Greenwood Township Supervisors Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: December 9, 2025 - 6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Roskoski

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting is being recorded for transcription and archival purposes.

ROLL CALL - Chair Roskoski / Vice Chair Skubic/ Supervisor Bradach/ Supervisor Bassing / Treasurer Mortaloni / Clerk Spicer are Present, Supervisor Gilbert is Absent

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 3 minutes)

none

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

Motion – by Bassing/Bradach to accept Agenda with the addition of IRRRB Trail Grant Resolution 7-2025, to Old Business #3. **Vote 4/0 carried**

Motion – Skubic/Bassing to approve minutes from regular meeting held November 12, 2025. **Vote 4/0 carried**

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Adjusted Checking balance is $25,584.54
Jumbo - $101,976.92
Road Fund – $27,496.00
Building/Capital – $99,916.39
Broadband - $103,342.50
Trail – $25,608.89
Added - Rec Board $7,500.00
Total = $391,425.24
Treasurer will ensure we receive Levy apportionment before sending out checks.
Motion – by Bassing/Skubic to approve Treasurer's Report. **Vote 4/0 carried**

Motion -by Bassing/Bradach to approve Claims totaling $30,997.63. **Vote 4/0 carried**

Motion -by Skubi/Bassing to approve Payroll of $11,633.86. **Vote 4/0 carried**

OLD BUSINESS

1. Vermilion Lake Association – last donated 1/09/2024 - $100.00.

Motion – by Bradach/Bassing to donate $100 to Vermilion Lake Association. **Vote 4/0 carried**

2. St. Louis Association of Township Officers Membership – fees begin January if membership is continued. **No action taken at this time.**

3. IRRB Trail Grant will be for $49,000, and the submission of application is due mid-January 2026.

Motion – by Bradach/Skubic to adopt Resolution 7-2025 to make application and accept funds from IRRRB & Rehabilitation Board to go toward the Greenwood walking trail. **Vote 4/0 carried**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation by Jim Galonski regarding Greenwood Fire Department.
   Mr. Galonski read an in-depth statement concerning the unfair termination of previous Fire Department personnel. His statement will be included at the end of these minutes for record.
2. Budgets:
   a. Approve revised 2026 budget.

After discussing the 2026 budget last month, there are a couple more changes made to it, including some Capital Improvement funds moved from the General to the Fire Capital Outlay, based on the public voting on additional $300K levy, wanting a big chunk of it going toward FD vehicle replacement. Currently $278,615 in FD Capital Outlay, Roskoski suggests considering setting up dedicated fund and adding to it every year and Bradach agreed. Chief Trancheff states oldest tires date back to 1992 and the newest are 17 years old. MFG/NFPA service life is 6-7 years due to degradation of rubber over time, and we have some that need replacement by condition/damage. One issue is Tender 2 has split-rims, so that truck will need to be re-rimmed. He got quotes for entire fleet from Taconite for $18,472.98 without tax, and from Pomp's for $14,566.38 without tax. (we are tax exempt). Tender 2 is a 1992 truck and might not be worth it. Bradach said we must maintain the trucks and whatever is required, we have to do. It's a lot cheaper than buying new trucks. Roskoski points out that this expense would come out of the FD Capital Outlay and before we put money into that fund, we should know what we need for 2026. Trancheff would like to do this as soon as possible, but one vehicle at a time, beginning with Engine 1. Preference appears to lean to Taconite due to good service and because they are a local business with both manager and owner having ties to Greenwood. Bradach suggests going back to Taconite to see if they will match Pomp's pricing.

Motion – by Bradach/Roskoski to authorize Fire Chief to renegotiate quotes and bring to Special meeting next week. **Vote 4/0 carried.** Special meeting set for Wed., Dec. 17 @ 6:30 pm.

Motion – by Bradach/Skubic to set a dedicated fund to be used for Fire Apparatus in the amount of $200,000. **Vote 4/0 carried.**

Roskoski thanked Brian for all the hard work he had been doing.

Motion – by Bradach/Roskoski to approve revised 2026 budget. **Vote 4/0 carried.**

   b. Discuss 2027 budget. A Special meeting (date to be determined) will be set to discuss the 2027 budget.

3. Annual performance evaluations. Will be setting a Closed meeting (date to be determined) in January for Fire Chief evaluation.
4. Personnel:
   a. Accept Peggy Nelson, EMR, retirement effective 12/31/2025. - Roskoski extends her thanks for her many years of service.

Motion – by Skubic/Bassing to accept Peggy's resignation and send a thank you letter along with a $50 gift card for her service. **Vote 4/0 carried**

b. Accept Tammy Mortaloni, Treasurer, resignation on 12/14/2025. Tammy was given many thanks for her hard work correcting the 2022, 23, 24 and 25 records and submitting the corrections to the County Auditor. Many applauded her.

Motion – by Bradach/Bassing to accept Tammy's resignation, effective December 14, 2025. **Vote 4/0 carried**

5. Treasurer position.
   a. Recommendation from Personnel Committee regarding hours/pay.

Motion – by Bradach/Skubic to increase the hours for the Treasurer position to 22 per month @ $45/hr. **Vote 4/0 carried**

   b. Interim Treasurer position. – N/A

Previous Treasurer applicant, Jill Clark, spoke with Roskoski, stating she is still interested in filling the position. She was the Treasure for Cotton for 3 years and the Deputy Clerk in Mt. Iron for several years before that. While speaking with Roskoski, Jill Clark stated she is willing to work up to 22 hours per month but thought she could do the job in about 10 hours per month. If hired, she would like to keep Karen Saarela as Deputy Treasurer. Karen Saarela agreed she is willing to remain as Deputy Treasurer.

Bradach recommended hiring Jill Clark. She was already interviewed by the Employee Committee for the position last Spring and she was "top notch".

Motion – by Bradach/Bassing to approve hiring Jill Clark as Treasurer effective Monday December 15, 2026. **Vote 4/0 carried**

Tammy Mortaloni offered to finish year-end bookkeeping and the Trail Grant. The pre-app for the grant is done, now the app needs to be completed. She was already over the monthly 20-hour limit but would need another 10 hours to complete both.

Motion – by Skubic/Bradach to approve up to $450 (additional 10 hours) for Tammy to finish year end and complete the IRRRB Trail Grant application and submit for approval. **Vote 4/0 carried**

Hiring process. – N/A

6. Appointed Clerk position beginning March 2026.
   a. Job description. Provided for review.
   b. Hiring process. Will be creating job description. Clerk Spicer will remain in her elected position until the Re-Org meeting in March 2026. Roskoski recommends Board hire Clerk during the Re-Org meeting. Applications and interviews will be done end of February – beginning of March.
      Talk about how to proceed in January.
7. Extend videotaping services for board meetings for 2026.

Motion – by Bradach/Skubic to continue videotaping services for board meetings in 2026. **Vote 4/0 carried**

8. Filings for offices for Township Election held on March 10, 2026.
   a. Supervisor 1 (March 2026-March 2029) currently held by Paul Skubic.
      Supervisor 2 (March 2026-March 2029) currently held by John Bassing.
   Filing period: Tuesday, December 30, 2025, through Tuesday, January 13, 2026.
   On Tuesday, January 13, 2026, the office will be open until 5 pm for filing.
   Board agrees to publish Election filing ad a third time – January 9, 2026.

9. 2025 Ambulance Vehicle Aid – invoice for $26,025.00. Amount is based on $25/year-round resident with 1,041 residents. Included spreadsheet from Steve Freshour provides number of calls, response and other good information. The payment is included in the December claims and we are mid-contract.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Skubic Road Supervisor – new plow contractor is doing a good job.
Lodging Tax Board Representative – no info

Bassing Broadband Liaison – RAMS is dragging their feet. Spoke with CTC of CTC told him BlueChip is still splicing cable now. Looking to get updates on funding, hopefully will have more information next month.
Joint Powers and Recreation - no info
Noxious Weeds Representative - no info
911 Assignment - no info

Gilbert Grounds and Maintenance - no info
Fire Department Liaison - no info

Bradach Recreation Committee Liaison – looking to find service and cleaning for furnace and ducts. The Plow guy reported he had slid into and cracked the conduit casing on the post in the lower parking lot. Nothing from Rec Committee.

Roskoski Ambulance Commission
a. Ambulance Information
b. Sprint Medical Program to start at beginning of year. Service will run Monday through Friday.

RAMS Representative
Call from attorney today -during the Hendricks vacate pretrial today at 2:30, they requested to push back the trial date scheduled January 8/9 to April. May get a settlement before that.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

In November there were 6 fire calls and 18 EMS calls.
Additional report submitted by Chief Trancheff and included at the end of these minutes.
Motion – by Bradach/Skubic to have $200,000 from Capital outlay moved to dedicated fund from vehicle apparatus. **Vote 4/0 carried**

CLERK REPORT (Correspondence)

Book Mobile change – Beginning January 1 will be at our location every 3rd Wednesday from 12:45pm to 1:30pm.

TimberJay - inquiring if we want to do a holiday greeting ad using artwork by kids from T/S Elementary School. – Board agreed.
Heiam Medical Foundation (Cook Hosp) 33rd Annua; Benefit set for August 22, 2026
Received Christmas cards from CTC and Superior Fuel.
Received email from Mark Drobac about Recreation Committee procedures and funds. Will put on next meeting Agenda.

Motion – by Bassing/Skubic to adjourn at 8:25pm **Vote 4/0 carried**

Chair Luis Roskicki **Clerk** Debby Sicari

NEXT MEETING: January 13, 2026 - 6:30 PM

Greenwood Fire & Rescue

November 2025

Fire Calls
6 Fire
1 EMS assist

EMS Calls
18

Fire

Annual Hose testing is being performed by the members using the Rice hose tester at this time we have tested 7,200 feet with around a thousand left to go. All failed hose has been cut and thrown away. All passed hose is being numbered and cataloged to track its testing cycle. We have a large surplus of new still banded hose that has never been in service and we would like to explore the possibility of selling it.

Annual SCBA flow testing was performed by Macqueen on face pieces and frames. All face pieces and frames passed.

Annual ladder testing will be performed this month.

NERIS onboarding has been completed.

Boat # 2 was placed in winter layup as of the 13th of November.

Requests

Tires on all trucks need to be replaced
Age of tire by truck E1 2002, T2 1992, T3 2008, R5 1998 (T2 May need new rims due to tire size)
MFG / NFPA service life is 6 – 7 years due to degradation of the rubber over time.
We have three tires that need replacement by condition damage / tread wear.
The average cost per tire will be around $1,000.00 by the verbal quotes attained so far.
There may be government pricing available.
We are seeking formal quotes.

-Furnace servicing – looking for vendor to service
-Clean out of the sediment vault
-Lighting – need new lighting - many not working
-old washer and dryer – would like to scrap

12/9/25

SORRY – Last Time - But the Truth Matters

Believe me you, I did not want to write this speech, but after reading a letter to the editor and then having to listen to that letter again a couple of months ago at this board meeting, I felt compelled to give the public a more complete venue of the facts and how these competent and valued Firefighters, and some were also First Responders, actually felt and handled this terrible mistreatment of justice.

In September 2022, just before our Safety Officer was prepared to give a report on the issues we were having with Fire Truck #1, there was a motion on the floor to Fire our Fire Chief, our Assistant Fire Chief, and our Safety Officer, who basically said if your going to fire them you might as well fire me. On a 3-2 vote, the motion to fire them passed. Paul Skubic and Mike Ralston protested this illegal and dangerous situation. No written notices or meetings were priorly held with the Officers, to give good reason for this action as is stated in the Greenwood employee policy.

In October 2022, during a Town Board meeting, most every firefighter picketed on the highway in front of the Townhall in protest of the Board's previous actions and to hopefully set up some negotiation meetings. Nothing came of that except newspaper picures of the protest.

On January 3, 2023, supposedly a fire training night, rather 15 Firefighters showed up for discussion and vote for the arbitrary and interim replacement of our Fire Chief with a new individual. Discussion was about the Safety of the community, prospective downgrading and jeopardy of the Fire Department as a whole, and how NO rank and file members have any confidence or trust in the new chief. He was asked, as a volunteer firefighter for the good of the Greenwood Fire department and the surrounding communities, to give up this position. He refused. A vote was taken by the present Firefighters. Twelve voted yes to no confidence in him, 2 abstained, and he didn't vote. We asked him as Chief, to tell the board of our vote and to schedule a meeting so we could negotiate a compromise. That never happened. It is to be further noted that the only member that was willing to even submit an application for the Chief position under these circumstances was Mr. Maus.

Even though most of these Firefighters in the Department, served

Greenwood Township far far longer than than any of those Supervisors, common courtesy and respect was completely absent. During the January 10, 2023 Board meeting, an email was read that was sent to one Supervisor. It stated that if the Board followed it's own employee policy, this critical situation would not exist. Because Fire fighting and emergency situations are not only dangerous and possibly life threatening to the firefighters and citizens involved, those board members did not have the situational experience needed to hire a new first time Chief by themselves! Trust, competency, brotherhood, and confidence, are some key aspects needed for Leadership skills. The Fire department, as long as I was a member and before that, from what I was told, always had a joint interview of prospective members and potencial Officers. After their approval, the board would have the final vote. In the aforementioned email, a number of objectives were given in the hope of engaging in negotiations. Also, since the board never had the common courtesy to meet with it's Fire Department, 7 of us brought our Fire Duffle bags into the meeting in the hope it would stimulate some dire conversation. Instead they assumed we were turning in our gear, in this room 30 feet from the Fire Hall and where We have our Fire meetings and sometimes training? There was a key for this meeting room in the Fire Dept. Office just in case. No one said we were handing in our equipment. There were no notes on the bags. Never was the word quitting Ever mentioned. There was never even a thought of quitting amongst the members. Only the hope of proper serious discussions. The email was not signed for official reasons, only to start a dialog.

No way would any Townboard try to terminate the majority of their Volunteer Fire Department even if there was a serious disagreement, would they? And without any proper discussions? They said we were employees, but we never signed any paperwork stating that fact or rate of pay. Perhaps volunteer employees for the Community is a better description. But Supervisor Stoehr said because taking hourly pay when called out on a 911 call, we are not considered volunteers under State law. WRONG! Under MN Statutes, Chapter 299N; Firefighter Training & Education, Definitions, Subdivision 7, Volunteer Firefighter. A "Volunteer Firefighter" means a person who is charged with the prevention or suppression of fires within the boundaries of the state on a Volunteer, part-time, Or paid on-call basis. Volunteer firefighter does not include a full-time

firefighter! I have my original Member Identification Card with my picture. It says Greenwood Township Volunteer, Fire-Rescue ID# 831

At the February 14, 2023 Board meeting, the board passed a motion 2-1 to accept a "voluntary quit" from the Firefighters involved even though absolutly none of those firefighters had any intention to quit. They said their attorney Brunfelt coined the term that we voluntary quit. I called him and left a message that none of us quit and to get back to me with the "precedent setting case" stating that someone can voluntary quit someone else against their will. Of course he never got back to me. After that January 10th board meeting and the threatening email to Make the Board discuss and negotiate the serious situation at hand, we continued our 911 duties contrary to the email. A number of 911 calls were answered. BUT where does it state that Volunteers Have to respond to every 911 call?? What if we're working our main jobs, or on vacation, or sick, etc? Do we, are we, should we, be reprimanded for Quitting our Volunteer work? That's absurd! Why do you think they have Mutual Aid? Unbelievable! On February 21, 2023, 4 firefighters showed up for the Bloodborne Pathogens and AWAIR Programs training, 3 of those were the voluntary quit guys. This Training is mandated by OSHA on a 365 day clock, for Firefighters and EMS personnel. It was last given on January 19, 2022. We were already overdue. That meant that only 4 fire department members could legally respond to Fire and EMS calls in 2023! So what happened? If Greenwood's Township Insurance company became aware, I'm sure they would cancel the policy again. And what about our Firefighters and EMS personnel? Talk about a great liability risk! But did the board know? Did their new Fire Chief inform them? I bet not. By the way, at that time we had 22 members on the Fire Department roster, although 2 were temporary unable to perform at an active level. And then on March 21, 2023, 4 Firefighters who were voluntarily quit, showed up for that months Fire Training and Maus called the Sheriffs and Police on them to escourt them out of the Fire Hall! Or be arrested for tresspessing. Now does that sound like WE Voluntarily Quit? NO!

And then at the April 11, 2023 Town Board meeting, I was giving another speech that none of us Firefighters quit, but that Chairwoman, interupted me and made the infamous designation, "You are fired." With that they voted 4-1, according to the news paper, to send formal letters of termination to the Greenwood

volunteer Firefighters. Hey ya'all! --I'm just about done, Wakeup! But I would like to let you know that if that board didn't take that inappropriate and harmful action, to the community, we All would still be on the Fire Department to this day!

After that new Fire Chief got fired, 10 of us terminated firefighters got together and discussed the situation. We all agreed that we would come back to serve the community if certain requirements were met. The new Town Board Supervisors, that we pushed hard to elect, basically said and understood that we were terminated Illegally. We appreciated that acknowledgement!! But due to the fact that we would have to bring a lawsuit against Greenwood Township, in order to meet certain criteria, most of the group had a hard time with that. We didn't want to be like a certain past member and chief that did it 5-6 times with huge Lawyer costs to the Township and his $18,000 settlement to let it slide and settle! I spoke with a Circuit Court of Appeals Judge, Gary Murakami, about our situation, he said we would win without a doubt if we filed, especially since that email was never signed by Any members.

We were volunteers, why should we have to hire Lawyers, and sue the community to get back a position that we signed up to Volunteer 365 days a year,- long ago, for all hours of the day and night, under every conceivable weather condition, to get out of bed, leave family and friends to go on 911 emergency calls when that pager rang? Why? We went through alot of B.S. We were made out to be quitters, when the only thing we wanted was to serve and do what was best for the community. But why did the community not care about us?

So we hold everyone harmless. Time has sealed our fate. Our lifes are easier, more comfortable, and less stressful. We sincerely hope and pray that the new Fire Department and EMS Department will have much success and community backing. I can only speak for myself, but if they call or need support, I will be there in any capacity that I am able. Good Luck, God Speed.

ADONAI' VASSU BORAGUSS

JET