DENMARK TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 6, 2025

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: J Strohfus, H Sahouani, M Femling, P Flock, M Ruben
ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Troy Gilchrist (Town Law Center), Cara Geheren (Bolton & Menk)
ALSO PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order 7:00PM by Chair J Strohfus

AGENDA APPROVAL:
J Strohfus added Speed & Trucks on 70th St S and M Ruben removed Tree Removal at Town Hall and O'Connor's Park.
Motion M Femling/2nd M Ruben to approve Amended Agenda. Voting Yes- P Flock, M Femling, J Strohfus, H Sahouani, M Ruben. Voting No- None. Abstaining- None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:
Added Claim #12846 for Meyer Sewer Service in the amount of $100.00.
Motion P Flock/2nd H Sahouani to approve Amended Consent Agenda items which include 9/4/2025 Board Minutes, Claims 12825-12845, EFT payments- PERA 819406, MN Tax 1459459552, Federal Tax 73832031, payroll ending 10/1/2025, and Financial Reports. Voting Yes- P Flock, M Femling, H Sahouani, J Strohfus, M Ruben. Voting No- None. Abstaining- None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

HEARING DECISIONS/ZONING ACTIONS:
Interstate Truck Driving School 12570 127th St S CUP:
An application by Interstate Truck Driving School is before the town for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a truck driver training range on property owned by Brockman Trucking. The Planning Commission recommended approval with several conditions, including limiting hours of operation, requiring screening, and prohibiting certain activities like backup alarms.

Bill Collins, Interstate Truck Driving School, stated P Flock visited the current temporary site and noise is minimal. P Flock stated it is a quiet area and he observed the noise from different distances and it is barely noticeable. He believes with the noise from the highways, residents will not notice the noise.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Duane Fowler, 12177 Morgan Ave S, expressed concerns with traffic on 120th St S, Morgan Ave S, and 127th St S. and inquired what the town gains from having this company in the township.

7:21PM Public Comment Closed.

Motion P Flock/2nd M Femling to approve Resolution 2025-12 Issuing a Conditional Use Permit for the Property Located at 12570 127th St S amending the hours on Saturday to 9am-3pm and include language regarding with the conditions stated. Voting Yes-J Storhfus, P Flock, H Sahouani, M Femling, M Ruben. Voting No-None. Abstaining-None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Todd Shoemaker and Matt Summers, Stantec and representatives from the South Washington Watershed District presented an overview of their ecosystem management plan, which aims to identify and protect natural areas within the watershed. They requested input from the township on priority areas for restoration or preservation and offered to meet further to discuss potential opportunities.

Jordan Foiles, 14190 122nd St S, lives on a 5-acre sustainable hobby farm with a garden, fruit trees, pigs, and chickens. The property is zoned agricultural but has limitations on the number of accessory structures. Jordan supports reducing these restrictions for agriculturally zoned parcels. They have been approved for a federal grant to install two high tunnel greenhouses, which must be accepted within a specific timeframe.

7:57PM Public Comment Closed.

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BUSINESS ITEMS:

Mike Savage to discuss St Croix Trail Issues:
Resident Mike Savage detailed ongoing issues with excessive speed and dangerous driving behavior on St. Croix Trail, particularly around the sharp turns near his home. He presented video evidence and requested short-term solutions like guardrails and chevron signs, as well as a long-term proposal to relocate the road. The board expressed support for working with the county to address the safety concerns.

Pay Request for the 2025 Street Improvement Project:
The board approved a $533,793 pay request for the 2025 Street improvement project, noting some additional work that was required to address soft spots and improve transitions between the new pavement and existing gravel. Board discussed issue with sprinkler heads in right of way and consensus for town engineer and contractor to work with property owners.

Motion M Femling/2nd H Sahouani to approve pay request in the amount of $533,793.53 to OMG Midwest, Inc. dba Minnesota Paving. Voting Yes-J Storhfus, P Flock, H Sahouani, M Femling, M Ruben. Voting No-None. Abstaining-None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

Draft Accessory Structure Ordinance:
The board discussed the latest draft of the accessory structure ordinance, which the Planning Commission had reviewed. The board decided to have the Planning Commission take another look at the idea of differentiating requirements by zoning district, rather than having a uniform set of limits, before proceeding to a public hearing.

Squirrel Issue with Town Hall:
The board discussed ongoing issues with squirrels causing damage at the town hall, including chewing through siding and insulation. They agreed to work with the pest control contractor to try more aggressive measures to address the problem.

Speed & Truck Issues on 70th Street:
There has been an influx of trucks, and the county conducted a speed study on 70th Street. They captured speeds of 65-75 mph. They have increased enforcement but would like to sit down with the town regarding roads in our town.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

LEAGAL UPDATES: None.

Board inquired about the EAW process and when an EIS is warranted. The town attorney provided an overview of the legal framework around the township's mining ordinance, explaining how the overlay district approach gives the board more discretion in evaluating and approving or denying mining proposals.

9:32PM **Motion H Sahouani/2nd M Ruben to adjourn October 2025 Board Meeting. Voting Yes- P Flock, M Femling, J Strohfus, H Sahouani, M Ruben. Voting No- None. Abstaining- None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.**

Jessica Maurer

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Denmark Township Clerk/Treasurer Denmark Township Chair