

SOO TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Soo Township Hall
August 12, 2026

PRESENT

Larry Perron
Allen Walther
Krista Broos-Adams
Jim Callon
Don Kucharczyk

ABSENT

The August monthly Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by L. Perron followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Matt Keller, Lori Miller, Phyliss Reed, Tim Moher, Pam Chipman & Jeff Killips were in attendance.

Public Comment:

-Tim Moher provided the Board with info concerning the resolution of the Neebish Isl Ferry schedule cuts and how they cuts were resolved. He had many people to thank for the support they provided along with thanks to the Soo Twp Board for their support.

-Phyliss Reed also thanked the Board for their support to resolve the ferry schedule cuts. She also thanked the Board and more specifically Jeff Killips and Rob Shields for their efforts to educate the Neebish Isl residents on the need for qualified fire fighters and efforts to establish some fire fighting equipment on the island.

-Matt Keller echoed his thanks for the Board support along with a special thanks in the efforts to establish some type of firefighting support for the island. Jeff Killips has been instrumental in moving forward with this project.

-Lori Miller also thanked the Board for their efforts with the ferry schedule cuts along with the fire fighting support for Neebish Isl.

- Acceptance of Agenda:

-A Motion was made by J. Callon and supported by K. Broos-Adams to approve the agenda as presented for the regular Board Meeting of August 12, 2026. Motion carried.

Board Meeting Minutes:

-The July 8, 2026 regular meeting minutes were discussed.

-A Motion was made by D. Kucharczyk and supported by J. Callon to approve the minutes of the regular Board Meeting of July 8, 2026. Motion carried.

Fire Dept report (Jeff Killips):

- Report submitted showing 4 runs since last meeting. Provide a brief explanation for each run.
- Reported that SCBA fit testing had occurred on 8/4 with 8 members participating.
- Discussed the need to scrap the old fire truck from Neebish Island as we have a newly acquired truck.

Cemetery Report (Jeff Killips and A. Walther):

- Discussed the need to digitize the cemetery books to better aid in determining ownership of grave plots. It would also become a live document that could be added to as burials occur or plots are sold. Cost to digitize quote from Oaklawn Cemetery is \$10000 and would be done over the winter.
- Discussed the on going issues of poor record keeping over the years and how difficult it is to sell plots with confidence that they are available. Possible solution is to either stop selling plots or survey and open the area behind the shed to sell plots and stop selling in the "old" sections of the cemetery. L. Perron recommended that the Cemetery Board meet to come up with a recommendation to the Board.

Assessors Report (Pam Chipman):

- Presented the Board with a land division from Stephanie Miller. Land Division package was incomplete as the map presented was not the proper parcel. As the land division package was incomplete the Board was unable to move forward with it. The property owner has been notified of the discrepancy but hasn't yet responded. This land division request will be tabled until next month when hopefully we have the correct map, all Board members concurred.
- Tax tribunal case is moving forward still. Meeting with attorney soon.

Clerk's Report (Allen Walther):

- Spring clean-up report: 106 loads delivered to GFL at a cost of \$30 ea (total \$3180).
- Election Stats- 496 absentee ballots processed, 69 Soo Twp voters during Early Voting (173 total), and 380 in person voters on election day. November election preparations will begin the end of September.
- State fire department grant resubmitted due to error by Clerk.
- New website should be going live soon. Hopeful that Twp personnel will have the ability to post more info on website.
- I will be out of town from Aug 20-28ish. Monitoring phone and email as service allows.

-Ordinance violation letters sent out:

-Two letters were sent to the wrong owners (Mac Trail radio tower parcel and property behind 3373 S. Mac Trail). Corrected letter to be sent out soon.

Recommend the following budget adjustments for FY25-26:

- Transfer \$5000 from the Contingency Fund (899-957) to Election Salaries (262-702)
 - Will be applying to have Early Voting wages re-imbursed by the State (Approx \$3933)
- Transfer \$17500 (\$3500 x 5 Months) from Cemetery Salaries (276-702) to Fire Chief Salary (336-702) so payroll checks can be written from one line item.
- Transfer \$300 from Contingency Fund (899-957) to Auditing (223-808).
 - Expense price went up \$300 this year.

J. Callon made a motion and it was supported by D. Kucharczyk to approve budget adjustments as presented. A roll call vote was held and all voted yes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (Krista Broos-Adams):

- The tax account balance as of 31 July was \$456959.03.
- The General Fund balance as of 31 July was \$427918.73.
- Two CD's are maturing this month:
 - Soo Coop CU CD (S1003) with approximately \$155143.36 matures. Recommend that the funds be deposited into the General Fund to cover upcoming expenses.
 - First National Bank CD with approximately \$82427.37 matures. Recommend that these funds be rolled into a new CD with First National Bank at the best rate available.

All Board members concur with these plans for the maturing CD's.

Planning Commission Report (Jim Callon):

-Discussed plan to hold a public meeting in conjunction with the regular Planning Commission meeting on Sept 1, 2026. Public meeting will be for changes to the Zoning Ordinance concerning Additional Dwelling Units and the use of storage containers within Soo Twp. Clerk will post needed announcements in the paper, website and Facebook.

Planning Commission Report (Jim Callon): Continued

-Awaiting a response from attorney on how to proceed with the County Building Inspector request for a Soo Twp permit for the cell phone tower on Northern Sand and Gravel property.

-Planning Commission voted to request the Board institute a 180 day moratorium on Data Centers/Data Mining within Soo Twp due to updated data and information on how they affect the public and environment. Presented Board with Resolution 2026-13 to institute a 180-day moratorium against Data Centers/Data Mining within Soo Twp.

J. Callon made a motion and it was supported by A. Walther to approve Resolution 2026-013 as presented. A roll call vote was held and all voted yes. Motion carried.

Permit Administrator (Jim Callon):

-7 permit issued this month and 1 so far this month.

Supervisor's Report (Larry Perron):

-None

Payment Approvals:

J. Callon made a motion and it was supported by D. Kucharczyk to approve the payment of the July and August (thru 8/12) bills, payroll and payroll taxes as follows:

July Payments as of 7/31:

July checks for bills: Check#'s 14344-14352, 14363, 14366-14372, 14376-14377 and (5) ET's totaling \$40502.87

July Payroll checks: Check#'s 14340-14343, 14353-14362, 14364-14365, 14373-14379 totaling \$14100.51

July Payroll taxes withheld: \$6313.34

Total Expenses as of 7/31: \$60916.72

Payment Approvals (continued):

August Payments as of 8/12:

Aug checks for bills: Check#'s 14385, 14407-14432 and (0) ET's totaling \$141605.11

Aug Payroll checks: Check#'s 14380-14406 totaling \$19364.10

Aug Payroll taxes withheld: \$7137.22

Total Expenses as of 8/12: \$168106.43

A roll call vote was held and all board members approved, the motion passed to pay the July and August (partial) bills, payroll, and payroll taxes as presented.

J. Callon made a motion and it was supported by K. Broos-Adams to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Allen Walther, Township Clerk