

UNAPPROVED Annual Meeting Minutes of Windemere Township - March 10, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Clerk-Treasurer, Paul Horgen. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance with 87 eligible registered voters and five others present.

MODERATOR ELECTION:

The clerk-treasurer called for nominations for moderator. Jude Stephens nominated Scott Danelski. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken. Scott Danelski was elected as the moderator.

AGENDA:

The agenda was presented. Motion was made by Katherine Green to approve agenda, seconded by Amy Perrine. Vote taken. Motion Passed.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES:

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer read the 2025 Annual Meeting minutes. Motion was made by Alan Overland and seconded by Katherine Green to accept minutes as presented. A vote was taken. Motion passed.

CLERK-TREASURER REPORT:

Clerk-Treasurer Paul Horgen presented his report. The 2025 revenue and expense report was read. Full 2025 year-end financial reports are available on the Windemere website under the treasurer section. Motion was made by Amy Perrine seconded by Katherine Green to approve the report. A vote was taken. Motion passed.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Wendy Juhl, Jude Stephans, Wendy Schmidt and Bridy Wickstrom made brief comments.

The moderator recognized Seth Nielson. Mr. Nielson read five motions to convey his preferences for the operation of the township. The moderator accepted Nielson's request by combining the resolutions into a single motion for a vote and stipulating the vote is non-binding due to the limitations of the elector's annual meeting authority. The moderator used the term "straw vote." The motion was seconded by Mike Folstad. The full text of the motion reads: 1. Express a vote of no confidence in Alan Overland's and Tony Bahktiari's continued service on the Board of Supervisors and formally request their resignations from the Board of Supervisors.

#2. Direct the Board of Supervisors of Windemere Township to repeal and rescind the Township's zoning ordinances adopted under Minn. Stat. Chapter 462 and to take all necessary steps to relinquish township zoning authority so that zoning jurisdiction returns to Pine County. #3. Direct that no additional Township funds or resources be allocated or expended for the administration, enforcement, or defense of the Township's zoning authority under Minn. Stat. Chapter 462, except as necessary to comply with existing legal obligations, pending action by the Board to repeal the Township's zoning ordinances. #4. Formally request that Pine County administer zoning and land-use regulation within Windemere Township if township zoning authority is relinquished by the Board. #5. Direct the Board of Supervisors of Windemere Township to follow the recommendations of the Office of the State Auditor contained in the OSA's February 2, 2026 letter to the Board of Supervisors in response to the OSA's findings that the Township had failed to follow proper bidding and contracting procedures, and had improperly delegated the Board's contracting power to a single Town employee or a single Town Board member.

John Menke commented opposing #1 and expressed support for the balance of the motion.

Alan Overland commented opposing the entire motion expressing displeasure with the misleading statements and ongoing animosity. He stated the supervisors always do their best for township while accepting complaints from groups that strongly disagree. Nobody believes you can please everyone, always.

Straw vote taken. Motion passed.

ROAD REPORT:

Road Manager Vern Anderson II gave Road Report. Report reviewed contracting procedures previously approved by the Board with direct negotiation if estimated under \$25,000; requiring quotes over \$25,000 up to \$175,000 and bidding procedures if the work is estimated \$175,000 or more. 16 major road projects were completed in 2025 including 18 miles of calcium chloride to control dust and reduce the cost of grading; 7 new culverts installed; beaver fence systems were installed; Sturgeon Island bridge work was completed and 9,800 feet of cracks were filled. Planned 2026 projects include replacing over 300 traffic signs, some added culvert repair, and ongoing road maintenance. Full report can be found on the township website.

ZONING REPORT:

Alan Overland read the zoning report prepared by WSB Engineering, our contracted zoning department. In 2025 WSB handled 210 phone contacts, 219 email conversations, 10 enforcement actions and several variance reviews. Also, completed processing and approval of Windemere Roads subdivision. Current work includes the combined Shoreland and Non-Shoreland zoning ordinances in compliance with county and DNR requirements. The Short-Term Rental ordinance application process was rolled out with 15 applications received to date. This report will also be posted on the township website.

FIRE REPORT:

The Fire District update can be found on their website and Facebook page.

MLWSSD REPORT:

Paula Engstrom reported two personnel changes during the year. Longtime board member Bruce Lourey passed away, and his seat was replaced by Steve Aldrin representing Moose Lake Township. Darla Hall, longtime executive director retired and was replaced by Brian Fritsinger an independent contractor. Contract negotiations continue between the town of Moose Lake and the District. New permits are restricted due to a moratorium. Sand Lake Resort (DSLRL) did negotiate with Moose Lake for added capacity required in order for its project to begin in the fall of 2026. Full 2025 update will be posted with the district's annual meeting minutes.

2027 WINDEMERE TOWNSHIP LEVY:

Clerk-Treasurer Paul Horgen presented a summary of the pre-annual meeting Board of Audit. A complete financial analysis to show the impact of levies will be posted on the township website. On February 26, 2026, the town board passed a unanimous motion recommending the 2027 levy of \$500,000. This is an increase of 25% over the \$400,000 2026 levy. John Menke made a motion to approve the \$500,000 levy for 2027, seconded by Katherine Green. After discussion from the electorate, a vote was taken. Motion passed at 8:05pm.

2027 ANNUAL MEETING:

Motion made by John Menke, seconded by Amy Perrine, to hold the 2027 Windemere Township Annual Meeting on Township Day, March 9th, 2027, beginning at 6:30 PM at Holy Angels Catholic Church at 60 Hartman Drive, Moose Lake, MN 55767. Vote taken. Motion passed.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Mary Knutson, seconded by Kade Danelski to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. A vote was taken. Motion Passed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

MODERATOR:

Clerk-Treasurer

Scott Danelski