

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of Thornapple Township: March 10, 2026

Chairman Tom Zelm called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Open meeting compliance was verified with notice posted in three locations.

Roll Call

Board members present: Chair, Tom Zelm; Supervisor, Ryan Smith; Supervisor, John Rautio; Treasurer, Sue Pinnow; Clerk, Becky Smith; Quorum verified: YES

No citizens present

Order of Business

- 1. Reading & action on board minutes:** Previous meeting's minutes were presented by the clerk; no amendments were needed. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by John Rautio and seconded by Tom Zelm; the motion carried.
- 2. Treasurer's report:** No treasurer's report was presented due to last minute schedule conflicts preventing its completion. It balances, but not everything was entered in time for the meeting. Sue will present the report at the next meeting.
- 3. Review & approve payment of bills due:** The month's bills were reviewed and approved to be paid. A motion to approve the bills was made by Ryan Smith and seconded by John Rautio; the motion carried. Sue suggested a motion to allow the Cumberland loan payments to be switched to autopay for simplicity. John made a motion to approve the suggestion and was seconded by Ryan; the motion carried.
- 4. Discussion on Citations for building permit violations:** John mentioned that the town does have an ordinance which allows for penalties on permit violations. However, Thornapple also needs to create a citation ordinance that grants authority to issue citations. Discussion was had on how much a citation should be and what, exactly, it can be issued for. Tom made a motion to contact an attorney to begin the process of creating such an ordinance and was seconded by Ryan. The motion carried. John will contact and consult with the attorney. Tom also made a motion to grant authority to Rusk County to issue citations on behalf of the Town of Thornapple and was seconded by Ryan; the motion carried.
- 5. Andrew Boster permit request:** Ryan made a motion to table Mr. Boster's request until such time as the attorney has been consulted regarding the citation ordinance and was seconded by John. The motion carried. Regarding permit approvals, Tom made a motion that building/driveway permit applications must be signed by a board supervisor or chairman before the permit is issued. Ryan seconded and the motion carried.
- 6. Cedar Corporation update:** The total costs for the desired road analyzation and grant application services would be in the vicinity of \$14,000. Part of this amount would be a one time cost and part would be a yearly fee, roughly \$4,400. The board felt that the services are well worth it and the potential return on investment in the form of road grants would eventually offset the cost. Ryan made a motion to approve acceptance of the quote and proceed with Cedar Corporations services. Tom seconded and the motion carried. Further updates on when the analyzation would take place are pending.
- 7. Roads report:** The town has had requests by Jump River Electric, Waste Management, and Zielie Tree Services for a waiver to use their equipment on some roads that are currently under weight restrictions.

Tom made a motion to approve the first two and was seconded by John; the motion carried. Tom will contact Zielies to double check what equipment they'd be using and likely ask them to hold off on those roads.

- 8. Equipment Report:** The chipper blades will need to be dropped off in Chippewa for sharpening. There has been no update on whether the damaged windshield previously discussed has been repaired or not.
- 9. Buildings/Town Hall/Recycling Center:** Sue requested and was granted board approval to order the big dumpsters for the clean-up month in May.
- 10. Citizens' comments:**
- 11. Adjourn meeting:** A motion to adjourn meeting was made at 9:03 PM by Ryan and was seconded by John; the motion carried.

Next month's meeting will be on: April 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM following the annual meeting.

Minutes prepared by: Becky Smith

Minutes seen and approved by:

Tom Zelm, Chairman

Ryan Smith, Supervisor

John Rautio, Supervisor