

**OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING,
TUESDAY MARCH 11TH, 2025.**

The Annual Meeting of the Town of Grant Valley was held at the Grant Valley Town Hall on the second Tuesday in March 2025, that being the 11th day, beginning at 8:15 p.m. 8 residents and 1 non-resident were present.

The meeting was convened by Clerk Stevens followed by the pledge to the flag.

MODERATOR CHOSEN: The Clerk asked if anyone would like to volunteer to be moderator or would like to nominate a moderator and Lester Hiltz Jr. volunteered. Lester Hiltz Jr. was given the Moderator's Oath and took the chair.

TELLERS APPOINTED: Moderator Hiltz appointed Cassandra Hiltz, and Caden Rolfes to serve as Tellers for the evening.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES: Cassandra Hiltz made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and accept them. Motion was seconded by Colten Iverson and carried on unanimous voice call vote.

TREASURERS REPORT: Marlys Eckman made a motion, seconded by Jamie Listebarger to waive the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried on unanimous voice call vote.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS:

Marlys Eckman reported on the history of the town hall. The first meeting was in 1898 with a Clerk, Treasurer, Justice of the Peace, Assessor, Constitutor, and 3 Supervisors. The first action taken was to purchase a rope and other equipment for a flag pole. In 1976 she joined the Board as the Clerk, the Townhall was on donated land by the Hiltz's, there was no plumbing and the heat was from a small wood stove. The current hall is also on donated land from the Strobridge family, we've used some Covid money and added a "kitchen area", A/C, and propane tank. She told stories of working elections, hand counting ballots until 4:00 AM, she mentioned how far the election process has come. We have great election judge staff; they work very hard. Currently the population for Grant Valley Township is 2187. She would like to encourage everyone to use the website, grantvalleytownship.info. If you are interested in renting the hall, contact Kayley Stevens, Clerk.

Bob Hiltz first thanked Marlys Eckman for her many years of service, she is greatly appreciated.

Bob Hiltz reported on Animal Control. An update caused the ORI#s to be lost in the system which gave Animal Control Officer the ability to write citations. They are working on this. In October they lost the contract with Animal Care Clinic. A new contract has been agreed upon with Great River Rescue, it will be \$1000/month for up to 5 animals and \$100/month per animal for additional animals. They are strongly encouraging residents to stop feeding stray cats, this is causing disease to spread. YTD Animal Control Officer Keith Christianson has had 74 calls and 393 calls in 2024.

He also reported on JAYZAB, Airport land use and zoning, they have been restructuring zoning, making it less restrictive. This process has been done with MNDOT and local government and was passed in the Summer of 2024.

Bob Hiltz reported on roads, Division was paved this year, approx. 1 mile cost \$327,397.75, this included the class 5 needed, a new culvert and paving the road. The roads that received Class 5 were Kimmur Rd, Oak Ridge, Miller Rd, Sunset Meadows, Shamrock Ct, Leprechaun, Butterfly, Juneberry NW, Stone Lake and Whisperwood. We do our best to track the roads that need work. There was an issue with the road

grader operator last Summer, he is no longer employed with Vogt's Dirt Service. We are working with the DNR to try to figure out a solution about the placement of Countryside Rd, there has been no updates.

Bob Hiltz reported on the Fire Association, there was a total of 1368 calls- 728 were medical and 93 Fire response (41 building and 31 wildfire). These numbers do not add up to the total. In Grant Valley there was 6 fire calls, 4 rescue, 3 hazard condition, 9 good intent calls and 4 false calls, with a total of 28 calls for Grant Valley. The Fire Association reported that \$1.9 million in lost property and saved \$123.5 million, received mutual aid 8 times and provided aid 25 times. 0 deaths and 0 injuries. The current ISO rating is 4/10 and the fire chief would like to hire 4 more full time fire fighters, this would cost approx. \$400,000 there is a SAFER grant to help with some of the cost.

Board of Review April 25th, 9:00 AM Grant Valley Townhall.

DONATIONS: There was \$1500 set aside for donations. Many letters were received from organizations that did not have anyone to speak here on their behalf. Caden Rolfes was present to speak for Let's Go Fishing, he explained the services they provide. Bob Hiltz spoke in support of North Country 1st Responders. Bob Hiltz made a motion to split the \$1500 between the two organizations, Let's Go Fishing and North Country First Responders, Marlys Eckman seconded the motion and a ballot vote was taken.

7 yes 0 no – motion passed

ELECTION RESULTS: The Moderator read the election results- 17 votes for Supervisor Robert "Bob" Hiltz with 0 write ins.

SETTING OF LEVIES: Jamie Listebarger made a motion to set the General Fund Levy at \$69,500. Cassandra Hiltz seconded the motion. Paper ballots were used, the vote was approved with 7 yes and 0 no. Jamie Listebarger made a motion to set the Road and Bridge Levy at \$366,000, Colten Iverson seconded the motion. Paper ballots were used, the vote was approved with 7 yes and 0 no. Marlys Eckman made a motion to set the Fire Levy at \$140,000, Colten Iverson seconded the motion. Paper ballots were used, the vote was approved with 7 yes and 0 no.

OTHER BUSINESS: Discussion of swing arm mailboxes, the dangers and issues with roads that are caused when non swing arm mailboxes are in place, in 2023 during the road tour Supervisor Hiltz counted mailboxes, there was 910 households with 475 non-swing arm type. Bob Hiltz made a motion to deem *non swing arm* mailboxes as a hazard in Grant Valley Township, Cassandra Hiltz seconded the motion.

Discussion of the March Township Elections being held in November with the other elections, pros and cons were discussed.

2026 ANNUAL MEETING: Bob Hiltz made a motion to set the 202 Annual Meeting at 8:15 p.m. at the Grant Valley Town Hall on the 10th day of March, that being the second Tuesday. Lester Hiltz SR. seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous voice call vote.

Bob Hiltz made a motion to adjourn, Colten Iverson seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous voice call vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayley Stevens, Clerk

Lester Hiltz Jr. , Moderator

03/11/2025