



AGENDA FOR ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 11TH, 2025

1. Call Meeting to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Elect Moderator.
4. Approve Agenda for Rest of Meeting.
5. Approve Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting and the Special Town Meeting held in August 2024.
6. Reading of Board of Audit Report.
7. Report of Annual Election.
8. Set Date & Time for 2026 Annual Meeting & Election
(March 10th, 2026; Election 5-8 pm, Annual Meeting at 8 pm, Ideal Community Center).
9. Road & Bridge Report.
10. Fire Department Report.
11. Buildings & Grounds Report.
12. Transfer Station Report.
13. Set levy for 2026.
14. Open Forum.
15. Adjourn.

IDEAL TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 12TH, 2024, AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 26TH, 2024



Ideal Township Annual Meeting, March 12th, 2024

The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were approximately 15 residents in attendance.

The Clerk called for nominations for Moderator of the 2024 Annual Township Meeting. Motion by Dave Peterson, second by John Bilek to nominate Jon Grothe. There were no other nominations. Grothe accepted the nomination.

The Moderator asked for any changes to the proposed agenda provided. Motion by John Bilek, second by Lynn Scharenbroich to accept the agenda as is. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Patti Peterson, second by Jack LaBarre, to accept the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting as presented. Carried unanimously.

The annual Board of Audit Report was read by the Clerk. The Board of Audit Report, the Annual Audit & Financial Statements, and the Auditors Communications Letter are available in the Clerk's office.

Moderator Grothe requested the results of the Ideal Township Annual Election. The results presented by the Election Judges were read by the Moderator: Supervisor, 3-year term John Bilek - 51 votes. Based on the results, John Bilek was declared winner of the election.

The date and time for the 2025 Ideal Township Annual Meeting and Election was set. Motion by Dave Peterson, second by Mike Schwieters, to hold the Annual Election between the hours of 5pm and 8pm with the Annual Meeting to begin at 8pm. All will take place at the Ideal Community Center on Tuesday, March 11th, 2025. In case of inclement weather, Election & Annual Meeting may be postponed to Tuesday, March 18th, 2024. Carried unanimously.

The Road & Bridge report was presented by Dave Peterson. The Township in 2023 overlaid a portion of South Arrowhead Drive and Gasink Road totaling approximately 1.4 miles. Crack sealed Birchdale Villa Drive, Hidden Creek Court, Northwood Drive, Red Cedar Lodge, Ruttger Road, Star Lake Camp Road, Storage Road, Twin Pond Lane, West Clear Lake Road, and Wild Turkey Trail totaling approximately 4.85 miles. The Governor declared Crow Wing County as a disaster area stemming from the December 2022 snowstorm. The Township spent \$340,364 on that storm damage in 2023; the State will reimburse the Township 75% of what it spends on cleanup. The Township was able to purchase a Bobcat T76 Skid steer to help with the storm damage cleanup. In 2024 planned road work is to chip seal Clear Blue Ave, Gasink Road, Kimble Lodge Road, Ossawinnamakee Road, Schaller Road, Shadow Trail, and Winnamakee Shores totaling approximately 6.39 miles. The Township continues to collaborate with Breezy Point on the reconstruction of Buschmann Road. Construction is expected to begin in 2025. A Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) grant was applied for to help in the funding of this project. We should know if Breezy Point and the Township were granted these funds in April or May of this year. The grant amount is \$1.5 million.

The Fire Department report was presented by Chief II Luke Hanson. He noted there are 26 members in the department now and that if anyone is interested in joining to please contact him. There were 136 Fire Department runs in 2023. Chief Wallace and Hanson are thankful for the hard work the Fire Department members are putting in with the increased run volume these last few years. He reported on ISO rating info that can affect home insurance rates, some notes about the 2024 training schedule, a review of apparatus inspections, the 2023 Beef Feed fundraiser, future water source infrastructure plans and donations to the department.

Ron Ommen presented the Buildings & Grounds report. The major focus again this past year was rehabilitation of Badger Field. Little has been done over the past 40 years to maintain or improve the facility. The Township has replaced the infield dirt with new diamond dirt, leveled the outfield, seeded the outfield, extended the backstop, installed an irrigation system, installed fence topper, installed foul poles, installed a scoreboard, and built dugouts. The Township Board would like to thank the Pequot Lakes Diamond Club for their sweat equity, Sourcewell, Ideal Community Service Organization, and Crosslake/Ideal Lions Club for their grants and donations in 2023. The improved field has seen an uptick in use from the Pequot Lakes Diamond Club, Pequot Lakes youth Baseball and Softball leagues and the public. Projects for 2024 include: improvement to the Ballfield will continue with the biggest project being stadium seating between the dugouts. Replace the aging fence in the park with concrete curb, add some fencing by the Fire Department Museum, curb and pave the parking lot adjacent to the ballfield, replace the keystone planting beds with stone beds in front of the Town Hall and landscape the north side of the Town Hall to hide equipment and make lawn maintenance easier.

The Town Board authorized the placement of an outdoor smart AED cabinet on the grounds. The board feels that the park and its related activities deserve this equipment when the Town Hall is closed. It carries a cost of \$7,000 including installation, but modest costs after installation. It would be available year around.

Ideal Township Broadband Infrastructure Update:

Most of the fiber optic broadband was installed in 2023. The entire Township will have access to this service, via Tremolo (ECTC), by December 2024. This is a result of a partnership with the City of Jenkins, Jenkins Township, and Crow Wing County. Ideal's funding comes from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and franchise fees (48%) and levy dollars (52%). Ideal is paying approximately 15% of the total installation costs with Tremolo picking up the balance. The entire project will be completely paid for by December 2024.

There is State/County aid to help residents bear the cost of hookups and to defray the cost of service for those who would need such assistance. The Township does not directly provide the aid but can put residents in touch with Crow Wing County for assistance.

The Transfer Station & Recycling Center report was presented by John Bilek. This last year was once again very busy for the Transfer Station. The Transfer Station is paying for itself. The Board is proposing to move most of the levy dollars for the Transfer Station to the Park, to help with the ballfield renovation and maintenance. A plan for a new building at the Transfer Station is in the works. A grant has been applied for and communication with the County about the building has started to take place. The Board is seeking this new building to help improve service and employee wellbeing. Groundbreaking is being planned for 2025.

Dave Peterson spoke regarding the proposed levy. The Township Board is proposing a 3.83% decrease over the 2024 levy. This year is the last year of a four-year plan to build up the Fire Department's relief association. The buildup has been successful in growing a competitive fund to help maintain retention and help with recruitment. Peterson thanked the residents for their willingness to do this. Motion by Lynn Scharenbroich, second by Susan Bilek to authorize the proposed levy for 2025 at \$1,255,000. Carried unanimously.

Open Forum:

Lynn Scharenbroich from the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway presented to the Township residents of a project the byway is working on. She is seeking involvement from the residents of the Townships and Cities along the byway to participate in a story telling of the communities along the byway. It could be your story or your family's story of your experiences in this area. They will be producing a video of the stories and a Pequot Lakes Community Education class. The Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway is one of seven nationally designated scenic byways in Minnesota.

Jon Grothe thanked Dave, John, Ron, and Craig for the work that they do for the Township.

Dave Peterson thanked the other board members, the clerk, the maintenance employees, the fire department, and the transfer station employees for their hard work for making this Township what it is.

Motion by Dave Peterson, second by Vonnie Stoltman to adjourn as there was no further business to discuss. Carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

J. Craig Wallace
Ideal Township Clerk
March 13th, 2024

Jon Grothe, Moderator

J. Craig Wallace, Clerk-Treasurer

Ideal Township Special Town Meeting, August 26th, 2024

The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were seven residents in attendance.

The Clerk called for nominations for Moderator. Motion by Dave Peterson, second by John Bilek to nominate Jon Grothe. There were no other nominations. Grothe accepted the nomination.

The order of business is revision of the 2025 Township Levy.

Supervisor Dave Peterson spoke regarding the levy revision. Peterson shared a few spreadsheets showing the Townships unexpected expenses of over \$135,000 due to recent storms the last 2 years and how that has affected the Townships budget. Supervisor John Bilek spoke about the need for a new building at the Transfer Station due to the increased volume of waste material, recycling and to improve employee wellbeing. The breakdown of the proposed revision of the 2025 levy is below.

Proposed 2025 levy is a 7.66% increase over 2024.

	Proposed 2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
General	195000	190000	190000	185000	185000	174000
Road & Bridge	390000	245000	235000	225000	225000	220000
Road Construction	290000	275000	270000	265000	265000	255000
Fire Department	200000	345000	335000	315000	315000	161000
Parks & Rec	15000	15000	5000	5000	5000	5000
Recycling					5000	5000
Capital Projects	310000	230000	220000	190000	190000	190000
Transfer Station	5000	5000	15000	17000	12000	12000
Total	1,405,000	1,305,000	1,270,000	1,202,000	1,202,000	1,022,000

Motion by Tom DeMers, second by Patti Peterson to approve the proposed revised 2025 levy. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Dave Peterson, second by John Bilek to adjourn as there was no further business to discuss. Carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

J. Craig Wallace
Ideal Township Clerk
August 28th, 2024

Jon Grothe, Moderator

J. Craig Wallace, Clerk-Treasurer

BOARD OF AUDIT REPORT FOR 2024



Board of Audit Report for 2024, March 5th, 2025

In accordance with Minnesota Statute § 367.36, Ideal Township is required to conduct an outside audit annually. For fiscal year 2024, the audit was performed by the CPA firm of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP.

A Board of Audit Meeting was held on March 5th, 2025, at 10:00am with all Town Board members, Kristen Houle of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP and the Clerk-Treasurer in attendance.

Chairman Bilek presented the 2024 Annual Audit documents to the Board for review. As shown on page 8 of the Financial Statements, the total Governmental Funds receipts from all sources totaled \$1,855,043 with disbursements of \$1,922,899. This indicates a deficit from operations in 2024 of \$67,856.

The 2024 beginning balances of all funds was \$634,863; minus, the 2024 deficit, plus fund transfers leaves a beginning balance for 2025 of \$597,007.

Activity of the proprietary enterprise fund representing the operation of the Ideal Transfer Station, as shown on page 10, includes revenue of \$173,083 and expenses of \$165,112 indicating an operating income of \$7,971. The 2024 beginning balance of \$49,711 plus non-operating receipts (property taxes) of \$5,344 plus the operating income and a \$30,000 transfer out, leaves a beginning balance for 2025 of \$33,026.

A report of all 2024 Property Tax Settlements paid to the Township from the Crow Wing County Auditor was presented by the Clerk. The total amount received from the 2024 levy was \$1,307,308.23. The approved 2024 levy was \$1,305,000.

A comparison report was presented showing net tax capacity rate (NTC) and total taxable market value (TMV) for the Township since 2004. Values for 2024 tax year show TMV of \$1,581,663,239 which calculates to a tax capacity of \$17,685,143 meaning the Township operated with a NTC rate of 7.380%. Tax capacity is a calculation of the statutory limit that a local government can levy based on the total market value of properties within the jurisdiction. The NTC rate is a measure of financial performance comparing tax capacity to the actual amount levied.

The Clerk gave the Board a demonstration of process procedures and document filing including computerized accounting system (CTAS), monthly reporting process, and year-end procedures. The demonstration indicated compliance with generally accepted practices and that all required filing & reporting has been completed including annual financial reports to the Minnesota State Auditor, periodic and year-end payroll filings and tax payments, workers compensation insurance audit, sufficient deposit account security pledges, and 2025 tax levy certification.

The Financial Statements, and Independent Auditor's Report for 2024 are available to the public upon request from the Clerk-Treasurer.

J. Craig Wallace
Ideal Township Clerk-Treasurer
March 6th, 2025

ROAD AND BRIDGE REPORT 2024

Ideal maintains 75 roads totaling just under 49 miles as certified by the county. We also maintain two bridges on Long Farm Road.

Our maintenance crew has done a good job again this past year maintaining our roads and right of ways. This includes plowing & sanding in the winter and mowing during the summer. They also maintain the transfer station, park, both fire stations, and town hall grounds.

The ongoing maintenance & repair of vehicles and other equipment is completed by our crew as much as possible.

Road and Bridge Account:

We spent \$194,957.53 on Storm Cleanup in 2024 caused by the Tornado on June 12th.

Road Construction Account:

- Overlaid a portion of Taray Road and Father Foley Road
- Chip sealed Clear Blue Avenue, Gasink Road, Kimble Lodge Road, Ossawinnamakee Road, Schaller Road, Shadow Trail, and Winnamakee Shores.

2025 Planned Road Work

- Pavement markings on Silver Peak Road, Butternut Point Road, and the Helipad.
- We continue to collaborate with Breezy Point on the reconstruction of Buschmann Road. Construction is expected to begin this year.

IDEAL FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



2024 Fire Department Report March 11th, 2025

2025 Officers

Chief I: Luke Hanson
Chief II: Ben Withhart
Chief III: Troy Anderson
Captain I: Dave Peterson
Captain II: Eli Loven
Chief Engineer: Craig Polchow
Safety Officer: Ken Stoltman
Secretary: Brad Foster

Membership

- We currently have 26 active firefighters

Safety incidents: None

ISO Certification

The ISO rating of 7 is given to residents that are within 5 miles of either Station I or Station II. Those residents living more than 5 miles from either Station are at an ISO rating of 9. We have posted this information on the Townships website along with equipment information. If your insurance agent has any questions, they should reference the Township website for information before they contact the Township or the Fire Chief.

Training

The Fire Department continues to keep up its required Monthly Training and always stresses the importance of Safety.

Apparatus

All of the apparatus has gone through their annual inspection and have met pumping requirements.

Ideal Fire Dept Relief Association Fund Raiser 2024

This year, we served just over 2,000 people at the Annual Beef Feed. We want to thank our community for their continuing support of the Beef Feed. We do enjoy hosting this for our community. It is a great time for everyone to gather and enjoy some fellowship.

Donations/Grants

The Department received \$7,590 from individuals and organizations throughout the year. Speaking for all IFD members we thank you.

Future

New training schedule for 2025

Participating in Crow Wing Counties Urban Wildland Interface Plan and started a Red Card crew

Water source infrastructure

Equipment inventory and updating

Luke Hanson

Ideal Township Fire Department

Chief I

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT FOR 2024

Finished/In Progress Projects:

We added stadium seating between the dugouts in 2024 as well as some minor improvements that have been suggested. This completes the ball field renovation, and we will be doing maintenance but no projects in 2025.

We also finished landscaping around the town hall, curbing and paving of the parking lot adjacent to the ball field, as well as adding some fencing to both protect and make more attractive the areas in the park for residents/visitors.

The board authorized the placement of an outdoor smart AED cabinet on the grounds just outside the Town Hall entrance. It is in place and available for use because it was felt that the increase in activity in the park area requires this equipment.

Broadband Update

Most of the fiber optic broad band was installed in 2023. The entire Township now has access to fiberoptic wifi and the final payment to Tremolo was made in 2024. In an area where many wonder when broadband will come to them, our township is secure in the most advanced wifi available.

We still have to make sure that all residents know that there is State/County aid to help bear the cost of hookups and also to defray the cost of service for those who would need such assistance. The Township does not directly provide the aid but can put residents in touch with Crow Wing County for assistance.

Projects for 2025:

We were approached by the Ideal Sno Pro's Snowmobile Club, who maintains a building on our property, of their desire to add on to the building. Given that there is some shared space, it is essential that the two organizations discuss and agree on this project. While no action has been taken during 2024, we expect that there will be discussions during 2025.

2025 will be a year of maintenance with no new, large projects for the park. The one new project will be to improve the water flow for the property by assessing and changing the flow at the wells to provide for adequate water for the entirety of the township grounds.

TRANSFER STATION REPORT FOR 2024

- Collected approximately 24 cords of firewood for the Rollie Johnson Rec Area.
- No safety incidents in 2024

USER LOG TOTALS:

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Permits	2004	1929	1807	1869	1863	1273	1321	1116
Mattresses	324	394	327	514	384	220	393	230
Electronics	214	188	290	322	472	208	284	268
Appliances	382	389	436	422	412	122	130	70
Tires	228	262	286	405	407	279	324	249

2024 TRANSFER STATION FINANCIALS

Revenue	\$173,283
Expenses	\$165,112
Net Gain	\$8,171

Metal & Appliances were hauled away at no cost. Approximate total weight 96,000 pounds.

Hazardous waste was picked up by the county at no cost.

IDEAL TOWNSHIP BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 2026 LEVY

Proposed 2026 Levy is a 7.11% decrease over 2025.

	Proposed 2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
General	195000	195000	190000	190000	185000	185000
Road & Bridge	280000	390000	245000	235000	225000	225000
Road Construction	320000	290000	275000	270000	265000	265000
Fire Department	200000	200000	345000	335000	315000	315000
Parks & Rec	10000	15000	15000	5000	5000	5000
Recycling						5000
Capital Projects	295000	310000	230000	220000	190000	190000
Transfer Station	5000	5000	5000	15000	17000	12000
Total	1,305,000	1,405,000	1,305,000	1,270,000	1,202,000	1,202,000

Budgetary items under General Revenue:

1. Board member's and clerk's salaries, training seminars, conferences, and expenses.
2. Office supplies & expenses. Election administration expenses.
3. Community Center building maintenance and minor improvements.

Budgetary items under Capital Projects:

1. Vehicle and major equipment purchases.
2. Transfer Station Building.
3. Major building improvements/additions.

Budgetary items under Park & Recreation:

1. Park/Ball Field maintenance and improvements.

Budgetary items under Road & Bridge and Road Construction:

1. Maintenance employee wages and benefits.
2. Annual road construction and improvements. Crack sealing, chip sealing, and road maintenance.
3. Gasoline, diesel fuel, oil.
4. Vehicle and equipment maintenance supplies and repairs.
5. Salt & Sand

Budgetary items under Transfer Station/Recycling Center:

1. Transfer station employee salaries.
2. Disposal of refuse materials.
3. Transfer station maintenance and minor improvements.

Budgetary items under Fire Department:

1. Fire/EMR equipment purchases, fuel, and maintenance.
 2. Firefighter & Recorder wages.
 3. Fire SVF Plan contribution.
 4. Personnel training.
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