

**LYNDEN TOWNSHIP  
STEARNS COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA  
ANNUAL MEETING  
MARCH 10, 2026**

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.

8:19: Rhoda Senkler made a motion to waive the reading of the 2025 March annual meeting minutes, seconded by Todd Voigt, all in favor, motion passed.

8:19: Scott O’Konek made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2025 March annual meeting, seconded by Don Moeller, all in favor, motion passed.

8:20: The 2025 treasurer’s report was available for review. Appointed Treasurer Jean Schermer presented the Board of Audit report and highlights of the treasurer’s report. The annual audit was convened on January 21st and the Clerk’s and Treasurer’s CTAS books and Lake Central Bank statements balanced with no discrepancies. 2025 beginning balance was \$742,453.09, revenue was \$1,024,001.05 and expenditures were \$787,803.13. Ending balance was \$987,651.01. ARPA final report has been submitted as all funds have been disbursed. John Matthes made a motion to approve the 2025 treasurer’s report, seconded by John Austin, all in favor, motion passed.

8:22: Rhoda Senkler made a motion to waive the reading of all checks written and received in 2025, seconded by Greg Koenigs, all in favor, motion passed.

8:22: Annandale Fire: Fire Chief Kris Townsend represented the Annandale Fire Department. The Department has 25 members of which 23 are Firefighter Level 1. They serve 5 townships and the City of Annandale. Equipment and station are in good working order. They did receive their new tanker in November 2025 that replaced a 1990 tanker. In March 2025 their Engine was involved in an accident so a replacement Engine was located and is working well. They responded to 363 total calls in 2025, 20 of which were in Lynden Township. Average response time is 8 minutes, 44 seconds. Response time for Lynden is 16 minutes, 32 seconds. The fee schedule was discussed with the Fire Commission. Lynden has 169 units. The 2026 rate was \$95 per unit. The 2027 rate is \$100 per unit. Proposed levy request for 2027 is \$16,900 (\$16,055 in 2025) for our 169 units.

8:33: Clearwater Fire: Fire Chief Mike Keller represented the Clearwater Fire Department. The Department has 23 members, of which several are going through Firefighter Level 1 and EMT training. They responded to 417 calls in 2025 which were mostly medical. Average response time is 8 minutes, 57 seconds. Response time for Lynden is 11 minutes, 56 seconds. Proposed levy request for 2027 is \$98,000 (\$95,000 in 2026).

On behalf of the township, Anne Ackerman thanked both departments for their service.

8:38: Clearwater Public Library 2026 Annual Support: Connie O’Konek 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.

8:38: Road Report 2025: Supervisor Jaime Schultz-Ludenia reported. 200<sup>th</sup> St. E construction is completed. For the 2025 road season, the township began working with a new summer road contractor, Smart Excavating. Over the past two years, the township levy was increased with the understanding that a significant number of roads were in need of attention. The Board is finalizing a structured three-year improvement plan beginning in 2026 and concluding in 2028. Following that, we will move into a long-term maintenance cycle for all township roads. Currently, Lynden Township maintains 10.5 miles of asphalt roads and 26.6 miles of gravel roads. This includes 2 minimum maintenance roads totaling 1 mile.

2026 Plan:

Approximately 6 miles of gravel road will be chip sealed.

A mix of double granite and double pea rock will be used depending on traffic volume.

Approximately 4 miles of existing asphalt will be seal coated as routine maintenance.

2027 Plan:

Approximately 8 miles of gravel roads will be chip sealed.

This will reduce the township's gravel road total to approximately 12.5 miles requiring annual grading and gravel maintenance.

Approximately 2 miles of asphalt will receive maintenance work.

2028 Plan:

The remaining 4.4 miles of asphalt roads in the township will be addressed.

All roads will continue on a scheduled maintenance rotation depending on their condition and year of treatment.

8:51: Supervisor Jaime Schultz-Ludenia presented the vendor change for recycling. Our contract ends with Republic Services on March 31 and a new 5 year contract with Waste Management has been negotiated.

8:54: Supervisor Todd Voigt presented township updates which included:

- There were 83 building permits issued in 2025 including 6 new single-family structures with a valuation increase of \$4,175,300.00 for all permits.
- We hold contracts with Allspec, Nancy Scott as Chief Building Official, Moore Engineering, Smart Excavating for summer and general road maintenance, Schabel for snow plowing, Waste Management for recycling, Couri and Ruppe as our Attorney, Patriot News for official publications, and Lake Central Bank for depository of funds.
- Research is being conducted and grant opportunities explored for a Fire Protection Well System considered for placement at our 208<sup>th</sup> St. site.

8:59: Scott O'Konek, Town Board Chair, reviewed previous budget years. As noted in the Fire presentations, Fire contracts continue to fluctuate. Our 2027 road and bridge fund proposed budget is increased to \$440,000 but the proposed Tarring Fund budget is lowered to \$210,100. We will learn if we are the recipient of the SPRA Grant in mid-April. This grant is for improvement of Eaglewood Rd. If the grant is not received, the improvement would be

covered in the 2028 road plan as Schultz-Ludenia presented earlier. The estimated cost for Eaglewood Road was \$328,200 in 2025 if the SPRA Grant does not come through.

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

2027	LEVY
Road and Bridge	\$440,000
General Government	\$135,000
Annandale Fire	\$16,900
Clearwater Fire	\$98,000
Tarring Fund	\$210,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$900,000</b>

9:06 John Matthess made a motion to approve a total levy of \$900,000, seconded by John Austin, all in favor, motion passed.

9:07 Election results were announced as follows:

Number of voters: 51 signatures on the polling place roster, 4 absentee. 51 total ballots cast.

Supervisor – Write In	Name	Votes Received
	Scott O’Konek	14
	Connie O’Konek	13
	Tom Plaggerman	1
	Dan Moeller	1
	Anne Ackerman	1
	Todd Voigt	1
	Jeff Storms	1
Clerk – Candidate	Name	Votes Received
	Kelli Schuh	50
	Jenny Schmidt	1

The Board of Canvass will meet on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, to review the summary statement and canvass the votes. Scott O’Konek won the three year Supervisor term. Kelli Schuh won the two year Clerk term.

The Annual Meeting for 2027 will be held Tuesday, March 9, 2027 at 8:15 pm. at the Lynden Town Hall.

9:16: Rhoda Senkler made a motion to adjourn the annual meeting, seconded by Tom Plaggerman, all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jenny Schmidt, Clerk

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Anne Ackerman, Moderator