

CONTINUATION OF ANNUAL LUTSEN TOWN MEETING
August 19, 2025
LUTSEN TOWN HALL
MINUTES

Call Meeting to Order/ Reconvene 2025 Annual Town Meeting: Clerk S. Mcquatters-Spangle called meeting to order at 6pm

Attendance: S. Mcquatters-Spangle, Carl Friesner, Chris Homyak, Lolli Cooper, Ashley VanDoren, Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Brad Sillman, Judy Sillman

Nomination from the floor for Meeting Moderator: C Homyak nominated Sharon Hexum-Platzer as moderator, Steve Duclos seconded. none opposed, all in favor. Motion passed

Pledge of Allegiance: Flag was presented for the pledge of allegiance.

Setting of Agenda: Moderator S Hexum-Platzer asked for a motion to approve agenda. Judy Sillman motioned to approve the agenda. C Homyak seconded. Motion passed.

Other town business:

- **Lutsen Flea Market; September 20, 2025 12pm-4pm at Lutsen townhall on the ball field.** With no Church rummage sale for 2025 lots of people are looking for another alternate route. When the school stood where the townhall was there used be a flea market and art sale and we are looking to bring that back. WTIP will announce time and place. Each person will show up with their own supplies, price their own supplies and handle their own items.

Parent Pitch families will also be hosting the concession stand for the time the flea market is running to help raise funds for the next season.

- **Volunteer Fire/EMS;** Fire crew have a need for a new supply truck. At the moment all rescue supplies and gear are spread out between three trucks including jaws of life stabilizing struts, cones, etc. Wildland 2919 truck was diploid to aid in the Brimson fire earlier this year and a lot of the rescue supplies had to be unloaded and dropped in the bay in case a need for them occurred while the truck was away which means constantly switching out gear from other trucks to accommodate the rescue need which is not very time efficient when an emergency arises.

We are looking to get a dedicated rescue truck all extrication tools would live on that truck, stabilizing struts, any kinds of rescue equipment; rope, jackets, launcher. We are currently talking with Rosenbauer on truck types, needs and models. We are looking at just north of 550 with the hopes of finding a truck near the end of next year. Fire relief association has voted to use all future functions money will go to a new fire truck, looking at grants as well. Just to state this is a need not a want, this will make us more efficient, capable and safer.

Most other major purchases were done at the beginning of 2025 including turnout gear and air packs. The water tender truck still has a life estimate of 5-8 years and then remands which saves some money.

Lutsen Township currently has 19 combined Fire/EMS crew members 16 of which are medically trained. Pera states the average age of our fire department is 42.7 years old which is drastically younger than the national average at late 50's.

5 members are a part of the search and rescue rope team which is a separate group from Lutsen fire

- Working on grant money for a high-end drone to help air search and rescue; this is not a need but a want using only grant money but it would drastically cut down search time in difficult terrain and during cold seasons.

Thank you, Fire/EMS crew, for all your dedication and hard work. Brad Sillman pointed out that Cook County gets 1.2 million visitors a year and our small volunteer fire department does a great job.

- **Short term emergency shelter update;** C Frienser; Current plans from Lutsen township are having a slab poured for a propane tank and have a generator installed. Currently waiting on credit application with Como Oil, once that is completed lines will be run using a contractor as there are many wires under the road. Next on the list Lutsen township has to purchase

- forced air heating source that connects to propane.
- Hot dog heaters for each garage bay.

Lutsen township has already been used previously for a short-term emergency shelter during the flooding storm in June of 2024 highlighting how much of a need this service is.

Current investments made to facilitate Lutsen township emergency shelter

- ARPA funds from Lutsen township
- County commissioners \$8500
- Arrowhead Electric \$1000
- Tofte township \$5000

Reading of Treasurer's Report: Clerk S. Mcquatters-Spangle read the June Treasurer's report which indicated 6-month spending budget status. Balances as of June 30, 2025; North Shore Federal Credit Union: General Fund Checking \$251,865.35; General Building Fund Savings \$35,779.70. Grand Marais State Bank money market \$85,788.53 Fire/EMS truck fund \$82,208.88 totaling \$455,642.46.

CD investments;

- 7-month CD at Grand Marais State Bank \$100,000.00
 - 29-month CD at Grand Marais State Bank \$104,512.33
 - 7-month CD at Grand Marais State Bank \$10,000.00
 - 7-month CD at Grand Marais State Bank \$10,000.00
- Totaling \$224,512.33

Total funds including CD investments \$680,154.79 Year to Date Receipts \$222,138.54, Year to Date Disbursements \$228,683.70 (this includes investments). 2025 General town Budget \$40,850.00, 2025 Fire District Budget \$363,795.00 for a total budget of \$404,645.00. 2025

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General town Levy \$40,000.00, 2025 Fire District Levy \$300,000.00 for a total 2025 Levy of \$340,000.00

Review of proposed 2026 budgets from Treasurer:

Treasurer VanDoren highlighted the biggest budget items currently considered for the 2026 budget consisted of projects proposed

- First 7-month CD matured and the town board decided to reinvest it
- All money for the short-term emergency shelter is sitting in the general building fund account at the moment and as things progress the building fund will be where the cost comes out of.
- The budget packet consists of cost from the previous 5 years to show a base line of costs and inflation. The projected cost which are what we are here to discuss are the newest collum. Some of the figured such as the electric have doubled due to the increase in cost across the county. 2025 figures costs for fire are significantly bigger due to a once time cost that has been paid this year such as the air packs for the fire crew. Not large new projected numbers at the moment.
- Capital items for the fire department; equipment replacement fund suggested increase to \$2500, the new defibrillator machine ate the cost and should anything new break the funds would come out of another line item. Patient care we try to keep up to date with ambulances so items can be transferred in moments such as the LUCAS machine. Compared to these years budget a raise to \$5000 is significantly less and Sharon Hexum-Platzer agreed Friesner made a motion to increase the line item to \$5000, L Cooper seconded. Motion passed.
- One of the 7-month CD's is for equipment replacement and another 7-month CD is for fire truck fund.
- C Friesner commented on the resurfacing parking lot becoming an issue next time it needs to be done as this year 2025 a large section already has to be re-laid out. Next time the entire parking lot will need to be restructured and the quote given was \$55,000. C Freisner proposed to create a line item to cover that cost slowly over a few years to cover that cost at possibly \$20,000 a year, possibly a 5th CD being created. C Homyak made a motion to set aside \$20,000 into a separate line item under building for parking lot in 3 years. L Cooper seconded. Motion passed.

With the changes we have a general town budget of \$63,200, a fire district budget of \$290,395.00 for a total combined budget of \$353,595.00.

Finalize 2026 Lutsen Township Levy: The proposed township levy set in march was a general town budget \$40,000 and a fire district levy of \$250,000. It was question if the levy should increase with the addition \$20,000 for parking lot line item and the increase to \$5000 for fire equipment replacement. C Friesner made a motion to increase the proposed total levy budget to \$315,000. L Cooper seconded. Motion passed.

Setting Location and time of 2026 Election and Annual Meeting: The Election is 5-8pm on March 10, 2026 at Lutsen Town Hall. Annual Meeting will follow at 8:05pm. Judy Sillman

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motioned for acceptance of the time and place; Lolli Cooper seconded; Moderator S Hexum-Platzer called for a vote; unanimous, motion carried.

Adjournment: Brad Sillman made a motion to adjourn the 2025 Annual Town Meeting. L Cooper Seconded; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm

Submitted by Clerk: S Mcquatters-Spangle

Moderator: S Hexum-Platzer