

# *New Haven Township*

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA – EST. 1858  
PHONE: 507.356.8330 EMAIL: NHTOWNSHIP@BEVCOMM.NET  
9024 COUNTY ROAD 3 NW, OROCOCO, MN 55960

---

## **Annual Town Meeting Minutes March 10, 2026**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the 2026 Annual Town Meeting of New Haven Township was called to order by Clerk Bonnie Kosmicki at 3:00 PM. Approximately 20 township electors were in attendance, including all current Town Board officers Thomforde, Andrist and Fahy-Gust as well as, Clerk Kosmicki and Treasurer Hawkins.

After welcoming remarks, Clerk Kosmicki called for nominations or volunteers to serve as moderator. Kosmicki nominated Ann Fahy-Gust. With no additional nominations offered, nominations were closed. Fahy-Gust accepted the nomination. Kosmicki then made a motion to appoint Fahy-Gust as moderator, which was seconded by Mark Gunderson of 8649 85th St NW, Pine Island. The motion carried by voice vote with no dissenting votes. Ann Fahy-Gust assumed responsibility for the moderating the meeting for the duration.

**Voters set the agenda** – Vicky Mancilman 12408 Cty Rd. 31 NW Pine Island made a motion to set the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Mark Gunderson of 8649 85th St NW, Pine Island. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Review and approve 2025 Annual Town Meeting minutes** – Mark Gunderson 8649 85<sup>th</sup> St NW, Pine Island made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion was seconded by Kim Rupprecht 7222 100 St NW, Pine Island. Motion carried via voice vote. A motion to approve 2025 meeting minutes as written was made by Vicky Mancilman 12408 Cty Rd. 31 NW Pine Island. Mike Frost 10101 85<sup>th</sup> St NW Pine Island seconded the motion. Motion carried via voice vote.

**Reading of Board of Audit Report** Clerk Kosmicki read the minutes from the February 10, 2026 Board of Audit meeting. A copy of these minutes was included in the packet provided to the electors. The meeting was attended by the Town Board Supervisors, Clerk Kosmicki, and Treasurer Hawkins. A minimum of two disbursements per month from 2025 were selected at random from the CTAS disbursement log for audit and review. The recording of these disbursements was compared across the treasurer's, clerk's, and CTAS records. A discrepancy was identified for disbursement number 4867 in May, which was paid to Grimsrud Publishing in an incorrect amount. An invoice for \$43.75 was paid as \$75.00, resulting in an overpayment. Grimsrud Publishing credited the overpayment, which was applied to a subsequent bill. The Board of Audit meeting minutes were posted and made available in the annual meeting packet. A financial summary for the year 2025 was also reviewed and signed by the Town Board during the audit. There were no questions or concerns raised regarding the Board of Audit report.

**Rural Fire Association Report** – Supervisor Ann Fahy-Gust represents the township by attending and participating in quarterly Rural Fire Association meetings. The Rural Fire Association consists of five townships, with costs for services shared among the participating entities. Dues for 2025, which were levied the previous year, total \$64,931.00 and will be paid in April. Dues for 2027, to be levied next year, are projected at \$72,788.00. The increase is attributed to rising insurance rates, outfitting a new truck, a planned wage increase and retirement contributions for firefighters, impacts from the Minnesota Leave Act, and the cost of hiring a third party to test high-pressure hoses. Approximately 40% of calls are billable, while lift assists and medical assists—accounting for about 60% of Pine Island Fire Department (PIFD) calls—are not billable. Anticipated expenditures for 2026 include the purchase of new air packs

to replace equipment that has reached the end of its safe 10-year lifespan. A quote of \$246,291 was provided for the replacements, with costs to be split evenly between the city and the townships. Funds for this purchase are currently available in the equipment fund. The process of replacing Truck #581 has begun, as its frame is deteriorating and it is estimated to have approximately two years of useful life remaining. Options under consideration include leasing or obtaining a loan. Additionally, a third-party consultant may be hired to review fire department operations and recommend potential organizational improvements. During discussion, Mike Hassler of 13006 New Haven Road NW, Pine Island, asked about the components of an air pack. Fahy-Gust explained its components and noted that air packs can be refilled and used for up to 10 years. The financial dashboard was also reviewed in detail. New Haven Township is served entirely by PIFD. Mark Gunderson of 8649 85th St NW, Pine Island, asked whether the cost of a replacement fire truck would be shared between the city and the townships. Fahy-Gust clarified that, because the truck is primarily used for rural brush fires, the cost would be borne by the townships.

**TCPA (Township Cooperative Planning Association) Report** – Andrist thanked those present for attending. He noted that TCPA is located in Rochester on 11th Avenue and is open from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There have been staffing changes over the past year, including a resignation and a new hire. Permit costs vary widely, ranging from several hundred to several thousand dollars depending on the type and size of the structure being built. Well permits and related issues are now managed by Olmsted County. G-Cubed, located in Chatfield, is used for permitting septic systems. TCPA has increased its rates due to price increases from CMS. TCPA continues to issue permits for the township.

**Planning and Zoning** – Supervisor Andrist provided a summary of permits and zoning requests. A total of 62 building permits were issued, compared to 48 the previous year. Six new homes were constructed during this period. There were nine zoning permits issued, compared to 14 the previous year. Driveway permits, which are issued by the township, cost \$100.00

**Cemetery Reports** – Mike Frost of 10101 85th St NW, Pine Island, expressed appreciation for the \$3,000.00 in funding provided by the township for Othello Cemetery. He noted that the cost for lawn mowing and tree services totaled \$4,325.00 in 2024, and that the assistance from New Haven Township is greatly appreciated. Treasurer Hawkins, who serves on the cemetery board for St. Michael's, also expressed appreciation for the funds, noting they are used for lawn care and general cemetery maintenance. There was no representative present from Center Grove Cemetery.

**Road Report** – Michael Wood provided a written road report for services and work done in 2025. Andrist, Road Supervisor commented that the bridge on 85<sup>th</sup> is due for replacement and possibly move forward this year. Cost to the township would be \$10,000.00. Noxious weeds have been better managed since spraying has been done regularly. Chloride will be purchased from Freeborn County; they did a good job last year. Chloride was done June 10<sup>th</sup> last year. Bruening Rock will be provide rock this year when road restrictions are lifted. Mike Hassler of 13006 New Haven Road NW, Pine Island asked who was responsible for maintaining the portion of New Haven Road near his home. Andrist explained that it is the responsibility of City of Pine Island. Fahy-Gust further explained the New Haven Road is split by County Road 5.

**Property Tax Mil Rates** – Supervisor Thomforde provided an overview of mill rates in Olmsted County, noting that New Haven Township currently has the lowest rate in the county. He also presented a historical comparison of mill rates with neighboring townships, including Oronoco and Kalmar. He explained that township reserves have been reduced in recent years, and the

current goal for tax rates is to reach a balance where annual expenditures and revenues are aligned.

**Financial Summary** – Thomforde reviewed a financial summary, providing a three-year overview. He noted that the township’s goal is to maintain approximately \$400,000.00 in cash reserves to address any unforeseen events. An annexation payment from Pine Island partially contributed to the township coming in under budget last year. He also explained that the levy set this year will apply to 2027. Kim Rupprecht of 7222 100th St NW, Pine Island, asked what options would be available if a catastrophic event occurred and cash reserves were depleted. Thomforde responded that the township could borrow funds to finance operations if necessary, noting that funds were previously borrowed for the construction of the town hall.

**Treasurer’s Report** –Treasurer Hawkins gave a detailed report of the financial standing of the Township at the end of December 2025. This information was also included in the Annual Meeting packet. The following were the account balances as of December 31, 2025.

Frandsen Bank and Trust Accounts		Principal Balances	
Checking Account		\$20,874.71	
MMDA Account		\$123,654.66	
Minus Outstanding Checks		\$	
Total Bank Balance		\$ 144,529.37	
Investments	Int Rate	Maturity Date	
Frandsen Bank	4.15%	4/10/26	\$30,754.00
Bank of America	4.15%	7/30/2026	\$102,000.00
Wells Fargo Bank	4.20%	3/18/2026	\$55,000.00
Wells Fargo Bank	3.90%	9/9/2026	\$103,000.00
LPL Financial	Cash Account		\$2.61
Total Investments			\$290,756.61
Total Deposits			\$435,285.98

**2026 Budget** – Hawkins reviewed the township’s budgetary expenditures and revenues through 2025. Tax revenues account for approximately 69% of total income. The 2026 budget is approximately \$348,500, with the Rural Fire Association and road maintenance comprising 76% of total expenditures. RFA expenditures are expected to increase in 2027. Considering all factors, a \$56,000.00 deficit is anticipated, which will be taken into account when setting the 2027 levy. Hawkins then opened the floor for comments. Mark Gunderson of 8649 85th St NW, Pine Island, spoke about township officer wages, noting the value of their experience and asking when supervisors last received a raise. Ann Fahy-Gust responded that her motivation to serve is not financial, stating that she enjoys serving the township. Thomforde added that wages are set at the next Reorganization Meeting and that the issue would be discussed at that time.

**Voters set the 2026 levy** – Fahy-Gust opened discussion regarding the 2027 levy. The Town Board recommended a total levy of \$258,000.00, an increase of 14.2%, to maintain a \$400,000.00 reserve. This increase would result in approximately \$32,000.00 in additional tax revenue township-wide, or roughly \$62.00 per household per year. Township taxes account for approximately 10% of the total property tax bill. The floor was opened for discussion and motions to approve or amend the recommendation. Mark Gunderson of 8649 85th St NW, Pine Island, made a motion to approve the recommended levy, seconded by Vicky Mancilman of 12408 County Rd. 31 NW, Pine Island. There was no further discussion, and the motion carried by voice vote with no dissenters.

**Voters set the time and location for the 2027 Annual Town Meeting** Rupprecht 7222 100 St NW, Pine Island made a motion to adopt dates for annual meeting to be March 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at the town hall with inclement weather date being March 16<sup>th</sup> at the same time. Vicky Mancilman 12408 Cty Rd. 31 NW Pine Island. There was no further discussion, and the motion carried by voice vote with no dissenters

- By law, the meeting must be held on the second Tuesday of March, with a bad weather date being the third Tuesday of March. By resolution, the Town Board set the hours for the Annual Town Election from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

**Special Events** – Voters set a maximum amount that the Town Board may spend to commemorate events, recognize volunteers, honor the service of town officers, fund memorials, or host community celebrations. The Town Board recommended a maximum of \$2,500 for 2026 for these purposes. Vicky Mancilman of 12408 County Rd. 31 NW, Pine Island, made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Mark Gunderson of 8649 85th St NW, Pine Island. There was no further discussion, and the motion carried by voice vote with no dissenters.

**Adjournment** - Vicky Mancilman of 12408 County Rd. 31 NW, Pine Island made a motion to adjourn, Mike Frost of 10101 85th St NW, Pine Island seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote with no dissenters.

Approved by the Moderator,

Attest:

Date:

Date:

*/Signed copy on file/*

Ann Fahy-Gust – Moderator

Bonnie Kosmicki – Town Clerk