REGULAR MEETING

**June 5, 2025**

**Aurora, Minnesota**

***The Regular Meeting of the Town of White was called to order by Vice-Chairman Edward Kippley at 5:10 P.M., on Thursday, June 5, 2025, at the City/Town Government Center.***

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Supervisors-Anttila, Kippley; Clerk-Knaus, Treasurer Gross; Foreman-Niemi; Attorney – Kearney

Absent: Jon Skelton

Also Present: Chad Skelton, Kari Pechacek, Gyle Swentik, Mike Skinner, Dean Mineheine

**1. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WHICH INCLUDED TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES ON MAY 8, 2025 AND SPECIAL MEETING ON MAY 20, 2025; ALL BILLS AND PAYROLL AS PRESENTED BELOW, COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE TO BE FILED FOR MAY 2025. MOTION CARRIED**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Check#** | **Vendor** | **Description** | **Total** |
| CC05-02-25 | Cardmember Service | Supplies, Travel Expenses | $ 760.30 |
| 36082 | East Mesabi Sanitation | Refuse Collection APR 2025 | $ 12,250.24 |
| 36083 | CTC | Town Office Phone APR 2025 | $ 236.28 |
| 36084 | St. Louis County Sheriff's Office | Civil Service: Return of Property Letter | $ 75.00 |
| 36085 | Zito Media | PW Telephone & Internet | $ 206.17 |
| 36086 | XZ3772001 | HCSP Reimbursement | $ 1,054.98 |
| D05-14-25 | Empower | Employee Deductions 5/14/25 | $ 450.00 |
| DD05142501 | Payroll Period Ending 05/10/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 05/10/25 | $ 1,511.62 |
| DD05142502 | Payroll Period Ending 05/10/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 05/10/25 | $ 2,178.98 |
| DD05142503 | Payroll Period Ending 05/10/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 05/10/25 | $ 1,903.28 |
| DD05142504 | Payroll Period Ending 05/10/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 05/10/25 | $ 1,914.22 |
| DD05142505 | Payroll Period Ending 05/10/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 05/10/25 | $ 2,006.34 |
| DD05142506 | Payroll Period Ending 05/10/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 05/10/25 | $ 2,348.02 |
| DD05142507 | Payroll Period Ending 05/10/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 05/10/25 | $ 2,187.35 |
| DD05142508 | Payroll Period Ending 05/10/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 05/10/25 | $ 1,447.11 |
| DD05142509 | Payroll Period Ending 05/10/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 05/10/25 | $ 1,852.58 |
| F05-14-25 | E.F.T.P.S. | Payroll Deductions PPE 5/14/25 | $ 6,002.41 |
| M05-14-25 | MN Department of Revenue | Employee Deductions 5/14/25 | $ 1,163.23 |
| P05-14-25 | P.E.R.A. | PPE 5/14/25 Deductions | $ 3,574.05 |
| 63436 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 528.08 |
| DD05272501 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 88.55 |
| DD05272502 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 500.49 |
| DD05272504 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 246.23 |
| DD05272505 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 325.07 |
| DD05272506 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 226.52 |
| DD05272507 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 157.53 |
| DD05272508 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 490.63 |
| DD05272509 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 137.82 |
| DD05272510 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 14.71 |
| DD05272511 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 384.20 |
| DD05272512 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 21.68 |
| DD05272513 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 137.82 |
| DD05272514 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 707.44 |
| DD05272515 | Payroll Period Ending 04/28/2025 | FD March & April Monthly Payroll | $ 137.82 |
| FD05-27-25 | E.F.T.P.S. FD | Withholding Tax | $ 124.82 |
| 36087 | St. Louis County Assoc. of Townships | Annual Meeting | $ 50.00 |
| D05-28-25 | Empower | Employee Deductions 5/28/25 | $ 450.00 |
| DD05282501 | Payroll Period Ending 05/24/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 5/24/2025 | $ 1,466.09 |
| DD05282502 | Payroll Period Ending 05/24/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 5/24/2025 | $ 73.88 |
| DD05282503 | Payroll Period Ending 05/24/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 5/24/2025 | $ 2,317.28 |
| DD05282504 | Payroll Period Ending 05/24/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 5/24/2025 | $ 1,868.28 |
| DD05282505 | Payroll Period Ending 05/24/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 5/24/2025 | $ 1,938.71 |
| DD05282506 | Payroll Period Ending 05/24/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 5/24/2025 | $ 2,107.46 |
| DD05282507 | Payroll Period Ending 05/24/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 5/24/2025 | $ 1,994.90 |
| DD05282508 | Payroll Period Ending 05/24/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 5/24/2025 | $ 2,317.65 |
| DD05282509 | Payroll Period Ending 05/24/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 5/24/2025 | $ 1,412.11 |
| DD05282510 | Payroll Period Ending 05/24/2025 | Regular Payroll Ending 5/24/2025 | $ 1,879.41 |
| F05-28-25 | E.F.T.P.S. | Payroll Deductions PPE 5/28/25 | $ 6,065.92 |
| M05-28-25 | MN Department of Revenue | Employee Deductions 5/28/25 | $ 1,171.90 |
| P05-28-25 | P.E.R.A. | PPE 5/28/25 Deductions | $ 3,593.18 |
| ST05-28-25 | MN Dept of Revenue - Sales Tax | Sales Tax - APR 2025 | $ 1,547.08 |
| 36088 | League of MN Cities Insurance Trust | Worker's Compensation Insurance | $ 22,021.00 |
| 36089 | Auto Value | Tubing, Fuel Fleet, Air Exhaust Muffler | $ 166.45 |
| 36090 | Bradach Lumber | Shop Supplies | $ 27.76 |
| 36091 | Biss Lock, Inc. | LLCC Kitchen Door Lock & Install | $ 1,204.00 |
| 36092 | Aurora, City of | Shredding, Plumbing @ Town Hall | $ 258.06 |
| 36093 | Central Pension Fund | Retirement Contributions May 25 | $ 4,176.00 |
| 36094 | Ehlers | 2025 Financial Mgmt Plan | $ 147.50 |
| 36095 | Excel Business Systems | Copier Contract | $ 179.67 |
| 36096 | Edwards Oil | Brass Padlocks for Shop | $ 671.76 |
| 36097 | Fred Faust | Bit, Grease Coupler | $ 65.42 |
| 36098 | Hoyt Lakes, City of | Ambulance Agreement May 2025 | $ 1,200.00 |
| 36099 | I.U.O.E. Local 49 Fringe Benefits | July 2025 Group Insurance | $ 14,085.00 |
| 36100 | KB Plumbing & Heating | AC Issue at PW Garage | $ 565.00 |
| 36101 | Knaus, Jodi | Cell Phone & Expenses | $ 85.00 |
| 36102 | Lundgren Motors, Inc. | 2019 F350 back tail light | $ 225.84 |
| 36103 | Lake Country Power | Electric Service | $ 3,429.00 |
| 36104 | L & M Fleet Supply, Inc. | weedkiller, batteries, spring water | $ 111.51 |
| 36105 | MN State Patrol, CMV | Vehicle Decals 2025 | $ 40.00 |
| 36106 | Menard's-Virginia | Supplies | $ 50.77 |
| 36107 | Minnesota Power | Lift Station | $ 122.82 |
| 36108 | Minnesota Power | Lift Station | $ 27.71 |
| 36109 | Minnesota Power | Street Lighting | $ 229.13 |
| 36110 | Madison National Life Ins Co, Inc | LTD/STD June 2025 | $ 364.68 |
| 36111 | RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc | Water Testing | $ 62.70 |
| 36112 | Colosimo, Patchin, & Kearney, LTD | Legal Retainer | $ 465.00 |
| 36113 | PeopleService Inc. | June 25 W/WW Professional Services | $ 735.00 |
| 36114 | Portable John | Toilets Rental | $ 497.91 |
| 36115 | Paramount Safety & Training | Fire Extinguishers Maint. & 10 Ext. | $ 1,277.71 |
| 36116 | Amanda Gross | May Cell Phone Stipend | $ 50.00 |
| 36117 | Niemi, Clark | Cell Phone | $ 50.00 |
| 36118 | Postmaster | PO Box Rent Fee | $ 120.00 |
| 36119 | East Range Times | Advertising | $ 660.00 |
| 36120 | Range Paper | Cleaning Supplies | $ 309.99 |
| 36121 | St. Louis County Auditor-PW | April 2025 Fuel | $ 2,321.86 |
| 36122 | VC3 | May 2025 Contract; Teams Essentials | $ 248.50 |
| 36123 | A1 Services, Inc. | Pumping Holding Tank | $ 195.00 |
| 36124 | Town of White Petty Cash Fund | Postage | $ 149.54 |
| 36125 | Vision Pro Optical | HCSP Payment | $ 719.72 |
| 36126 | XZ7617518 | Health Care Medical Reimbursement | $ 435.86 |
| 36127 | Amanda Gross | 2025 Clothing Allowance | $ 155.88 |
| 36128 | Linde Gas & Equipment Inc. | Welding Supplies/Services | $ 277.85 |
| 36129 | Anttila, Craig | Travel Expenses | $ 178.40 |
| 63437 | MN NCPERS | Life Insurance Employee Paid | $ 32.00 |
| 63438 | I.U.O.E. Local 49 | Union Dues MAY 2025 | $ 315.00 |
| 63439 | Minnesota Life Insurance Company | Employee/Employer Insurance | $ 202.30 |
| 63440 | Colonial Life | May 25 Employee Deductions | $ 537.42 |
| 63441 | Palo Firemen’s Benefit Association | Good Will Fund Donations Feb, March, April 2025 | $ 200.00 |
| DD05302501 | Payroll Period Ending 05/30/2025 | May 2025 Monthly Payroll | $ 444.93 |
| DD05302502 | Payroll Period Ending 05/30/2025 | May 2025 Monthly Payroll | $ 257.55 |
| DD05302503 | Payroll Period Ending 05/30/2025 | May 2025 Monthly Payroll | $ 344.93 |
| DD05302504 | Payroll Period Ending 05/30/2025 | May 2025 Monthly Payroll | $ 386.32 |
| DD05302505 | Payroll Period Ending 05/30/2025 | May 2025 Monthly Payroll | $ 472.43 |
| F05-30-25 | E.F.T.P.S. Monthly | Employee Deductions | $ 217.24 |
| M05-30-25 | MN Department of Revenue Monthly | Employee Withholding | $ 48.22 |
| P05-30-25 | P.E.R.A. Monthly | Retirement Deductions | $ 251.50 |
|  |  | **TOTAL** | **$ 139,680.26** |
|  |  |  |  |

**2. THE TREASURER’S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2025, LISTED RECEIPTS IN THE AMOUNT OF $11,725.43:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Election Training Reimb. – City of Aurora  Garbage Bag Revenue  Refuse Revenue  LLCC Rental Fees  Cemetery Lot Sale  Open Gym Fees  Twin Lakes Rent | 22.00  611.00  838.85  2,220.00  2,500.00  160.00  700.00 |
| Interest Earned | 4,673.58 |
| **TOTAL** | **$11,725.43** |

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER’S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2025 RECEIPTS AS READ. MOTION CARRIED**

**3. CITIZENS/GUESTS**:

* Petrina Rhines – Haus/Birch Group presented about Housing Development opportunities in Pineville and affordable, sustainable, earth friendly housing on the East Range. From 2022-2027, 35+ new homes are needed and 59% of the housing stock needs to be updated. They offer zero energy ready homes – called net positive homes. They have partnerships with MN North College and Iron Range Engineering as part of their Program. A field trip can be arranged in the future to their facility. An MOU would be needed to proceed along with a future presentation which would give more details.
* Gyle Swentik – There are continual traffic problems at the Shooting Range facility. ATV’s are causing damage to the roads. A shared trail would be ideal. The club wants to curb the traffic and slow it down. Signs are posted. The ATV club and public need to know it is Town of White property and this is trespassing. The members of the Club only manage the property.

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY DIRCTING SWENTIK ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD TO ATTEND THE ATV MEETING AND SHARE INFORMATION, INCLUIDNG A LETTER WRIITEN BY THE OFFICE STAFF, TO BRING WITH TO THE MEETING TO WORK TOGETHER TO CURTAIL USAGE, PROTECT PROPERTY, AND THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE TO ISSUE TRESSPASSING NOTICES. MOTION CARRIED**

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

4.1 Timber Harvest Sale – down payment was received. Land will be cleared in the next year.

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.2 Fire Department – Quotes were received from three vendors out of the emails sent to local companies for the Fire Hall deconstruction and demolition. Sewer backflow is still tabled. Fire Hall has contents which need to be removed. Office location of Chief was discussed. An application was received from Abigail Larson. Equipment is not returned from Joe Mikulich. Skinner indicated the Baudek’s want the hydrant blocked off as they are having trouble with tresspassers and the hydrant is on their private property.

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO TABLE REVIEWING THE QUOTES RECEIVED FROM LOCAL VENDORS FOR DECONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION OF THE FIRE HALL. MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY DIRECTING STAFF TO CONTACT VENDORS FOR ELECTRICAL, INTERNET, AND POWER TO GET DISCONNECTED. MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING AT THE PUBLIC WORKS LOCATION ON THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025 AT 5:00 P.M. TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW THE QUOTES RECEIVED FOR DECONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION, REMOVAL OF ITEMS IN THE FIRE HALL, RESALE OF ITEMS, AND OFFICE AND STORAGE SPACE FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF AND EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS BUDGET FOR ALL OF THESE TASKS. MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY APPROVING THE HYDRANT TO STAY AT THE LOCATION ON THE PRIVATE BAUDEK PROPERTY AND FOR PUBLIC WORKS TO BERM AND GATE OFF THE AREA WITH THE BAUDEK’S GIVING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT A KEY TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ACCESS TO THE HYDRANT AND EXPENSES TO BE PAID OUT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET. MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY APPROVING THE HIRE OF ABIGAIL LARSON TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTINGENT UPON FIRE DEPARTMENT APPROVAL, PASSING THE BACKGROUND CHECK AND PHYSICAL AND DRUG SCREENING. MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY APPROVING THE HIRE OF A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR TO DELIVER AND SERVE UPON JOSEPH MIKULICH FOR RETURN OF TOWNSHIP PROPERTY. MOTION CARRIED**

4.3 Joint Water Project - Project is moving along nicely. Aurora will be applying for financing through a Capital budget request and has provided the City’s resolution for review and approval.

**IT WAS MOVED BY KIPPLEY, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA APPROVING THE CITY OF AURORA TO APPLY FOR THE 2026 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE EAST RANGE WATER PROJECT. MOTION CARRIED**

4.4 LLCC Deed/Legal – deeds are signed and filed so this can be removed from agenda.

4.5 LLCC Facility Long-term plan - no new updates

4.6 LLCC Energy Efficiency Grant Application – pending status for grant award. Widseth quote for updating the 2012 plan is $9,500.00

4.7 2023 Curve Realignments – No new updates. Office staff need to go to Court House to find out what has been filed by the attorneys and in the past and get the new updates recorded.

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY DIRECTING KNAUS AND GROSS TO CLOSE THE OFFICE ONE DAY IN THE FUTURE AND GO TO ST. LOUIS COUNTY OFFICES TO DISCUSS WITH STAFF ALL OF THE ROAD UPDATES AND GET THE LEGAL UPDATES FILED PROPERLY AND TO GO TO ANDREW CAMERA AND ORDER THE HISTROIC PHOTOS. MOTION CARRIED**

4.8 Ehler’s Long-Range Planning Financial Proposal – Knaus and Gross will be meeting with Ehler’s on June 11, 2025 via Zoom technology to get updates on the plan.

**IT WAS MOVED BY KIPPLEY, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.9 LCCMR grant - submitted and waiting for results of application

**IT WAS MOVED BY KIPPLEY, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.10 1/1/26 Garbage Collection Fee of $120.00 Implementation – will be posted on website and notices in East Range Times as the date gets closer to communicate with citizens.

**IT WAS MOVED BY KIPPLEY, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.11 June 18th Emergency – FEMA reimbursement updates – Niemi and Knaus continue to work with FEMA agents.

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.12 Measbi Trail Extension Project – Shared trail is still a want/need.

**IT WAS MOVED BY KIPPLEY, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

5.1 Dust Control Bid for 2025

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF DUST CONTROL FOR UP TO $24,000.00. MOTION CARRIED**

5.2 Mediacom Franchise Extension Request – Ordinance Discussion -

**IT WAS MOVED BY KIPPLEY, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED.**

5.3 St. Louis County – Fire Protection Contract for 2026

**IT WAS MOVED BY KIPPLEY, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO THE June 12, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED**

5.4 Ochs – Life Insurance, short-term & Long-term Open Enrollment & Rates Notice was reviewed

5.5 RAMS BBQ Invite-Monday, June 30, 2025 was reviewed

5.6 MN State Demographic Household Estimate for 2024 was reviewed

**6. REPORTS:**

Clerk’s Report:

1. The East Range Times is an official legal newspaper and is now listed on the State’s website
2. Supervisor Kippley and I attended the East Range Summit held at Giants Ridge on Monday, June 2, 2025 and it was a great event. Some take-away statements from Ben Winchester from the University of MN Extension Office and Carson Gorecki, the Regional Labor Market Analyst for Northeast Minnesota:

* The region needs to be in a Resident Recruitment State and as a society we are returning to multi-generational housing
* Death brings re-birth in a community and transfer of wealth from one generation to the next
* 1 out of 23 people need to serve in a non-profit group for them to continue
* Housing stock is present – the problem is senior citizens are not moving out of their large homes like they used too; there is no “move over” housing available for them to go (downsizing, patio homes);
* 12% of the residents in the Township live and work in the Township
* 21% of the households today work remotely
* We need to think regionally for offerings
* Communities should offer talent pipelines through community education

1. Reminder: Amanda and I will be gone June 25th (afternoon) through June 27th attending the League of MN Cities Annual Conference so the office will be closed during that time.
2. The office will also be closed Thursday, June 19, 2025 due to the holiday
3. The Culture & Tourism Grant through IRRRB will be applied for at the end of the month (open July 1, 2025)
4. The first farmer’s market is being held this Friday, June 6th at the Loon Lake Community Center after morning coffee. These will continue through the summer.

On-going Projects & Pending Items not discussed:

* Franchise Fees for Power & Utilities (fiber) – on agenda for June 2025
* Road Vacation Filings for the Road Realignments in 2023

**IT WAS MOVED BY KIPPLEY, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO FILE THE CLERK’S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED**

Foreman

Culverts, mowing, burials, and graveling of roads. PeopleService conducted flushing and we have two curb stops and a few hydrants are bad which need to be replaced.

Supervisors:

Anttila - Thanks to the crew, Clark, Jodi, and Amanda for all the good work!

Kippley – Things looks good and jobs are getting done. Funding shortage is a dissappointment and the Township is struggling to meet the same goals of last year.

**7. TRAINING REQUESTS & MEETING NOTICES**: None

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, July 10, 2025 5:00 P.M. @ City/Town Government Center; East Range Water Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 4:30 P.M. @ City/Town Government Center; ERJPB Meeting: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 9:00 AM @ City/Town Government Center; Special Meeting Quarterly Fire Department: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 5:00 P.M. @ City/Town Government Center; Special Meeting: Thursday, June 12, 2025 5:00 P.M. @ Public Works Garage; MAT District Meeting: Thursday, August 28, 2025 5:00 P.M. Grand Lake Town Hall, Saginaw, MN;

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AT 8:09 P.M. MOTION CARRIED**

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**Jodi Knaus, Clerk Jon Skelton, Chairman**