

**OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT VALLEY TOWN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING OF Thursday, AUGUST 14th, 2025.**

The Grant Valley Town Board of Supervisors met for their regularly scheduled monthly business meeting on Thursday, August 14th, 2025 at the Grant Valley Town Hall.

Board Members present were, Chairman Hiltz, Supervisor Hiltz, Supervisor Eckman, 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 Eckman made a motion to approve the July 10th, 2025, reconvened on June 24th, 2025, Regular Meeting, Supervisor Hiltz seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote, Clerk Stevens will attach the resolution 25-2 *AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY LAND EASEMENT PURCHASE FROM THE STATE OF MN.*

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Slough reported fund balances as General \$70,555.48, Road and Bridge \$1,207,772.08 Fire Fund \$73,829.93, with outstanding items of \$90.00 for a total cash on hand balance of \$1,352,247.49, 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. There is a 10 cents difference, this should be resolved next month.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

The bills were reviewed and discussed. Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to pay bills as submitted, motion seconded by Supervisor Eckman, passed unanimous roll call vote. Balsam is done, the bills for the washouts with come next month, signage (road signs) will be discussed later.

VISITOR/CITIZEN COMMENT:

Gopher feet- residents from River Crossings RD, Miller RD and Stone Lake RD turned in gopher feet for the bounty.

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Eckman will contact Jamie Listebarger if there is any information regarding the road she lives on (Countryside). Roads- Matt Murray, from Murray Surveying is present to explain his findings so far in the process of finding/fixing the road location matter of Countryside RD. The DNR needs a permit submitted, with the permit a survey is needed for Countryside and Fern Lake roads. DNR wants State surveyor (from 2010) to talk the property lines over with Matt Murray. Findings so far: In 1920 a road order was done to establish the road, & build on section line. Road order was filed with the auditor's office by law. No recorded notice. Road is built on the section line? How did they find the section line and decide where to put the road. In 1931 a surveyor came thru and surveyed the Leese property, they found the old post (ford axel) went east a half mile, in 2010 the County accolated money to have Grant Valley re-monumented. This section line they established as "lost", reestablished mathematically. The line is based on a lost position. Lost means no evidence (uses math to figure out) once certified the only way to prove it wrong is facts and there are no facts. There is a lot of uncertainty about the section line, they have no way to prove it. Discussion about GV purchasing an easement from the DNR, this would resolve issues for Ms. Listebarger having access to her property. Discussion of the history of Grant Valley roads. Discussion of public right away. If a public right away from the DNR is accrued that protects everything from Jamies side of the stakes, this would leave her property unaffected and she would have legal access to her property without trouble from the DNR in this (non-motorized section), no action can be taken until the Board hears from the 2010 Surveyor's, Worst case- everything is still protected (Ms. Listebarger access to her property). Road does need aligning and shaping, this hasn't been discussed but the road wouldn't be paved, possibly try to slope the road back and get ditch/ditches to prevent washouts. Currently the road has washout this will be fixed with class 5 soon. Question about guidelines for the ditch and shaping. Will the township work with Ms. Listebarger when this is being planned? The Township is going to work with Wade Thoring, he is our road expert. Construction of the ditches is mainly the slope first 100 ft (approx.) of the road. Simple and easy to get drainage off the roads is what the township is discussing. The township trusts Wade Thoring, we've hired him and he will make the choice of where the ditches need to be. Supervisor Eckman has a question- can we legally spend the money to purchase an easement? Already a township road, spending township funds to create a standard 66 ft right away for the township's benefit, question of going beyond the 66ft? Ms. Listenbarger stated that if the other properties down the road were to be sold and lotted off, it would make more sense for primary access to be from the other side of the properties, discussion of developments needing two points of access per Beltrami County. The county wants an entrance and exits out of the development. If it was development, when they take the plat the in the engineers would put 2 roads going in/out. Matt Murray is going to work on Fern Lake and Countryside, the Township is waiting to hear from Matt Murray, Mr. Murray is waiting on 2010 surveyor that the County hired.

Fern Lake rd. – West side is okay to do cuts on the ditch and a resident's driveway. The east side of the road we still need to wait on. Discussion of culvert size, 15 inches for Ellen Rockensock's driveway. Class 5 can go on the road and now, Vogt will bring class 5 and Thoring will pack and grade. Discussion about curb and gutter or rock with concrete mixed in, we do not know what we are or can do

for the hills, this would be needed to be discussed next Spring. Wildgen driveway, and near Greg's (September Lane) will need work. Discussion of possibilities for ditching.
Grant Valley will start the work on the Fern Lake Road, we cannot do anything on Countryside right now. We can do the south end of the road and the 2 driveways + the North end of Fern Lake RD, with hope of paving next fall. Dirt will need to be moved, especially next spring.
Class 5 is being added to Buchannon and Countryside, and Fern Lake tomorrow to take care of washouts and spot graveling. Separate bills for the washouts are to be received.
Work on Fern Lake- discussed but no motion yet.

Supervisor Eckman is happy to do this now while it makes sense, Supervisor Hiltz agrees, this is the most cost-effective way to keep up with Fern Lake RD.
Supervisor Hiltz make a motion to spend money on the shaping and paving of Fern Lake rd per the quote from Wade Thoring, seconded by Supervisor Eckman, 3 driveways need work, big hill next year and ditches on Countryside rd will be next year. Culverts needed at Rockensock, Wildgen, and by September rd. discussion of crossover culvert on fern lake rd going to the wetlands. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Comment on storm cleanup from Ms. Listebarger: A Hiltz stopped by when she had people helping remove clean up from the storm, it was Supervisor Bob Hiltz, and he commented to her help that they were on state land with equipment and to be careful, he didn't tell them to stop. This scared away the help that Jamie Listebarger had at her property. When Ms. Listebarger talked with Joe Risisnki (SP) from the DNR, he had one question for her- "Jamie, do you want a permit to use the down wood for firewood?". Jamie is saying that this was declared an emergency. Hiltz is stating that as road supervisor and a Board member he is responsible to step in and comment when he witnesses things.

Propane pre buy rates- Cenex is \$1.79/gallon, Lakes \$1.59 or \$1.39/gallon for own tank, we need 700 gallons, \$973 approx. Chairman Hiltz will use his account. Supervisor Eckman made a motion to fill tank from Lakes at \$1.39/gallon from , seconded by Supervisor Hiltz, motion passed on unanimous roll call vote.

Yield Sign at Mid Valley & Addalee Rd- Yes, place one there.
Clean up at Division and Balsam- check it over

Chairman Hiltz motion to purchase 3 poll pads, due to updates needed, seconded by Supervisor Hiltz, county pays for one poll pad, motion passed unanimous roll call vote.

Insurance- discussion about the recommendations from the insurance company this will be on the agenda for Sept. discussion of the adjustor that was here with Chairman Hiltz. Need to hire someone to do repairs in the bathroom and shingle the south side of the garage roof. A check should be received within 10 days. Look at raising the building values.

OLD BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE:

Country Side Rd-See above

Mailboxes- Later date

Road Policies- Later date

Township sign Eckman is proposing moving the sign from the ball field to the building, center between the door and the window, Yes, Keith will do this.

Supervisor Hiltz made a motion for Supervisor Eckman and Clerk Stevens to go through old files and save/digitalize the files for the general labor of \$20 an hour. Discussion about where to take the files, seconded by Hiltz and passed 2 votes (yes), 1 abstained (Eckman).

Eckman brought up appoint of Clerk, there is a 74-day window to give notice to the auditor of the wording to put on the ballot. Is this still the wishes? And if so, do we have time to do it? If in favor, this needs to be done at the annual meeting

Supervisor Eckman made a motion to start procedure of the steps to make the clerk an appointed position, the board will take the next steps needed including contacting the association attorney? Clerk is up for election in March, does the clerk run in the office? Clerk Stevens will ask the question to the attorney. Seconded by Supervisor Hiltz, passed on unanimous roll call vote.

REPORTS:

Fire- Chief wants more firefighters, trying to get a group together for a committee that works with the city and rural and chief.

Animal Control- Keith got a new camera with voice and video works with his phone. Citations issued, ORI numbers in. New ordinance is out to be revied, next meeting is in Oct. the board will review this in Sept.

ROADS:

Chairman Hiltz motion to hire Keith to replace a large number of signs/posts -Quote from Keith to repair/replace large number of signs and not to exceed \$1200, seconded by Supervisor Eckman, passed unanimously.

Chairman Hiltz motion for bobcat work, Dale will supply gravel, when Thoring blades on Fern Lake make separate for Countryside for washouts, Washouts on division, countryside and fern lake rd, bobcat \$1450. Seconded by Eckman, passed unanimously.

Written bids are received. KC's and Lofgren Tree Service for 2nd round clean-up/removal, Joel Johnson's numbers are reviewed, they are close but hours are not on there. Chairman Hiltz made a motion to hire Keith and Lofgren Tree Service at \$900 per hour for cleaning up ditches and removing from the road right aways, not to exceed 190 hours. Seconded by Supervisor Eckman, passed on unanimous roll call vote.

Hidden Trail rd- Chairman Hiltz had a phone call about trees on the road, he called TK Outdoors and discussed with the office there about township road having trees on it. Crown Properties wasn't paying the TK outdoors. Phone calls were made back and forth until the road was cleared.

Stone Lake rd- beaver damn is cleared out. It was 6 feet deep on both sides, Gary, (resident) gave them permission to use his land to access the area. A trapper is there for the beaver. Gary gave the trapper permission to use his land as well.

Chairman Hiltz commented to Thoring that the moldboard needs to be moved over, discussion about the road blader on the road and not moving over for vehicles. Otherwise, the roads are looking great.

As there was no further business, Supervisor Eckman made a motion to adjourn at 9:57 PM , seconded by Supervisor Hiltz and carried on unanimous voice call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Kayley Stevens

