

ECKLES TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES – March 11, 2026

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Mel Milender at 7:20 pm. Supervisors Beth Hendricks, Darren Bumgardner, Cory Wilson, Deb Norton, treasurer, Deb Larson, clerk, Colleen Oestreich were present. Sup. Milender led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Others present:** John Schocker, Dale Wilson, Gary Coen, Don Wilson, Mary Lou Milender

**Agenda Review**– no changes

**Consent Agenda** –2/10/26 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; Claims 7013-7024, CO Reimbursement, EFT = \$26,402.39 Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Bumgardner to approve. M/C

**Records Retention** – Clerk, Oestreich provided board with an update. Sup. Wilson assisted with the review of the road’s records/maps. Record gaps exist for tax records 2020-2023 & 2025. Green file cabinet is excess. Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Bumgardner to dispose as is appropriate. M/C Clerk will order a bulletin board for posters and a lock mechanism has been ordered for recently purchased file cabinet. One banker’s box is ready for archive. Motion by Sup. Bumgardner, second by Sup. Norton to archive at State Historical Society. M/C

**2026 Assessor Agreement** – Motion by Sup. Norton, second by Sup. Bumgardner to approve agreement in the amount of \$15,938. M/C

**2025 Outstanding Indebtedness Report** – Jodee Treat requested report from clerk. Clerk completed. In future, Treasurer will complete.

**Treasurers Report** – Deb Larson provided a status summary of accounts.

**Woodcrest Rd Petition** – Clerk has obtained the deeds from the 72 parcels. Attorney, Mike Couric reviewed signatures obtained & rejected some. Current accepted signatures cover approximately 40% of the 72 parcels. Clerk will send petition to Sup. Milender & Sup. Norton. Public hearing date will be set in April.

**Bemidji Rural Fire Assn** – Next meeting is scheduled 3/26/26. They meet 6 times/yr.

**Eckles Community Center** – Sup. Wilson & Sup. Milender met with ECC board on 3/5/26 and will meet again on 3/25/26. Board discussed options moving forward including lease, contract or take over ownership. Motion by Sup. Bumgardner, second by Sup. Hendricks to develop a negotiated contract not to exceed \$1,900 and bring back to April ETB meeting for final approval. M/C

**ETB PO Mailbox** – Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Bumgardner to utilize the PO Box address as the primary legal address for all township paperwork. M/C

**Road Report** – all roads have been plowed timely. County avoided a strike threat recently (Feb). Request for gravel quotes is out with a deadline of April. Sup. Wilson will reach out to chloride vendors for quotes. Board discussed need and logistics for a spring road review.

ECKLES TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES – March 11, 2026

**Eckles Road Rebuild** – bids were opened on 3/5/26; there were 9 bidders with a range of approximately \$98K-\$175K. Lowest bid came from DEW in the amount of \$97,414.30. Motion by Sup. Bumgardner, second by Sup. Hendricks to award contract to DEW. Sup. Milender, Bumgardner, Hendricks and Norton voted yes. Sup. Wilson abstained. M/C

**Payroll** – timesheets collected were circulated to supervisors for review.

**MAT** – membership cards were distributed.

**Twp Legal Seminar** – flyer was discussed

**Other correspondence** – Reller Transport, HR Block, Munibet Website, Northern Twp

**Eckles Township Regular Board Meeting** – 4/14/26, Eckles Community Center @ 7 PM;

**MAT Short Course** – 4/1/26, Bemidji, Sanford Center

**MnDOT Gravel Road Maintenance/Design** – 5/8/26; encouraged board members & contractor, John Schocker to attend.

**Donation Requests** – Board received requests from Bemidji Senior Center, North Country 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, Giziibii RC&D, Support within Reach, Let's Go Fishing. Board heard support from several organizations and review past support. Motion by Sup. Bumgardner, second by Sup. Hendricks to support five organizations in the amount of \$200 each. Organizations selected were: Bemidji Senior Center, North Country 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, Giziibii RC&D, Let's Go Fishing and Beltrami 4-H. M/C

**Minutes** – Dale Wilson inquired about engineer's road estimates and why they weren't included in the minutes. Board discussed and potential for mis-use. Since it's an estimate – doesn't need to be in minutes.

**Cemetery** – Sexton Don Wilson expressed a need for an American Flag. Seeking a source for a well-made flag that will last a long time. Supervisors will relay potential sources.

**Recessed to Closed Session:**

**Staff Compensation** – Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Norton to increase clerk salary to \$950 and treasurer salary to \$750. M/C

**Adjourn** – Motion by Sup. Bumgardner, second by Sup. Hendricks to adjourn at 9:15 pm. M/C

---

Colleen Oestreich, Clerk

---

Mel Milender, Chairman