LIPSTREUER, 2ND KEITH AHLQUIST TO LEVY IN 2025 FOR COLLECTION IN 2026: GENERAL REVENUE \$303,537.00, ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND \$261,250.00 AND FIRE FUND \$136,563.00, FOR A TOTAL OF \$701,350.00. MOTION PASSED BY A VOTE OF 41 YES TO 6 NO.

General Discussion/Business/Citizen Concerns: Sean Walsh mentioned he is a member of Longville VFW and would take flags to be retired. Citizens may drop during Fire meetings 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6:30PM or give to firefighter.

MOTION MINDI GENZ 2ND KEITH AHLQUIST THAT THE 2026 ANNUAL MEETING BE HELD THE 2ND TUESDAY OF MARCH (MARCH 10, 2026) AT 7:00PM AT THE CROOKED LAKE TOWN HALL. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION SEAN WALSH, 2ND KEITH AHLQUIST TO ADJOURN AT 8:15PM. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.



03-17-2025

Glen Goodwin, Moderator



Terri Julkowski, Clerk,

Crooked Lake Township