

PRINCETON TOWNSHIP
MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday July 15th, 2025

In Person Present: Thomas Duden, Dan Hiller, Gene Stoeckel, Bill Whitcomb

Online Present: Mike Bishman

AGENDA

This meeting will be conducted in person at the Town Hall or electronically. Members of the public may attend in person.

7:00 p.m.

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Agenda: Bishman- Aye Duden- Aye Hiller- Aye Stoeckel- Aye Whitcomb- Aye (5 to 0 pass)

Open Forum:

Residents expressed comments regarding the rezoning that was underway around Moonshine Bar and Grill.

Approve Minutes

June 17th Meeting:

Hiller makes a motion to approve minutes – Duden seconded motion

Roll Call:

Bishman- Aye Duden- Aye Hiller- Aye Stoeckel- Aye Whitcomb- Aye (5 to 0 pass)

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Supervisor Stoeckel reports: There currently is not a Clerk/Treasurer; therefore, there is no report. The position is posted, but no applicants have come forward as of now.

Supervisor Hiller: Recommends the Township look at a staffing company service like Livonia Township did when their clerk passed away from cancer. They are very happy with who they hired.

New Business

- Consideration of an application to amend the Princeton Township Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map and the Princeton Township Zoning Map to change the classification of properties in Section 27 on County Road 1 and R-2 Residential, RR Rural Residential, AC Agricultural Conservation to R-1 Residential.
 - This application is only to amend the current land zoning, and there is not a application to build on it at this time.
 - There was a similar application put forward in 2021. The town board chose not to move forward and denied that application.
 - Planning Commission Forwarded the application with no recommendation from them.
 - The concept plan that was provided shows acres from 1.25 to 2 acre sized lots currently that application is not in the works, but it was to give the idea of what it could look like.
 - Supervisor Stoeckel: Was given two letters from community members with thoughts on the new project. Both letters did not want the change of zoning.
 - Supervisor Hiller: Can the Township move forward with this being they currently do not have a Clerk, and the Clerk has to notarize the documents. Scott informed Mr. Hiller that it wouldn't need to be notarized until the August meeting.
 - It was brought up the positive that it would have in the community to rezone this now and allow families to grow in the area. Went over the cost to build a house in the area. The City of Princeton has drawn up plans to bring this land into the City in their future plans.
 - Supervisor Whitcomb explains the City plan is to come up through the old Abney's property and that would allow them to move over. Also, because Baldwin became their own city, Princeton will not be looking to grow to the south. Princeton water treatment plan does have plans to cross over at Highway 95 which would then connect to this property. The current school enrollment is down, and part of the reason is that there are no homes for growth.

Bishman makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-3 and waived the first reading and moving this to the Aug 19th, 2025, meeting for 2nd reading. 2nd made by Hiller.

Roll Call Vote:

Bishman- Aye Duden- Aye - Hiller- Aye Stoeckel- Aye Whitcomb- Aye Motion Passed 5-0

- **Section 6, 70th street- concept sketch plan- senior housing**
 - Scott explained that this change to make the homes senior living is allowed for what the area is currently zoned. There is no action required, and the owners are at the meeting for questions

- Supervisor Duden: wants to know about #11 is smaller than the other homes. Also, will this be an HOA? What are the plans for the out lot?
#11 is a low spot in the land, will they maintain the road or will the township be taking care of it. There are no plans for it currently.
- **Consideration of super majority/simple majority votes required for zoning amendments Variances, Conditional use permits and Interim use permits**
 - Supervisor Whitcomb makes a motion to move the first reading of Ordinance N0. 2025-2 and schedule the second reading for August 19th, 2025. Duden Seconds the Motion.
 - Supervisor Stoeckel wanted to know if Planning Commission had a recommendation from their meeting, (PC Wanted to move this to the Annual meeting in April)
 - Richards explained what items will need to be super vs which will not.
 - Supervisor Stoeckel amended the motion in Section 2. (3) *States A variance of these Regulations shall be by four fifths (4/5) vote of the full require passage by majority vote of the board of adjustment.*
 - Supervisor Duden: Amendment to the Amendment would be that Zoning Ordinance Amendments Section 300:211.6 Shall state Zoning map Shelby by 4/5 vote of the full required passage by a majority vote of the Township board of supervisors. Amendments that change all or part of the extending classification over zoning district from residential to either commercial or industrial requirement 4/5 vote supermajority vote of the township's Board of Supervisors.
 - Supervisor Stockel seconded the motion
- 1. Amendment is to strike #6
 - a. Bishman- Aye Duden- Aye - Hiller- Nay Stoeckel- Aye Whitcomb- Aye
Motion Passed 4 to 1
- 2. Amendment to strike #3 & #6
 - a. Bishman- Aye Duden- Aye - Hiller- Nay Stoeckel- Aye Whitcomb- Nay
Motion Passed 3 to 2
- 3. Waive the first reading and bring to the August 19th Meeting
 - a. Bishman- Aye Duden- Aye - Hiller- Aye Stoeckel- Aye Whitcomb- Aye Motion
Passed 5 to 0

Bishman- Aye Duden- Aye - Hiller-Nay Stoeckel- Aye Whitcomb- Aye Motion Passed 4-1

Old Business

- **Second Reading and Consideration of Noise Regulations in Section 700:240 addition of Reference to Minnesota Administrative Rules**

- Richards explained that all the changes have been made, and everything is ready for approval and second reading.
- Supervisor Duden wants to know how this will rank to Mille Lacs County?
 - Richards explained that this will just show we have it on our books.
- Duden makes motion to approve Ordinance 2025-1 Second by Supervisor Whitcomb.
- Bishman- Aye Duden- Aye - Hiller- Aye Stoeckel- Aye Whitcomb- Aye Motion Passed 5 to 0
- Supervisor Whitcomb makes motion to summarize Language for Noise Regulations Section 700:240 – addition of Reference to Minnesota Administrative Rules.
- Bishman- Aye Duden- Aye - Hiller- Aye Stoeckel- Aye Whitcomb- Aye Motion Passed 5 to 0

New Business

- Snow Plowing contract for 2025-2026
 - Supervisor Whitcomb did go to the office and picked up the items bill.
 - Supervisor Duden spoke to a Concern that Erickson's was not following the township's guidelines for snow plowing and was plowing when there was less snow than what the Township requires. He also brought up that he does have a couple of people who'd be interested in putting in bids, but it is that time of year and the Township would have to post right away.
 - Supervisor Duden made a motion to pay Erickson asphalt the remaining amount of the bill of \$4862.89 Supervisor Bishman Seconds the motion.
 - Supervisor Stoeckel brought up that he wants the contract to be clearer on what they are allowed to do because he does not want a surprise bill again. Would like to look for another business who could do the plowing in winter, and there is a company that the City of Princeton uses.
 - Supervisor Whitcomb said that Mr. Erickson did say he will be looking in to the time sheets and what happened, Whitcomb was understanding when they placed their bid that they just wanted to keep a couple guys busy over the winter but looking at time sheets there are what looks to be 5 different people.
 - Supervisor Duden He does have a couple people who'd be interested in putting in bids for this year snowplow contract. It is that time of year and the Township would have to post right away.
 - Supervisor Hiller wanted to be clear what the contract currently is. Being that it is a 30 day and the fact that in the past no one applied, he would like to stay with them this year and bring this back up next year for if the Township wants to keep hiring out or hire their own and buy trucks.

- Supervisor Hiller to stay with Erickson's and amending the current contract, second made by Bishman
- Supervisor Duden will reach out to Erickson
- Bishman- Aye Duden- Nah Hiller- Aye Stoeckel- Aye Whitcomb- Aye Motion Passed 4 to 1

Supervisor Reports

Roads: Supervisor Whitcomb:

Grading going on where it is needed and the first mowing was completed last weekend. Warranty work on Silver Lake Road has been completed. There is a Road agreement with Baldwin is almost ready. There are still some areas throughout the township to do shouldering on 33rd Street where the parking lot is completed.

Fire Board Liaison: Supervisor Hiller

First half of billing will come out in the next couple of weeks, because they are deciding to use the Kenyon formula for billing the Townships.

They are going to be replacing trucks throughout the area, Twice New Clothing Center donated \$5,000 to the Fire Department.

Supervisor Duden picked up 10 tires throughout the Township and a curved flat screen.

Planning Commission Liaison: Supervisor Stoeckel

Nothing on for the Township

Adjourn 8:22pm

Bishman- Aye Duden- Aye = Hiller- Aye Stoeckel- Aye Whitcomb- Aye Motion Passed 5 to 0