

**LYNDEN TOWNSHIP
STEARNS COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2025**

Township Clerk Jenny Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Tom Plaggerman made a motion to elect Anne Ackerman to moderate the annual meeting, seconded by Jean Schermer, all in favor, motion passed.

8:17: Andy Anderson made a motion to waive the reading of the 2024 March annual meeting minutes, seconded by Scott O’Konek, all in favor, motion passed.

8:18: Tom Plaggerman made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2024 March annual meeting, seconded by Todd Voigt, all in favor, motion passed.

8:19: The 2024 treasurer’s report was available for review. Treasurer Jean Schermer presented the Board of Audit report and highlights of the treasurer’s report. The annual audit was convened on January 22nd and the Clerk’s and Treasurer’s CTAS books and Lake Central Bank statements balanced with no discrepancies. 2024 revenue was \$794,841.50 and expenditures were \$597,587.65. At the close of 2024, the checking account balance was \$742,310.59, of which \$31,995.54 is ARPA Funds (American Rescue Plan Act). All ARPA Funds have been designated as required. Lori Creamer made a motion to approve the 2024 treasurer’s report, seconded by John Austin, all in favor, motion passed.

8:20: Scott O’Konek made a motion to waive the reading of all checks written and received in 2024, seconded by Andy Anderson, all in favor, motion passed.

8:20: Annandale Fire: Fire Fighters Caleb Hoeft, Dan Champlin and Dan Edwards represented the Annandale Fire Department. The Department has 25 members. They responded to 351 total calls in 2024 which is up 82 from 2023. 23 of those calls were in Lynden Township which included 1 fire. Equipment is in good working order. They are expecting delivery of a new engine in 2028 and a new tanker in 2026. Equipment for the new truck is approximately \$150,000. The replacement fee schedule was previously implemented which includes a rate increase each year to cover some of these costs. Proposed levy request for 2026 is \$16,055 (\$15,210 in 2025) for 169 units.

8:25: Clearwater Fire: John Schmidt, Assistant Fire Chief represented the Clearwater Fire Department. The Department has 24 members currently with a goal of having 30 members. They responded to 370 calls in 2024 which is near record numbers. 73 of those calls were in Lynden Township. Average response time is 11 minutes, 19 seconds. Proposed levy request for 2026 is \$95,000 (\$98,240 in 2025). On behalf of the township, Anne Ackerman thanked both departments for their service.

8:30: Clearwater Public Library 2025 Annual Support: John Austin made a motion to authorize the Lynden Township Board to donate \$2,000 to the Clearwater Branch of the Great River Regional Library as permitted by MN Statutes §§ 134.12 & 365.10, allowing payments to the library for the benefits library services provide locally in that it is a convenience to township

residents, serves a public purpose and is in the township's best interest to authorize this donation, seconded by Jean Schermer, all in favor, motion passed.

8:31: Road Report 2024: Supervisor Jaime Schultz-Ludenia reported. In 2024 road maintenance was challenged by a very dry season. Gravel roads were graded and packed when moisture allowed. Magnesium chloride was applied to preserve gravel and provide dust control. Ditch mowing occurred twice along with brushing within the right of way to maintain safety. Summer storms caused downed trees with cleanup occurring to restore accessibility. The LRIP Grant was received to rebuild 200th Str E. This Grant provided \$676,240 to cover the construction costs, while the township is responsible for the engineering costs, estimated at \$140,000. Construction anticipated to begin June 2025. Other projects for 2025 include possibly chip coating 200th Str and 6th Ave with an anticipated cost of \$34,000 per ½ mile for the initial layer.

8:35: Scott O'Konek, Lynden Township Supervisor presented township updates which included:

- Recap of the spring storm damage throughout the township.
- There were 66 building permits issued in 2024 including 4 new single-family structures with a preliminary valuation increase of \$3,733,500 for all permits.
- We hold contracts with Allspec, Nancy Scott as Chief Building Official, Moore Engineering, Smart Excavating for summer road maintenance, Schabel for snow plowing, Republic Services for recycling, Couri and Ruppe as our Attorney, Patriot News for official publications, and Lake Central Bank for depository of funds.
- The Lynden Township Planning Commission is holding a meeting on April 21 to review changes to our Comprehensive Plan. Preliminary review indicates changes may occur near the Industrial Park and Warner Lake. The Commission invites residents to attend this meeting to hear their input and learn about what the proposed changes could have on property within Lynden Township. The meeting will be held at the Town Hall.

8:37: Thank you's were presented to both Jean Schermer and Tom Plaggerman for their years of dedication and service to the township.

8:38: Tom Plaggerman, Town Board Chair reviewed previous budget years. In 2024 we came in \$120,000 under budget. Factors may include election year, rising costs of attorney and engineering fees, and recycling increases. Road and Bridge was \$140,000 under budget. This is due to us budgeting and planning to pave 200th Str and 6th Ave in both 2023 and 2024 but that never occurred based on increasing costs of regular road maintenance and the snow fall. In 2024 we spent \$62,000 on snow removal which was \$28,000 under budget and \$80,000 less than in 2023. Our road and bridge budget for 2026 is \$330,500. Fire contracts continue to fluctuate. At the 2024 annual meeting the residents approved budgeting \$222,564 to a Tarring Fund to cover the estimated costs of our portion of the LRIP Grant. With our LRIP costs possibly coming in under budget and the use of ARPA Funds, the balance of the Tarring Fund at the end of 2025 should be \$110,000. Protentional tarring projects for 2026 are 200th Str and 6th Ave noted above and Eaglewood Road. The estimated cost for Eaglewood Road is \$328,200 if the SPRA Grant does not come through. Tarring Fund projects for 2026 would total \$396,200.

Plaggerman presented the proposed levy as follows. Other than slight variations in the fire contracts, the proposed total levy is unchanged from last year:

2026	LEVY
Road and Bridge	\$330,500
General Government	\$115,000
Annandale Fire	\$16,055
Clearwater Fire	\$95,000
Tarring Fund	\$343,445
TOTAL	\$900,000

8:48 Andy Anderson made a motion to approve a total levy of \$900,000, seconded by John Austin, all in favor, motion passed.

8:49 Election results were announced as follows:

Number of voters: 43 signatures on the polling place roster, 0 absentee. 43 total ballots cast.

Supervisor – Write In	Name	Votes Received
	Todd Voigt	19
	Eric Witt	9
	Ron J Harkins	3
	Patty Asmus	3
Treasurer – Candidate	Name	Votes Received
	Lori Creamer	39
Treasurer – Write In	Name	Votes Received
	Ron J Harkins	2

The Board of Canvass will meet on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, to review the summary statement and canvass the votes. Todd Voigt won the three year Supervisor Term. Lori Creamer won the two year Treasurer term.

8:50: Resident Roger Brown questioned the Dog at Large Ordinance. This Ordinance remains in effect, along with our contract with the Tri-County Humane Society.

The Annual Meeting for 2026 will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 8:15 pm. at the Lynden Town Hall.

8:52: Scott O’konek made a motion to adjourn the annual meeting, seconded by Jean Schermer, all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Schmidt, Clerk

Anne Ackerman, Moderator