

**FROHN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES
June 16, 2026**

Present: Chairperson Tom Harmon
Supervisor Brad Kuyper
Treasurer Guy Drevlow
Clerk Vicki Turn

Supervisor Kathy Robinson
Supervisor Christine Herwig (**Absent**)
Supervisor Kaleb Smith
Land Use Administrator Jim Baruth

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Supervisor Kathy Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda as modified. Supervisor Brad Kuyper seconded. Chairperson Tom Harmon called for discussion. No discussion. Vote was taken and motion carried 4-0.

VISITORS: Lanette Anderson, Japheth Stouffer, Bill Hubbell, Jimmy Schoonover, Randy Baird, Kristy Roberts, Tisha Mickelberg, and Donovan Francis

Donovan Francis presented a flyer on costs for stump grinding. He has started a new business and is from Shevlin area.

Japheth Stouffer gave a presentation on possibly purchasing 15 acres along Frohn Road to build a Christ Mennonite Faith Church. They have a small congregation of 31 members. Land Use Administrator Jim Baruth gave him a Conditional Use Permit application which is a fee of \$650.

FINANCIAL/TREASURER:

- Supervisor Brad Kuyper made a motion to approve the treasurers report claims and payroll as presented in the amount of \$18,967.30 Claims #18812 to #18828 in the amount of \$15,170.20 and payroll in the amount of \$3,797.10 Supervisor Kathy Robinson seconded. Chairperson Tom Harmon called for discussion. No discussion was held. Vote was taken and motion carried 4-0.

Checking Balance as of 6/19/2026	\$ 111,191.69
Money Market Balance as of 6/19/2026	\$ 42,495.29
General CD (Maturity Date: 6/19/2026	\$ 90,927.43
Road CD (Maturity Date: 6/19/206	\$ 90,927.43
Total:	\$ 335,541.84

PLANNING COMMISSION:

LUP 2026-07 George Mohs, 657 Frohn Rd SE, Bemidji is to install an 8' X 40' X 9' Conex storage container for a total of 320 square foot. Supervisor Kaleb Smith made a motion to approve LUP 2026-07. Fees and taxes paid. Supervisor Kathy Robinson seconded. Chairperson Tom Harmon called for discussion. No discussion, all in favor, none opposed. Vote was taken and motion carried 4-0.

LUP 2026-08 Sharon Rebers, 2577 Royal Estates Rd NE, Bemidji is to build a 24' X 30' X 14' garage for a total of 720 square foot. The Contractor is Troy Ritchie. Supervisor Kathy Robinson made a motion to approve LUP 2026-08. Fees and taxes paid. Supervisor Brad Kuyper seconded. Chairperson Tom Harmon called for discussion. No discussion, all in favor, none opposed. Vote was taken and motion carried 4-0.

Gloria Neumann Property Division – Land Use Administrator Jim Baruth presented the proposal of the Neumann property division at the intersection of SE Corner of Walnut Lane and Frohn Road. It would be split into two lots, one being a 20.62 acre lot and the other one 20.02 acre lot. Future plans are for the daughter to build a home on South lot. Supervisor Kathy Robinson made a motion to approve the Neumann Property Division. Supervisor Kaleb Smith seconded. Chairperson Tom Harmon called for discussion. No discussion, all in favor, none opposed. Vote was taken and motion carried 4-0.

David Normeier/Tomy Hegland Lot Line Division – A garage was built on Hegland's property line. An agreement was made by the property owners to adjust the lot line about 15 feet around the garage instead of moving garage. Supervisor Brad Kuyper made a motion to approve the Roe Buck/Hegland lot line division. Supervisor Kaleb Smith seconded. Chairperson Tom Harmon called for discussion. No discussion, all in favor, none opposed. Vote was taken and motion carried 4-0.

Randy Baird presented a proposal to vacate an old right-of-way. Land Use Administrator Jim Baruth gave Randy Baird the instructions and procedures of what steps need to be completed on his part and then come back and present it to the Planning Commission at the next meeting on July 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Supervisor Kathy Robinson made a motion to approve Randy Baird submit a \$3,500 escrow check at the next Planning and Zoning meeting on July 13, 2026. Supervisor Kaleb Smith seconded. Chairperson Tom Harmon called for discussion. No discussion, all in favor, none opposed. Vote was taken and motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Supervisor Kaleb Smith made a motion to approve the Board of Supervisor May 19, 2026, minutes as amended. Supervisor Brad Kuyper seconded. Chairperson Tom Harmon called for discussion. No discussion was held. Vote was taken and motion carried 4-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ROAD AND BRIDGE:

Supervisor Kathy Robinson reported the mowing on roads north of Power Dam are all complete.

BUILDING:

1. Supervisor Brad Kuyper reported he is working on getting quotes to replace the fascia damage on Frohn Town Hall and bring them to the next Board of Supervisor meeting on July 21, 2026.

FIRE: Supervisor Christine Herwig sent an e-mail to Clerk Vicki Turn and Chairperson Tom Harmon for her report which Chairperson Tom Harmon read. Supervisor Christine Herwig reported she attended the meeting on May 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Northern Town Hall. We received a budget presentation from Bemidji's finance director Donna Koe. She presented on 2025 costs, 2026 costs, and revenues to date, contributions from Bemidji and BRFA, and the estimated 2027 budget. Supervisor Christine Herwig also reported there were discussions about long-range planning and operations occurred, largely focusing on payroll and equipment costs.

They are supposed to send the form for the board to sign to identify the staff that are to be representatives on BRFA but Supervisor Christine Herwig has not received it yet.

They also provided a reminder that any documents/checks/etc should be mailed to their PO Box.

ANIMAL CONTROL: Supervisor Kaleb Smith reported now that the Animal Control Ordinance was adopted at tonight's Board of Supervisor meeting, he requested clerk Vicki Turn to e-mail a copy to Mary Israelson and make 20 copies for Animal Control Officer Keith Christenson.

CLERK: Mail – A report from the State Demographic Center reporting our 2025 population estimate is 1,627 and household estimate is 650.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Land Use Ordinance Public Hearing was held on June 8, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved it and forwarded it on to the Board of Supervisors for their meeting on Monday, June 16, 2026. Supervisor Kaleb Smith made a motion to approve and adopt Frohn Township's Land Use Ordinance. Supervisor Brad Kuper seconded. Chairperson Tom Harmon called for discussion. No discussion was held. Vote was taken and motion carried 4-0.
2. Chairperson Tom Harmon reported he made the decision and chose Leslie Rosedahl a consultant with MAT to transition the Frohn Township website to .gov domain. Chairperson Tom Harmon also reported the monthly charge will be \$200 per month with a \$50 charge to update the website. Chairperson Tom Harmon also reported she will train Clerk Vicki Turn over zoom to update the website.
3. Supervisor Brad Kuyper attended the Town Law Seminar on June 5, 2026, in Ostego put on by MAT. Please see attached 2026 Town Law Review Summary report attached.
4. Gopher Bounty fund of \$450 will be exhausted after payment to Warren Louks who brought in 190 pairs of gopher feet. For financial reasons there will be no more reimbursements for gopher bounty.

NEW BUSINESS:

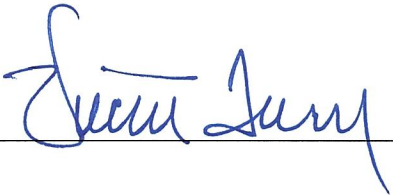
1. Supervisor Kathy Robinson and Land Use Administrator Jim Baruth reported on the Shannon Drive issue. Supervisor Kathy Robinson requested Clerk Vicki Turn to draft a letter to mail certified to Mary Beth Preczynski regarding removing the tree debris from the east ditch on Shannon Drive.
2. Head Judge Lanette Anderson made a recommendation for the following eight election Judges for August and November 2026 Elections: Lanette Anderson (Head Election Judge), Beverly Leet, Kathy Robinson, Abby Bushie, Peggy Nickerson, Bill Hubbell, Katherine Gonzalez and Donna Andersen. Supervisor Kaleb Smith made a motion to accept Lanette Anderson's recommendation for the eight election Judges for August and November 2026 Elections. Supervisor Brad Kuyper seconded. Supervisor Kathy Robinson abstained. Chairperson Tom Harmon called for discussion. No discussion was held. Vote was taken and motion carried 3-0.

COMMENTS FOR GOOD OF THE BOARD:

Supervisor Brad Kuyper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Kaleb Smith seconded. Chairperson Tom Harmon called for discussion. No further discussion. Vote was taken and motion carried 4-0.

Adjourned: 8:16 p.m.

 Tom Harmon, Chairperson

 Vicki Turn, Clerk

Approved: July 21, 2026

2026 Town Law Review Summary

Updating Township Ordinances & Policies for Cannabis, Employee Leave and Drug Testing

- Townships may regulate but may not prohibit licensed cannabis businesses
- There are eleven types of cannabis businesses
- Treat cannabis and hemp retailers differently
- Keep zoning and registration (retail only) separate. Zoning can't be a de facto prohibition such as too small of a district.
- One retailer per 12,500 residents. Once this cap is met there is no obligation to register additional cannabis businesses. County registration levels effect township obligations.
- Coordinate PFMLA with ESST (Earned Sick & Safe Time), PTO vacation and sick leave. Programs should be concurrent and not consecutive.
- When an employee is going to be gone on leave use a contractor rather than hiring a replacement to avoid ending up with two employees.
- Document performance issues.
- Employees should be notified monthly of how much ESST they have accrued.
- Most cannabis testing is now restricted. Separate cannabis from other drugs in policy language. Focus on impairment at work. Require documented reasonable suspicion.
- When an employee is tested and fails they need to be informed of their right to re-test.

Engineering A Better Contract

- Hire an engineer to prepare plans and specifications.
- Be careful with form contracts because they may not adequately protect the township.
- Have township attorney review all contracts prior to approval.
- Require the engineer to have liability insurance. Require indemnification and hold harmless agreement.
- Town should be named as additional insured.
- Watch for limitations on liability.
- If you don't understand it don't sign it.

ADA Website Rules for Townships

- Americans with Disabilities Act Title 2 requires that public services be compliant by April 26, 2028.
- Websites must be perceivable, operable, understandable and robust.
- Perceivable - include alternate text for images and captions for videos. Must have color contrast to make it viewable.
- Operable - must be able to use a keyboard, no flashing
- Understandable & robust - must be compatible with screenreaders. Many PDF's don't work with screenreaders. Archived web content is exempt.
- Hiring a vendor doesn't eliminate liability. Litigation is increasing.

Strengthening Cybersecurity Through Practical Risk Assessments

- Metropolitan State University offers free cyber risk assessment
- First step is a two hour interview, 56 questions
- They will come back with a 20 minute presentation on gaps and next step
- Qualifying organizations can get a Comprehensive Assessment Report which is a color coded Excel report with a risk distribution graph

Are Data Centers Coming To Your Town?

- Between now and 2030 investment in U.S. data centers is expected to be close to \$7 trillion.
- Virginia has over 600 data centers, Minnesota has 13 operating and 14 more planned.
- The Midwest is a target because of cheap land, access to water and fewer natural disasters.
- Negatives of data centers - energy use (in 2024 40% Virginia's total energy consumption was from data centers), noise, light and water usage. The data center is Rosemount uses 1.63 million gallons of water per day.
- We can pass a twelve month moratorium while we investigate a permanent zoning ordinance that would ban data centers.
- Townships can be more restrictive than the county.

The Benefits of Social Media & Protecting your Town's Use

- Town social media accounts are generally considered public forums un the First Amendment. Blocking constituents based on viewpoint has been found to be unconstitutional.
- Treat every post/comment as if it is a public record.
- Town accounts are public records that must be retained, including comments and messages.
- Benefits - efficient, can be accurate, easier form of communication for older or disabled residents who may not be physically able to attend a Town Board meeting.
- Negatives - Misinformation, legal risks (quorum, release of private data) and the toxic nature of social media (most comments are negative)
- Adopt a Social Media Policy - I have a sample
- Adopt a record retention policy
- Post consistently. Don't create a page and then ignore it.
- Be responsive to questions? concerns of residents.