

BAY LAKE TOWNSHIP
2025 ANNUAL MEETING
BAY LAKE TOWN HALL BUILDING
MARCH 10, 2026

The Annual meeting of the Township was called to order at 8:30 pm by Carol Pundt, clerk. 15 voters were in attendance. Don Hales attended by Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carol Pundt.

Nominations for a moderator were opened. A motion was made by Becky Miller and seconded by David Pundt to nominate Justin Smith as moderator. David Pundt asked for all nominations to cease. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by David Pundt and seconded by Becky Miller to approve the agenda. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The March 11, 2025, Annual Meeting Minutes were read by Carol Pundt, clerk. A motion was made by David Pundt and seconded by Becky Miller to approve the amended minutes to include a change in the cost of the second and third rows of the columbarium niches to \$1,250.00. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mindy Tix presented the Treasurer's Report. Year ending balance for 2025 was \$785,432.63. A motion was made by Ruth Ann Wefeld and seconded by David Punt to approve the treasurer's report. The question was asked by Brian Sudman regarding the larger amount of monies in the bank at year end in 2025 versus the end of 2024. Carol Pundt answered the question by saying less monies were spent on roads in anticipation of a large road improvement project in 2026

Fire Contract: The Township is requesting a total of \$90,000 for both the Fire Contract services in 2027. Deerwood Fire Department serves the North half of the Township. Garrison Fire Department serves the South half of the Township. The stats for services provided by the City of Garrison Fire department are included in the annual report handout packet. A question was asked as where the line is drawn in the Township for the North half and the South half for fire protection. Don Hales explained the house to the North of him is protected by the Deerwood Fire Department. This line goes straight across the Township. Both Fire Departments call upon each other if additional help is needed. Which is called mutual aid.

Road Report: The Township Board of Supervisors is requesting \$320,000 for the 2027 Levy Road and Bridge Fund. A 2025 road summary report was included in the Annual meeting packet. Don Hales reviewed the summary with those in attendance. Maintaining the roads includes snow plowing, crack filling, brushing, etc. Road Improvements are where the Township updates an existing road. Last year the Township spent \$194,000 on road maintenance and \$0 on road improvements. The Township does a Spring and Fall Road inspection. Out of 32 miles of road in the Township only two roads are gravel. All other roads are paved. The Township Supervisors will be looking at roads in the Township that need asphalt repair at the Spring Road inspection. During the Spring and Fall Road inspections the roads are graded. In 2026 the Township in conjunction with Crow Wing Highway Department will be reclaiming Woodland Beach Road (center), Esden Road, Wakeman Road (with a small cul-de-sac at the end) and the Township Building parking lot. The Township will be trimming these roads before construction starts. By coordinating with the Crow Wing County the Township is saving anywhere from \$30,000 to \$35,000 or

even maybe a little bit more. Crow Wing County will notify the Township when the road work will be begin, hopefully in June. A speed study was done on Round Lake Road by MNDOT last summer which resulted in a speed limit change on the road to 35mph. The Township will be looking at additional roads that may need to have speed limit changes. Only MNDOT can make changes to the speed limit on Township roads.

Cemetery Report: The Board is requesting \$0 for the 2027 Levy. The 2025-year end amount for the Cemetery Fund was \$37,884.31. In 2026 the amount levied is \$0. Justin Smith included a cemetery report in the annual meeting packet which was handed out to everyone in attendance. The columbarium installation project was completed in 2024. Justin Smith reported to those in attendance, there were 3 lots sold in the new section of the cemetery in 2025. There were 2 burials in the new section and 1 burial in the old section of the cemetery in 2025. 5 niches were sold in the columbarium in 2025. Pricing for niches are: top row-\$1,500; two middle rows -\$1,250; bottom row - \$1,000. Each niche can hold up to 2 cremains. The columbarium extends the burial sites in the cemetery for 16 years. Cremations have become a popular option for burials. The current cost for a cemetery lot is \$300.00. Justin Smith is the Cemetery Recorder and Cemetery Sexton for the Township.

Levy: The Township Board of Supervisors are requesting a levy for \$625,000 for 2027. The bulk of the levy monies is spent on the Township roads and fire fighting protection. The request to levy \$0 for the Cemetery Fund is because there are enough monies in the fund to pay for unexpected expenses.

2027 Levy Summary

General Fund	\$215,000
Road & Bridge Fund	\$320,000
Deerwood Fire Fund	\$ 50,000
Garrison Fire Fund	\$ 40,000
Cemetery Fund	\$ 0
Total	\$625,000

A motion was made by Brian Sudman seconded by Jill Mertes to approve the 2026 levy of \$625,000. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Deerwood Bank is the depository for Bay Lake Township.

The posting sites in the Township will be the Town Hall and Hansen's store. The Township website also has public information postings, but the website is not an official posting site. It is reasonably up to date but, there have been situations in the past when the updates cannot be done in a timely manner.

The Crosby Courier and the News Hopper are the official publication sites for Bay Lake Township. The Brainerd Dispatch will be used for short term Public Notifications and the contract bidding process.

The Monthly Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. unless posted otherwise. The meeting schedule is posted on the Township website.

A motion was made by Dean Hansen and seconded by Ruth Ann Wefeld to have the poll hours for Annual Township elections from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Bay Lake Town Hall. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Brian Sudman and seconded by Lynn Hansen to start the Bay Lake Township Annual Meeting at 8:30 p.m. following the Township election at the Bay Lake Town Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Donations: Jill Mertes presented to those in attendance a request for an operation funding donation for the Jesse Hallett Memorial Library which is located in Crosby Minnesota and serves 163 active library card holders in Bay Lake Township. The library board is working to raise \$20,000 in addition to the \$119,649 levied by the City of Crosby for operating expenses. RuthAnn Wefeld told those in attendance she appreciates the service the library provides. Meeting rooms are available at the library at no charge. Lynn Hansen told those in attendance the library has many educational opportunities. It is important to support the library. The story hour for children is important. Jill Mertes read a letter from Abby Smith. Many letters and emails were received by the Township in support of the library. Jill Mertes told those in attendance the Library Board in conjunction with the Crosby City Council has decided to charge \$20.00 a year to each non-resident individual library card holder if the Township does not make a donation expense of \$3,260.00 for the library fund.

It was also discussed that the Library did not receive the \$1,500.00 from Bay Lake Township last year. The Bay Lake Township Board made the motion as an expense which needed a bill from the Library in order to make a payment. There was miscommunication regarding the need for a bill from the Library so the payment was never made.

There was discussion by those in attendance on whether any donation request for the Hallett Memorial Library would be for a public purpose and in the Town's best interest as described in MN Statute 134.12.

A motion was made by Jill Mertes and seconded by Becky Miller to request a donation from the Township to meet or exceed the \$1,500.00 from 2025. 15 yes votes 1 no vote. Motion passed.

Bay Lake Township belongs to the Minnesota Townships Association. The Minnesota Townships Association has interpreted the MN State Statute regarding Township donations as a contribution that must have a public purpose and be in the town's interest. The Township Board will be reviewing donation requests at the April Board meeting.

The results for the election were read by Carol Pundt, Clerk -

Supervisor 3/yr Term: John Enright - 37 votes

Michael Bickford - 2 votes

Clerk/2yr Term: Carol Pundt - 44 votes

Michael Bickford - 1 vote

45 people voted.

Other Business To Come Before The Board:

A motion was made by David Pundt and seconded by Mindy Tix to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

These minutes were reviewed by:

Carol Pundt, Clerk, Bay Lake Township

Justin Smith, Moderator

