

Princeton Township Board Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2026

Opening and Agenda

Meeting called to order at 7 pm; Pledge of Allegiance; and agenda were reviewed changing the Roads Projects to immediately follow and the addition of a Certificate of Indebtedness as part of the Roads Project. Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb, Second by Supervisor Hiller, Carried 4-0.

Road Projects and Bids

50th Avenue/Jarvis Street Road Reconstruction

Reclaim and repave three miles of 50th Avenue/Jarvis Street – CR 1 to CR 117; 50th Avenue/Jarvis Street – CR 117 to Hwy 95; 50th Avenue/Jarvis Street – Hwy 95 to 40th Street; 50th Avenue/Jarvis Street – 40th Street to 50th Street; 50th Avenue/Jarvis Street – 50th Street to CR 13; Alternate 50th Avenue/Jarvis Street – 40th Street to 50th Street; Alternate 50th Avenue/Jarvis Street – 50th Street to CR 13, widening the road and improving shoulders.

Wyanett Township wants to add alternates to the additional two miles north included with sufficient existing gravel.

Three bids were received; Knife River selected as low bidder.

Schedules A-E (excluding paving on northern roads): \$1,681,014.

With two alternates (all five miles paved): \$2,125,716.50.

Wyanett Township to partner 50/50.

Construction expected to start in the Spring of 2026 (likely May).

Patching and sub-base work previously completed; project to include overlay.

Tree clearing handled partly by each Township, where possible.

Funding set aside: \$250,000 each for 2025 and 2026, remainder to be financed, with timing affecting the amount required.

Minor contract amendments include cutting a road hump for improved sight distance.

Wetlands permit nearly complete, small outstanding item with Isanti County.

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb to accept Knife River bid with alternates, Second by Supervisor Duden, Carried 4-0.

Certificate of Indebtedness

Reed Voit at Old National Bank is working with the Township on a possible Certificate of Indebtedness in the event there is a timing issue with work done and associated payment requirements. There is up to ~\$985,000 available based on the Township value. A likely request will be for ~\$673,000-\$725,000.

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb to move forward with this Certificate, Second by Supervisor Duden, Carried 4-0.

2026 Proposed Payment Maintenance

Chip sealing and crack filling planned for northwest, east, and central areas, focusing on both shared and primary Township roads, agreements in place for shared cost with City of Princeton. The goal is to bid work as one contract for cost efficiency.

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb to solicit quotes for 2026, Second by Supervisor Duden, Carried 4-0.

Hass Construction presented a **Grading and Gravel quote for 2026**.

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb to award Hass Construction the Grading and Gravel and misc. road work quote, Second by Supervisor Duden, Carried 4-0

Hass Construction and Tom Lundeen presented **Mowing and Brushing quotes for 2026**.

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb to award Tom Lundeen the Mowing and Brushing as low quote, Second by Supervisor Hiller, Carried 4-0.

Central Minnesota Dust Control presented a **Dust Control quote for 2026**.

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb to accept Central Minnesota Dust Control's quote, Second by Supervisor Hiller, Carried 4-0.

Open Forum & Candidate Introductions

Seat 1:

Sara Rutten: 20+ year resident, small business owner, real estate agent, Planning & Zoning Committee member; prioritizes community input and rural identity.

Mellissa Griswold: No statement entered.

David Patten: 57-year resident, park committee chair, landscape architect; wants balanced growth and better communication.

Seat 4:

Amanda Hayford: Values practical solutions, collaboration, transparency, and responsible growth.

Jessica Knutson: Advocates for public participation, rural charm, fiscal responsibility, infrastructure improvement, and grant seeking.

Mike Bishman: No statement entered.

Minutes

Remove “30th” from road project section. Request for a darker DRAFT watermark prior to approval.

Motion by Supervisor Hiller, Second by Supervisor Whitcomb, Carried 3-0. Supervisor Duden abstains due to absence in January.

Clerk-Treasurer Report (January 2026):

Fund Balances: General \$9,360.52; Roads/Bridges (including CD): \$383,619.20; Park Dedication: \$62,997.04; Fire Services: \$27,472.29; Total: \$483,449.05

Accounts and Escrows Receivable: Code Enforcement \$4,400.78; Escrows \$10,136.74; Road Share \$32,280.48; Total \$46,818.00

February 17, 2026, Gross Pay \$6,306.31

February 17, 2026, Claims for Approval (Accounts Payable): General \$4,503.07; Roads/Bridges \$42,171.66; Total \$46,674.73

Motion by Supervisor Duden, Second by Supervisor Whitcomb, Carried 4-0.

Building & Air Quality

Moisture and air quality concerns in Town Hall; dehumidifier, air purifier and air quality monitor recommended. Purchase an air purifier and air monitor, up to \$1,000.

Will monitor results; possible future upgrades considered.

Motion by Supervisor Hiller, Second by Supervisor Stoeckel, Carried 4-0.

Traffic Ticket Revenue

Application in progress for Township to receive share of traffic ticket revenue; Tammy Creasy, Clerk/Treasurer is to be the authorized representative.

Motion by Supervisor Hiller, Second by Supervisor Whitcomb, Carried 4-0.

Proposed 2027 Budget

2026 levy reviewed; 2027 proposed budget: \$704,000 (5% increase), including general \$100,000, fire \$56,000, and roads \$548,000.

Tax capacity and levy share have decreased as a percentage of property value

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb, Second by Supervisor Duden, Carried 4-0.

Other Old Business

2026 Local Boards of Appeal & Equalization Certifications – April 22, 2026 @ 6 pm

Deputy Clerk position still underway, possible candidate.

Quotes to be sought for zoning administrator; option to have County assume Township zoning responsibilities under consideration.

IT/website improvements planned for new supervisors onboarding and resident services; focus on mobile-friendly access.

New Business

Annual Meeting and Clean-Up Day are set for March 10 and April 25, respectively; pricing structure for Clean-Up items to be reviewed.

Township will continue its policy of not donating to July 4th or similar organizational requests.

2026 Township Newsletter will be published after the Annual Meeting.

City of Princeton is looking into the financial obligation to the Township related to annexed properties.

Due to changes in the Revenue thresholds by OSA, the Township would not be required to do an annual audit. Other services will be considered.

Call for interested parties to submit a Letter of Interest for consideration to the Planning Commission.

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb to publish in the Union Times the call for interested parties to submit a letter of interest for consideration to the Planning Commission, Second by Supervisor Hiller, Carried 4-0.

Zoning

No report, Planning Commission did not meet in February and does not appear to be meeting in March.

Fire Board Liaison

Supervisor Duden stated the current year's fire contract may be going up by \$1,000. Supervisor Hiller made mention of Captain Tim Jensen's recent passing.

Adjourn – 8:30 pm

Motion by Supervisor Whitcomb, Second by Supervisor Hiller, Carried 4-0.