

**OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT VALLEY TOWN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING OF Thursday, March 19th, 2026.**

**The Grant Valley Town Board of Supervisors met for their regularly scheduled monthly business meeting on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 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 Hiltz made a motion to approve the February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Regular Meeting, Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote. Supervisor Eckman made motion to approve Board of Audit minutes, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, motion was seconded by Supervisor Hiltz and carried unanimous roll call vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Slough read Treasurer Slough report of fund balances as General \$57,610.01, Road and Bridge \$921,757.07 Fire Fund \$70,065.64, with outstanding items of \$2,000.00 for a total cash on hand balance of \$1,051,432.72, Supervisor Eckman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit, Supervisor Eckman seconded motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

The bills were reviewed and discussed. Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to pay bills as submitted, motion seconded by Supervisor Hiltz, Eckman seconded unanimous roll call vote.

**VISITOR/CITIZEN COMMENT:**

Kaleb Bessler is here from Beltrami County to discuss the Assessor policy and explain an email that he sent the Board. Grant Valley is at risk of being non-complaint, if not caught up on our assessments, Beltrami County will have to take over the assessments (state statue) to keep Grant Valley Complaint. As of now, 30 parcels last year and 90 parcels currently this year are not complaint. Not every township is in compliance with the policy. Anything more than 1% of parcels that haven't been viewed in the past 5 years. Same schedule/map is being used between Wes Hegna and the former Beltrami Co assessor. State Statue has a cutoff date of Feb 1<sup>st</sup> to be complaint. By Statue the CO has to review the local assessors work- for sales study. Supervisor Hiltz is asking what is not being done?? There are 98 parcels that do not have a "view date." Kaleb's concern is that this is not completed. What is his expectation from the Board? It is more to inform the Board; action will need to happen soon. The policy is at 1%, we are currently at .7%, if this doesn't get fixed action would need to be taken.

**Local Assessor Data Integrity & Quality Standards Policy- Beltrami Co, MN** is the Policy that Kaleb Bessler gave Grant Valley Board. Kaleb is available to come to any other meetings as needed.

Scott Winger is present and Kaleb's explanation cleared up his questions as well.

Kaleb and Wes met and had a long meeting, and have a direction/plan they are going.

Supervisor Eckman asked Wes when he will make Grant Valley Complaint- Kaleb and Wes explained that the new year will open in May and he can finish these non-compliance parcels.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Review sign reflectivity- during road tour the Board will review.

Board Appointments: Supervisor Eckman- Bato, Supervisor Hiltz- Animal Control, Jayzab, (assist with roads) Chairman Hiltz, Fire Ass. and Roads

Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to appoint Russel Hiltz as Chairman, seconded by Supervisor Eckman, passed unanimous roll call vote.

Chairman Hiltz made motion to appoint Supervisor Eckman as Vice Chair, seconded by Supervisor Hiltz, passed unanimous roll call vote.

Supervisor Eckman made a motion to appoint Kayley Stevens at the appointed Clerk, motion seconded by Supervisor Hiltz.

Supervisor Hiltz would like to note that having longevity will help the township. Passed unanimous roll call vote.

Wes Hegna- wanted to state that him and Kaleb Bessler did have a great meeting- when Joe was County assessor, Wes didn't not assess the bare land parcels and was not informed that needed to do the bare land until it was too late. Wes did not know until this year that he was responsible for the sketching, the bare land, and the data entry. Discussion of Wes's work and the County.

The date for Local Board of Appeal April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am.

**OLD BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE:**

Countryside- No update from DNR- Grant Valley is trying to purchase a land easement on Fern Lake and Countryside.

Discussion of Countryside, road will need to be widen and drainage made. Discussion of phone pedestal. Chairman Hiltz will look into phone pedestal location.

Scanning/uploading update, Clerk Stevens can upload docs into a PDF with Supervisor Eckman's help naming the docs, this will be worked on through the Summer 2026.

Supervisor Eckman made a motion to sign the contract with the state for reimbursement from the June 20, 2025 storm. Motion seconded by Supervisor Hiltz and passed on unanimous roll call vote.

Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting #1 Clerk Stevens attended the meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Shingles and PG Drywall- this Spring. Insurance would like to close the file by June

Discussion of meeting rates for Board Members and hourly rates for Clerk/Treasurer. Re-address rates of pay in April 2026.

Discussion of paying the volunteers we have on the road committee/policies. Discussion some compensation for the "volunteers". The work load is expanding and Chad Blake and Tommy Brown are very resourceful. Supervisor Hiltz is unsure compensation- explained how when it is a volunteer committee, the community that attends are there for the best interest of Grant Valley, not to get paid.

New clock is requested. Clerk Stevens will get a new clock for the hall.

Eckman made a motion to be repair/replace lights, (outside and inside along with exit lights) motion seconded by Supervisor Hiltz, discussion- correction to motion-

Supervisor Eckman made motion for Lake County Electric to repair the lights, motion seconded by Supervisor Hiltz, Supervisor Eckman voted yes, Supervisor Hilt yes, Chairman Hiltz abstained.

Flag next month

### **REPORTS:**

Fire- Meeting next month

Animal Control- No meeting until April, Supervisor Eckman made motion to approve Ordinance regulating dogs only within Grant Valley Township, motion seconded by Chairman Hiltz seconded the motion and approved unanimous roll call vote.

JAZAB- Meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00pm. Zoom or in person

Discussion of paving costs- and overlay. Who is the Grand Rapids company that has been doing the County overlay?

Discussion on bid quotes and what is needed to be in.

### **ROADS:**

Wade Thoring will start looking at where he thinks we will need class 5 and how much is needed.

Roads are looking nice, much better- Birch Hill Court has a culvert taken out. Quincy rd. has cul-de-sac in the back that isn't tared in the middle, discussion of how much it would cost to fill.

Transitioning from standard post to swing arm- if a resident puts a new mailbox (either broken, age, or construction) in it needs to be swing arm style- MN State Statue, & deemed hazard at annual meeting 2025.

Frost heaves on Fern Lake Rd, the one on Kimmur is okay.

Fuel went up \$1.00 Wade Thoring, blade operator is asking about fuel prices.

Wade will receive \$10 per hour across the board on his contracts due to the fact that when he bid fuel was \$3.09, he will receive the \$10 more per hour until fuel reaches 4.09. If fuel reaches more than 4.09 Wade and the Board will revisit this. If fuel goes down, they will revisit this as well. Seconded by Chairman Hiltz, motion passed on unanimous roll call vote.

As there was no further business, Supervisor Eckman made a motion to adjourn at 9:17 PM, seconded by Supervisor Hiltz and carried on unanimous voice call vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kayley Stevens