Goodwell Minutes June 25, 2025

- ♦ Tim M. called meeting to order 7:00 pm, meeting was recorded:
 - ★ Tim M., Rachel B., Bob B., Greg O., and Jennifer W. present.
 - Y Public:

Alec & Kasey DakinJeremy RusilowskiJoe Wozniak

Jon Schula
 Kelly Ross
 Joan & Roger Mollema

Christopher GingerichRyan FastDakota RossBrian Decheney

- Pledge of Allegiance recited.
- Email was sent out with minutes from May 28, 2025. Bob motioned to accept the minutes, Greg 2nd, passed. Minutes posted to the township website.
- Rachel: **Treasurer's report** as of June 25, 2025:
 - ** Have \$282,926.98 total. Payments were \$19,165.93. Payments to D&B Brine for brining (\$6,270.00) and to Acrisure Great Lakes Partners Insurance for insurance (\$3,309.00) are the largest payments. Revenue was \$22,042.92. We did get the LCSA payout. In reviewing the budget numbers, only \$15,000.00 was expected from this, so the overage will not be as great as expected for the budget in light of LCSA now being disbursed correctly. Jennifer motioned to accept treasurer's report as presented and pay bills. Greg 2nd, roll call, passed.
- Public Comment: Christopher (BPFD)
 - ★ 21 runs:
 - Fire runs: 4 structure (1 Goodwell, 1 Big Prairie, 2 mutual aid), 2 downed power lines (1 outside area), 3 grass fire (1 Goodwell, 2 Big Prairie), 1 storm detail (tornado).
 - ⇒ 9 medical (2 in Goodwell)
 - Fraining was: driver's training set up a course. To be set as a driver there is a certain number of driving hours required, other training was cleaning the station. Trucks are inspected monthly, DOT has annual inspection, no boat course yet.

Bob: Zoning report:

- 1 zone application: pool John Meidema. The County requires a zoning application and electrical inspection. 3 other ongoing (pending) Greg Olson for an addition. Pine a pole barn. Waiting for resident to get back. 4 Mile addition to house. Drawing does not satisfy set-backs. Waiting for resident to get back with changes.
- * Working on houses with issues of junk vehicles/blight. Baseline property has some removal of vehicles. Have heard they got hold of someone to take down the house.
- **♦** Planning report:
 - ★ No meeting. Next meeting July 15th.
- ♦ Jennifer: Clerk's Report
 - ★ Jennifer handed in a letter of resignation, effective December 31, 2025. This gives time to find and train a clerk. Bob motioned to accept Jennifer's resignation as of December 31, 2025, Greg 2nd, passed.
 - Goodwell Clerk email address and the Township mailing address changes have been updated to all but a few places. It will take time to get the correct method of updating the remaining places.
 - Audit Completed what could so far be done. The Internal Control Systems Documentation questionnaire shows that the Township will need to review procedures and documentation. The sexton duties documentation is updated to reflect that the position is self-scheduled. At this time Goodwell Township does not have any positions that have scheduled hours which would qualify as meeting the Earned Sick Time definition of an employee. Jennifer will be checking with Gabridge to see what policies are necessary (we do not have capital asset policy, credit card policy, electronic payment policy, fund balance policy, purchasing policy).
 - ★ Budget: Board members were given budget reports. No line items needing review.
 - The to resigning prior to the next expected election, Jennifer will not be completing the required continuing education for election.
 - * Cemetery: The Cook family had Goodwell set up for a burial on Sunday, but called Sunday to say they did not do the burial (cremains) but did fill in the hole. They are working through the extended Cook family

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plots re-deeding. They will be charged for the uncompleted burial. One proposed option by the Cook family was to allow any Cook relation to have any spot until there are no more. The Board is not willing to leave the township open to the complications that option allows. The family will have to follow the current process of each sibling writing a letter (letters if needed) showing agreement to the same person to be named to (a) specific site(s).

- Discussed green burials and what it might look like. No interest in having an unkempt cemetery. The State will be making regulations so there will be very little the Township is allowed to decide so tabling any discussion until State regulations are set.
- Kelly Ross and Dakota Ross discussed the headstone bench they would like to place at her parents' sites. Jennifer motioned to allow bench memorial markers as monuments, Greg 2nd, passed. The bench is considered a monument and is to abide by the monument rules.
- Yellinifer hopes to have the cemetery ordinance amendment proposal completed by the July meeting. This will include updates to: re-deeding (Goodwell will re-deed any transfers, changes to owners, to have the owner have a deed), what amount is paid when a site is sold back to the Township (the original price paid), the process for open sites where the owner is deceased, encouraging naming a next-owner for any excess site owned, review the monument description to keep size and placement to the site(s) they are for.
- The current phase of retention (more records were discovered in file cabinets) is almost complete. The shredding will happen mid-July, the assessor took any assessment documents she feels could be kept, any garbage was purged at Clean-up day, the Historical Library will take the historical documents, and the Clerk has the documents to be retained.

Old Business:

* PPT/LCSA Reimbursement – Goodwell has distributed the most recent LCSA payment in the manner the State detailed in documentation. This will continue for any future payments received. So far the State has not made anyone repay the payments. They had no understanding of what any township has done as a process to repay.

♦ New Business:

- Metro Act. since PPT was misunderstood we are checking into other payments. No documentation on Metro Act payments distribution. Rachel and Jennifer will continue to trace.
- ** Pre-approved expenses list. Jennifer explained this list will show the auditors the expenses that are paid (who and description), the methods used to approve payments, the method of payment, and expected amounts. Many (maximum) amounts; 1) are set in the budget approved prior to the fiscal year beginning, 2) have estimates (approved in meeting to accept), 3) are regular payments for annual/monthly dues/costs (prior payment + an acceptable increase), or 4) are required by government (tax payments) which there is no refusing to pay. The Board will review and then vote to accept this list at the next meeting. This list will become a part of the budget review so any needed changes are noted and voted on just like the budget.
- Income and future budget issues. The LCSA payments are expected to be stopped, which will greatly impact the financial stability of the Township. The concept of the State is understood to be pushing the taxation to the local level. The current assessor's pay is much lower than average. Some townships pay 60% of their budget to the assessor. Each area needs training. There was discussion on possible fees for admin. expenses and cemetery costs. Also, what to not provide (brining, clean-up day). The Board is looking for and asking for ideas

Public Comment:

- ≸ Jeremy 2 Mile was brined, but it shortly looked like it wasn't. The road has a lot of clay which causes the brine not to stick. The other roads have done better. We did try it, but it does not seem worth it.
- A Dakin against raising taxes. PPT/LCSA cuts are not officially made. Cut clean-up day and brining. Get grants. Grants take a lot of time and understanding.
- ★ Joan Mollema A neighbor on E Wilderness Trail is decimating the easement to the point emergency vehicles my not be able to get to the houses beyond. He has placed stumps, rocks, animal parts, etc. in the path and work to make it that no one is allowed to go down the road. They are currently pursuing civil litigation. Tim will call the County Sherrif Department and go view the situation. The information does show this as an easement, but it is private property. The County Road Commission may be of help.

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- ♦ Board Comments: The Board is looking for a Clerk.
 ♦ Greg motioned to adjourn, Bob 2nd, passed. Meeting ended 8:44 pm.
- Next meetings:
 - ★ Planning meeting July 15th, 7pm
 - Township meeting Juli 30th, 7pm

