

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT VALLEY TOWN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING OF Thursday, May 8th, 2025.

The Grant Valley Town Board of Supervisors met for their regularly scheduled monthly business meeting on Thursday, May 8th, 2025 at the Grant Valley Town Hall.

Board Members present were, Chairman Hiltz, Supervisor Hiltz, Treasurer Slough, Clerk Stevens and Road Supervisor Christianson.

Chairman Hiltz welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to approve the April 10^h, 2025, Regular Meeting, and April 25th Board of Review minutes seconded by Supervisor Eckman and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Slough reported fund balances as General \$42,401.41, Road and Bridge \$1,101,727.94 Fire Fund \$44,358.38, with outstanding items of \$90.00 for a total cash on hand balance of \$1,188,577.73, Supervisor Eckman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit, Supervisor Hiltz seconded motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

The bills were reviewed and discussed. Supervisor Eckman made a motion to pay the bills as presented subject to audit, seconded by Supervisor Hiltz and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

VISITOR/CITIZEN COMMENT:

Mike Kelly and Curtis Blumhagen are here from Northern Township. They are advising Grant Valley Township that they intend to file an incorporation petition with the State of Minnesota Office of Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit, seeking the incorporation of the Town of Northern to a city form of government. The NE corner of our township has a tiny part of Northern township with a few parcels. By law are required to notify the Grant Valley Township. They are presenting a resolution. Supervisor Eckman wishes the best to them and it is long overdue. 100% of people at a Northern townhall meeting recently were in favor of the intent to incorporate. 23% of township has been given up so far to Bemidji. Bemidji is trying to get more lakeshore (40% revenue, 15% of expenses) If they survived that it would be a major increase in taxes for who is left. Question asked "what will stop you if you are the city of Northern? From annexing into Grant Valley? Would you rather work with Northern. Discussion of how it would affect Grant Valley... it shouldn't affect us much. Discussion of the airport zoning and if the road is redone. Northern already has their own planning and zoning, everything will pretty much stay the same. The purpose of the change is to "lock down their borders". If successful they will be city of Northern, if not they will be city of Bemidji, the judge will make the decision. The citizens do not want to become Bemidji. Next step is in 2 weeks to officially file the petition for the state in the State of MN. Supervisor Eckman made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Hiltz, motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Gopher trapping- Hannun Anderson brought (6) feet from 3 gophers for the gopher bounty.

NEW BUSINESS:

At 7:20 p.m. Grant Valley Township opened the two quotes for road maintenance, Vogt's Dirt Service and Thoring's Grading. Vogt's has mostly newer equipment and similar hours on the equipment. Both contractors have sanding units. Vogt's has a Qui and Thoring's do not have the Qui. There is about a \$30/ hour difference with Thoring's having the lowest quote. Discussion of the operators, machines, previous work, ect.. This is a quote but technically it is a bid, due to the way it was required to be submitted. Thoring's would have Grant Valley Township starting right away in the AM or after snowfall just like Vogt's Dirt Service.

We like the service we have but the Township has to go to with the lowest quote and that is Thoring's. We've been very pleased with Dale Vogt's work and greatly appreciate of his work.

Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to accept Thoring's road maintenance quotes seconded by Supervisor Eckman, discussion and comment that Grant Valley Township want roads cleared within 24 hours, tar first then gravel. Motion carried on unanimous roll call vote.

The township would like to thank Dale Vogt for his work; Grant Valley and Dale Vogt have been working together for many years and we are very appreciative of his hard work.

OLD BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE:

Country Side- No update

Short course- May 1st, Supervisor Eckman, Hiltz and Chairman Hiltz attended.

Bridge work- Keith has everything ready, needs okay to order materials from W.W. Thompson, to pick it up and it will be done next week. Keith Christianson and Gary Skime will take care of the bridge on Stone Lake Rd.

The township is going to pull the signs from Sportsman's Rd. Supervisor Hiltz is making a motion to pull the "watch for children" signs off of Sportsman's rd. because the family that lived there with the children (and requested the signs) has moved out that and installing the signs (2) on each end Division St, seconded by Supervisor Eckman and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Clerk will contact Fire Chief Justin Sherwood regarding the maximum occupancy of the building.

REPORTS:

Fire- Meeting in April- LRP- short meeting, a couple more full time firefighters, 1 truck ordered, it will be ready in about 2 and half years. Next 20 years is looked at for firetrucks with a 5% increase in capital improvement plan readjusted. New radios will be ready in about 3 months paid for with a grant, the city paid for the rest. Next meeting in end of May.

Animal Control- Danny Eckre from Clearwater County is joining, he is working on his resolution and getting paperwork in front of the Board. Next regular meeting is July 29th

Bato- Discussion of road projects planned. Discussion of fraud and the total is \$800 million and going up, indivual and business are involved. District meeting at Eckles Township is coming up, BATO is supporting 2 people to the annual meeting and 2 people to the LRI meeting. Next meeting in the end of July and there will be 3 meetings instead of 2 meetings.

ROADS:

Discussion of gate on the minimum maintenance road, at the Short Course Chairman Hiltz got different answers about a gate on the road from the attorneys present. The road needs to be fixed and accessible once a resident resides there. Documentation and reasons why.

Fern Lake Road- Chairman Hiltz would like to walk and look at the gravel part of Fern Lake Road, class 5 is needed to be added on this road. Chairman Hiltz is going to invite Wade Thoring to look at the road and get his opinion, he also needs to contact Matt Boyer from the DNR to discuss road work options and work needed on Fern Lake Rd. Clerk Stevens will contact Jamie Listebarger by sending letter in the mail to inform her that Matt Boyer from the DNR is being contacted about Fern Lake Road.

At 9:20 pm, Chairman Hiltz made a motion at 9:20 to reconvene at 7:00, May 20th at the Grant Valley Townhall, motion is seconded by Supervisor Eckman and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Meeting reconvened at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 20th, 2025, started with the pledge allegiance.

The notes from the road tour were reviewed, a list was created for Road Supervisor Christianson and a list for Clerk Stevens to letters to send out to residents. Discussion on the options for Fern Lake Road, paving or adding more class 5 with possible injection of calcium chloride. Before any decisions can be made about Fern Lake Road, the Township needs to hear back from Matt Boyer with the DNR, we need to know if we need to apply for permits and what we are able to do with the road, parts of the road are in Section 36 which has restrictions.

Vogt's Dirt Service supplied a list of suggested gravel needed on roads; this list was reviewed as well. Chairman Hiltz will contact Astech to go over the tar roads and put together a list of roads that may need overlay/slurry solution.

Officer Christianson's list:

1. Fix hole in intersection on Fern Lake Rd
2. Seal bridge on Fern Lake Rd
3. West side of Buchanan, clean gravel out of ditch
4. Remind Bemidji Township of the brush hanging over on Buchanan on their side
5. Check if tree is removed from ditch on Oak Ridge
6. Tree cleaned up on E. Fern Lake
7. Trim tree on River Heights Rd (contact owner)
8. Trim tree on Deer Haven Ct
9. Trim tree branch on Bootleg Lake Sw
10. Washout on the end of Division
11. Trim around Stop sign on Balsam Ridge NW
12. Sirius, Pollux, Capella: fix edge of road, add crushed concrete fix 30 MPH sign, cul-de-sac has a pile of dirt
13. Grant Lake Rd- Trim trees/bushes in the retaining wall
14. Stone Lake Rd NW- Fix washout before Altman Ct
15. Birch Hill: add Private Dr sign (L&M Fleet)
16. Old Willow Ct- Clean up trees
17. Grant Valley Rd- Arrow signs
18. Grossbeak: Fix arrow & add arrow signs
19. Big North Rd: Needs fill & spot fix
20. Schroeder Rd: Tree needs trimming (Clerk Stevens will get letter for prop owner to sign) Stop sign too low
21. Adams Ave- trim branch near 30 MPH sign by Gordy's
22. Johnsonville: Tree in ditch
23. Country Field: fix intersection

Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to have Christianson complete all items on the list above, motion seconded by Supervisor Eckman, carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Clerk Stevens List:

1. Send letter regarding items in road right-a-way to 3437 Humming Bird Lane
2. Send letter regarding items in road right-a-way to 540 Mikes Rd
3. Send letter regarding items in road right-a-way to 3410 Pine Circle Ct
4. Send letter regarding items in road right-a-way to 872 Shamrock Ct
5. Schroeder Rd- Contact Charlie Worms with letter for Christianson to trim trees hanging over the road right-a-way.

Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to have Clerk Stevens complete all items on the list above, motion seconded by Supervisor Eckman, carried on unanimous roll call vote.

More discussion of possibilities for Fern Lake Road, adding Class5 or paving? Need to hear back from DNR regarding land permits and what is even possible to do. Chairman Hiltz did meet Wade Thoring and Rodney Platt on Fern Lake to look at low spots and brainstorm possibilities. Discussion of a gutter type system for the ditch, along with discussion of road not in the correct spot along with Countryside Road not in correct spot.

Balsam Rd- Chairman Hiltz made a motion to hire Thoring Grading to do work on Balsam Ridge Rd South from Division 1 mile to reshape road and pull it in, hire Dale Vogt to bring in 4" lift of class5 over same stretch of road, the quote from Thorings is \$5,600, along with \$25,800 worth of class 5. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Eckman and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Chairman Hiltz will contact Wade to start on Balsam and wait on Fern Lake Rd, touch up cul-de-sacs, include Red Rose and Yellow Rose, along with where to stop and turn around on roads. Chairman Hiltz will also get amounts for June meeting of approx. cost to pave and tar ditch for Fern Lake Rd, touch base with Astech (they will try to meet on a Sunday to go over paved roads) get ball park numbers.

As there was no further business, Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to adjourn at 9:21 PM , seconded by Supervisor Eckman and carried on unanimous voice call vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayley Stevens