

Minutes of Holmes City Township Annual Meeting 3/10/2026

The annual meeting of Holmes City Township was called to order by Clerk/Treasurer, Christopher Wanner at 8:23pm on March 10, 2026 at the Holmes City Town Hall, 11180 Tewes Trail SW, Farwell MN.

Darin Weisel led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance

Present at the meeting were the Holmes City Township Board of Supervisors: Gary Schuneman, Darin Weisel, Matthew "Woody" Robertson, Clerk/Treasurer Christopher Wanner, the appointed Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Chelsey Robertson; and residents.

Rod Borden was appointed as moderator by Christopher Wanner, Darin Weisel seconded.

Clerk/Treasurer, Christopher Wanner summarized the minutes from the March 11, 2025 annual meeting. Darin Weisel moved to approve the minutes as read, Rod Borden seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Clerk/Treasurer, Christopher Wanner read the minutes from the February 9th, 2026 Board of Audit meeting. Christopher Wanner addressed questions from residents as to what the Audit consists of. Matthew Robertson moved to approve the minutes as read, Rod Borden seconded the motion and the MCU.

Gary Schuneman presented the road report. The West half of the township was graveled this year. The East side is scheduled for graveling in 2026, following the established schedule of alternating halves every other year. After this cycle, hoping roads look ok and can go to spot checking gravel or applying thinner layers of gravel to help reduce cost. Gary stated gravel cost in 2025 was \$45,350 and Chloride \$2967. Road and Bridge is 35% of our budget. Moe Township applied chloride for our township this past year, and we anticipate going with them again this year. Julie Callahan will assist in compiling the list of chloride recipients, which should be requested through the township website. Gary presented plow operators for next year: Jason Braaten and Gary Hansen as needed.

Supervisor, Darin Weisel discussed the purchase of the grader in 2025 and equipment updates. Leonard Blank was hired as mechanic for township equipment. Discussed the need for new tires and plow in the future for the new grader. Once we are sure everything is working well with new grader will plan to make sale of the John Deere grader. There was a culvert replaced in 2025 as well. With warmer weather, culverts seem to be flowing ok. No significant changes in expenses are expected.

For the upcoming year, the Board is considering increasing the levy by 7% for year 2026-2027. The levy has not increased since 2018. In the past couple of years we have had ARPA funding to help cover township costs, but this is no longer available. This proposed increase is intended to address the impact of inflation and rising costs of services, gas and maintenance. (from \$176,550 to 188,908). Denny Tolifson made a motion to approve the levy, Julie Callahan seconded and MCU.

The pocket gopher bounty program was explained as well as reimbursements available from utility companies for residents within their service areas. The current bounty rate paid by the Township is \$8 per gopher with \$4 reimbursement to township by utility company.

The floor was then opened to general discussion.

Dennis Tolifson with the Holmes City First Responders reported that they responded to 63 calls in 2025, 31 of which were within Holmes City Township. He stated that they could really use more volunteers. There are currently 6. Requesting \$3000 donation from Holmes City Township to use for equipment purchases and training for both new responders and training to stay up to date for current responders. There was confusion regarding last year's donation. The board will investigate and discuss it at the next meeting on Monday, March 16th, 2026 and get back to HCFR.

Supervisor Matthew Robertson asked residents their opinion on sending out an annual newsletter from the township. This has been discussed by board in the past as being something we would possibly do to get information out to all residents. The township website has now been updated with current minutes, meeting dates and chloride dates. It was agreed by those present that it would be very costly to mail out newsletters. Will continue to update website and post notices in window at hall.

Supervisor Matthew Robertson opened a discussion regarding change of hands with chloride application in the future. He explained to residents present that it is added work and cost to the township with the board having to do extra meetings to plan/prepare, postage to bill invoices, following up on unpaid invoices and paying extra employees. Currently we do not charge more than what Moe Township bills us to make up for those costs. Rod B asked how many residents typically apply for chloride treatment. Matt stated the number was approximately 40 people out of the approximate 800 people in HCTWP. It was requested we look into reviews and estimates for other chloride applicators. Dennis Tolifson made motion to pursue other options for future chloride treatment, Matthew Robertson seconded the motion. MCU.

Jason with Lowry Fire Department reported that they had 28 calls for service in 2025. No structure fires. Service within Holmes City Township was primarily for weather watch.

Rod Borden moved to set the date/time for the 2027 annual meeting at 8:15 PM on the second Tuesday in March, March 9th, 2027. Matthew Robertson seconded and the MCU.

Darin Weisel then moved to set the location for the 2025 township election and Annual Meeting at the Holmes City Town Hall, 11180 Tewes Trail SW, Farwell MN. Dennis Tolifson seconded and the MCU.

Results of the Board of Canvass were then reported by Christopher Wanner. Darin Weisel was unopposed for the three-year supervisor position and received 17 votes. Matthew Robertson was unopposed for the special election three-year supervisor position term ending in 2027 and received 17 votes. Chelsey Robertson was unopposed for the two-year Clerk/Treasurer position and received 17 votes.

Darin Weisel moved to adjourn the meeting; Matthew Robertson seconded, the MCU and the meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.


Clerk/Treasurer


Chairman