

Watertown Township
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
August 2026
7:00pm

The Watertown Township Board met on the above date for a regular board meeting to audit and allow orders, and to transact any business to come before it.

Present were Scott Hoese, Jerry Bruner, Kathy McCann, Barry Fritzke, Stephanie Coe, and Wayne Hubin

Visitors: John Quam, Tory Schmidt, Cathy Schmidt, Andrew Hayes, Billie and Brevik Tharaldson, Rick Pawelk, Greg Hoese, and Seth Quiggle

The meeting was called to order by Chair Scott Hoese at 7:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was given.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Jerry Bruner and seconded by Kathy McCann.

Motion carried.

The minutes of the July 6, 2026 regular board meeting were reviewed and a motion to approve as written was made by Kathy McCann and seconded by Jerry Bruner.

Motion carried.

New Business

Liquor license renewal requests for Luce Line Orchard, B's on the River, and Timber Creek were reviewed, and following discussion a motion was made by Jerry Bruner and seconded by Kathy McCann to approve all renewal requests as presented.

Motion carried.

Andrew Hayes of 4075 Merino Ave appeared before the Board to request a positive recommendation of a dimensional variance of an additional 2000 sq ft on a pole building plan. Following discussion regarding this amount, a motion was made by Scott Hoese and seconded by Jerry Bruner to approve the foregoing request.

Motion carried.

Brevik and Billie Tharaldson of 12210 Cattle Lane Drive appeared before the Board to request a positive recommendation of a use variance with regard placement of a new pole building on an adjacent parcel of 15 acres that they own vs placing it on their 3 acre, treed house parcel.

Following a review of plans and building placement, a motion was made by Jerry Bruner and seconded by Kathy McCann to approve the foregoing request.

Motion carried.

Greg Hoeser appeared before the Board to explore the Board's position regarding development of a mini storage facility on one of his properties adjoining Hwy 25. Following discussion, there was no consensus on this item, but he was directed to meet with county land mgmt to officially initiate the development process. He also expressed a complaint with regard to how Canadian thistles are being controlled by the county.

Greg then expressed concerns about Seven Oaks development, the increased amount of traffic on Buck Lake Road, the resulting increase of short term and long term road maintenance, how traffic will join Hwy 7, and how those items might affect township expenses, thus taxes. He was assured that all measures will be taken to prevent any additional expense to the Township during and following this development.

Notification was received of the federal mileage rate being raised midyear from 72.5 cent/mile to 76 cents per mile. Following discussion there consensus not to make the change retroactive from midyear.

Old Business

Tory Schmidt of 3885 Buck Lake Road came before the Board to outline his and surrounding neighbors concerns with the potential Seven Oaks housing development at the south end of Buck Lake Road and Hwy 7.

Items discussed included size and timing of development, the upcoming MN DOT traffic study and the effect of additional traffic entering Hwy 7, also the potential of traffic flowing northward onto Buck Lake Road and the effects thereof.

Several suggestions were made including the closing Buck Lake Road where it adjoins Hennepin County, and building a separate extension of the road west of the current road to join Hwy 7.

In response the Twp will be initiating traffic counts on Buck Lake Road, 46th Street and the east end of Swede Lake Road to establish a base line for traffic activity.

Also the Twp will be attending related City of Minnetrista meetings to monitor intentions, make the Twp's concerns known, and confirm the Twp will not experience any increase in the cost of operations, current or future, as a result of the Seven Oaks development.

Treasurers Report

Receipts for the month as of July 31, 2026 equaled \$97,879.77 and total disbursements of \$164,579.35, giving an ending balance of \$252,447.26 and an investment balance of \$243,648.16, therefore giving a grand total balance of \$496,095.42.

A motion to approve the Treasurer report was made by Kathy McCann and seconded by Jerry Bruner.

Motion carried.

Other Informational Items

Funds were received for Twp mailbox damages, road intersection exhibition driving damage, and propane credit as a result of changing propane suppliers.

General election filings....Kathy McCann for Supv A, and Wayne Hubin for Clerk

Building Permits

1 AC replacement

1 Boiler replacement

1 bathroom remodel

1 tuck under garage remodel to living space, Shawn Klein, 10320 Cnty Rd 24.....\$60K

1 new house construction, John Hebeisen, 2590 Najavo, \$507k

Road, Building and Site Reports

Dust coating has been completed on the roadway portions of Swede Lake Rd and 46th Street receiving new granite material.

Road shoulder mowing is proceeding.

Ash tree removal will continue on the township hall site.

A one week \$3,000 rental of a tractor and boom mower to adequately cut back encroaching brush was proposed and approved by consensus.

Payorders

A motion to approve authorization of current expense pay orders 15181-15183, payroll checks 15444-1447, and, PERA 08-26, USTR 08-26 was made by Kathy McCann and seconded by Jerry Bruner. Motion carried.

With no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned by Board Chair Scott Hoese at 9:15 PM

Minutes submitted by Wayne Hubin, Clerk of Watertown Township

Board Chair Scott Hoese_____

Attested by Clerk Wayne Hubin_____