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May 2026

FREDENBERG TOWNSHIP NEWS

A monthly newsletter
Editor: Ellen Hanson

Minutes appearing in the newsletter are approved by the Town Board. All ordinances, policies and resolutions quoted herein and monthly correspondence is available for review in the Town Clerk’s office. Anyone wishing to review them can leave a message and a time can be arranged for viewing. Copies can be obtained for the standard price as stated in the administrative policy.

TOWN HALL OFFICE: 218-721-3991
Office Hours: 12 (noon) to 4:00 PM on Thursday or by appointment.

TOWN BOARD
Jeff Blix, Supervisor & Road Foreman 218-393-3011
Clay Cich, Supervisor 218-590-5005
Debra Pawlowicz, Vice Chair 218-428-4539
Walter Rapp, Supervisor 218-721-3761
Tim Wagner, Chair 218-428-9460
Ellen Hanson, Clerk 218-721-3991
Kim Wagner, Deputy Clerk 218-721-3991
Chelsey Mahr, Treasurer 218-721-3991

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
Keith Nelson 218-749-7108
300 S 5th Ave, Virginia, MN 55729
Nelsonk@stlouiscountymn.gov

DEPARTMENTS
Chief, Linda Bergstrand 218-349-2668
Recycling Center 218-721-3991
Assessor, County 218-726-2304
Town Hall 218-721-3991
Email fredenbergtpw@gmail.com
Website fredenberg.org

Township Roads Reporting
Jeff Blix is the Town Road Foreman, if there are any issues with roads, he should be contacted at 218-393-3011. Thank you.

Wildfire Awareness Month

May is recognized as Wildfire Awareness Month in many areas, highlighting the need to prepare for peak fire season by hardening homes, creating defensible space, and making evacuation plans. Roughly 85% of wildfires are human-caused, making prevention, such as managing vegetation, crucial.

Key Actions for Wildfire Preparedness Month

- Create Defensible Space: Maintain at least 30 feet of space around your home by removing dry, flammable vegetation and debris.
- Harden Your Home: Use non-combustible materials for roofs and siding, and cover vents with metal mesh to prevent ember intrusion.
- Prepare an Emergency Plan: Sign up for local alerts, create an evacuation plan, and prepare a “go-bag”.
- Stay Informed: Use resources like AirNow.gov to check air quality

For more information, visit the National Interagency Fire Center to learn more about fire prevention, education, and mitigation. May also often coincides with National Community Wildfire Preparedness Day.

Invitation from the Fredenberg Garden Club

Does spending time in nature energize you? Do you like to grow flowers and to socialize with others who share this interest? If yes, the Fredenberg Garden Club would love to have you join us. Our goal is to beautify the community by maintaining lovely gardens next to our Community Center. You can find us working there on Wednesday's starting at 9:30 am (dates are subject to change and occasionally need to be rescheduled.) We have fun while we work , and we also hold several social activities during the summer. Our first workday is tentatively scheduled for May 6th. Many hands make light work and we don't expect every member to attend every work day For more information or to join, please contact one of our garden co-chairs, Gwyn Curran (218 391-0220) or Kathy Johnson (218 391-7658) via phone or text. Happy spring!

APPROVED TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES for APRIL 1 2026

The Town of Fredenberg, Minnesota, St. Louis County, held the regular Board meeting in the Fredenberg Town Hall on Wednesday, April 1st, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present: Chair Tim Wagner, Supervisor Jeff Blix, Supervisor Clay Cich, Supervisor Walter Rapp, Clerk Ellen Hanson, Deputy Clerk Kim Wagner, and Treasurer Chelsey Mahr.

Others in attendance: Seven others were in attendance.

Call to order the regular meeting: Chair Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: Supervisor Cich motioned to approve the agenda, and Supervisor Blix seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously.

Open Forum Diane Palmstein suggested holding the 2027 annual meeting on the lower level.

Approval of the Minutes Regular meeting of March 4th, 2026: Supervisor Blix motioned to approve the March 4th, 2026, Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as presented, and Supervisor Cich seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously.

Financial Reports Treasurer Mahr stated she agreed with the bank balance. On March 31st, 2026, the ending balance in the checking account was \$191,171.08. The total of outstanding checks is \$448.98. The investment balance amounts to \$309,721.40. Supervisor Cich motioned to approve the financial reports, and Supervisor Blix seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously.

Clerk's Report Clerk Hanson balanced with the bank and provided the claims list report. The board reviewed the claims list. Claims numbered from 11136 to 11147 totaled \$7,357.60. Supervisor Blix motioned to approve the claims 11136-11147 for \$7,357.60 as presented, and Supervisor Rapp seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously. She recommended the transfer of \$9,528.35 from the Road Improvement fund to the Road Paving fund. This will facilitate a more seamless transition to the CD upon its renewal. Supervisor Blix motioned to transfer \$9,528.35 from the Road Improvement fund to the Road Paving fund, and Supervisor Cich seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously.

Correspondence The correspondence Clerk Hanson read included two pieces of mail, and six emails received during the month.

Reports for March 2026 Fredenberg Law Enforcement Statistics: Deputy Sergeant Nick Voltzke presented his report. In the township, 23 incidents occurred, resulting in zero arrests.

Roads/Bridges report: Supervisor Blix gave an update on the road work that occurred in March. The general condition of the roads is quite good. He was busy clearing trees from the roads. Supervisor Blix talked about the cost of calcium chloride. Edwards Oil will match the state-awarded price.

Fire Department report: Chief Bergstrand reported: The fire department responded to five calls: four medical and one smoke investigation. Fredenberg Fire received six new cold water rescue suits through a joint project from the MN State Fire Marshal's department and the Minnesota DNR. A water rescue training exercise was conducted at Fish Lake after the suits were received.

Cemetery report: Supervisor Rapp reported the cemetery will open soon.

Parks/Recreation/Pavilion: According to Supervisor Rapp, everything is going well. Supervisor Blix advised the installation of a fence at the sliding hill.

Community Center report: Deputy Clerk Wagner confirmed three rentals in March. Supervisor Cich received one quote for the repair work on the town hall zone valves. The consensus was to procure at least one additional quote for this work.

Recycling report: Treasurer Mahr had submitted the grant application.

Other monthly meetings: Clerk Hanson attended the March DAT meeting. The group toured the 911 Communications Center, and Sheriff Ramsey extended a welcome to us.

Jeff Monsaas indicated that the town's application for the Local Road Improvement Program grant (LRIP) was unsuccessful this year.

Unfinished Business: Fire/EMS Services contract for 2026: Clerk Hanson stated there was a meeting between two supervisors, the town treasurer, and fire department members. Amendments to the town attorney's approved contract have been requested by the fire department. A draft was presented, outlining the amendments for discussion. Supervisor Blix motioned to accept the changes from the fire department, and Supervisor Cich seconded the motion. After additional discussion, the motion was withdrawn. The most recent version, incorporating the amendments, will be forwarded to the town attorney for his counsel. The board has requested legal counsel at the special meeting on May 20th to discuss the contract. Supervisor Blix motioned to pay \$30,000 to the fire department, and until a new contract is signed, the town will continue with the old contract, and Supervisor Cich seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously. Supervisor Rapp suggested a meeting between the Fire Department's Treasurer and the Town Treasurer. The board reached a collective decision to proceed with this action, and the Fire Chief provided approval.

New Business: Roadwork quotes for 2026: The town received two quotes for the upcoming 2026 road maintenance. One quote from Greg Kunst and one from Rodda Grading. Supervisor Blix motioned to approve the 2026 Greg Kunst Road quote, and Supervisor Cich seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously.

2026 Roadside mowing: Supervisor Blix suggested postponing any action concerning 2026 roadside mowing for the present.

Local Board of Appeal and Equalization: Wednesday, May 13th, 2026, 1 to 2 pm.

Second monthly meeting: Chair Wagner motioned to cancel the second monthly meeting, and Supervisor Blix seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously.

Adjourn: Supervisor Blix motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm, and Supervisor Rapp seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously.

PLEASE DO NOT PUT SIGNS ON TOWNSHIP PROPERTY. They will be taken down and disposed of in the trash. Thank you.

TRUE CRIMES

Fredenberg Crime Statistics, April 2026 **Patrol Sergeant Nick Voltzke** **St. Louis County Sheriff's Office**

In the Township, there were 19 incidents and no arrests.

4/3/26 7:49	PI-PERSONAL INJ	RPT-REPORT TAKEN
4/3/26 19:10	PDHR-PROP DAM/HITRUN	TAG-TICKET ISSUED
4/6/26 13:17	HARASS-HARASSMENT	RPT-REPORT TAKEN
4/7/26 13:49	AOA-ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	AST-ASSISTANCE RENDERED
4/7/26 15:21	T - TRAFFIC STOP	REP-WARNED OR REPRIMANDED
4/9/26 2:19	AOA-ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	ADV-ADVISED
4/9/26 21:11	T - TRAFFIC STOP	REP-WARNED OR REPRIMANDED
4/9/26 21:30	T - TRAFFIC STOP	REP-WARNED OR REPRIMANDED
4/9/26 21:42	T - TRAFFIC STOP	REP-WARNED OR REPRIMANDED
4/12/26 4:47	PDAN-MVA W/ANIMAL	CLR-CLEARED
4/12/26 10:48	TRBUNK-UNKNOWN TROUBLE	CAN-CANCEL
4/17/26 20:05	911 DISCONNECT - HANG UP	CANCELLED CALL
4/18/26 21:05	INFO-INFORMATION	MOR-MATTER OF RECORD
4/22/26 15:49	CKWEL-CHECK WELFARE	MOR-MATTER OF RECORD
4/22/26 22:14	T - TRAFFIC STOP	REP-WARNED OR REPRIMANDED
4/23/26 13:52	CB-CALL BACK	MOR-MATTER OF RECORD
4/24/26 16:03	PUBLIC--PUBLIC ASSIST	ADV-ADVISED
4/24/26 19:32	HOTROD-HOTRODDERS	MOR-MATTER OF RECORD
4/25/26 10:33	TRBKID - JUVENILE OFFENSE	MOR-MATTER OF RECORD

Wildfire Fire Emergency

Safety First:

- If the fire is approaching or you are afraid you may be trapped, evacuate now.

- Report the fire after you are in a safe location.

Plan, prepare, and practice before a wildfire occurs. Here is a good [wildfire evacuation checklist from FEMA \(PDF\)](#).

Report a wildfire

- Do not assume a fire has been reported.
- Report any suspected unauthorized fires by calling 911. If in doubt, report a fire. An early report helps keep fires small.
- You should be ready to provide the location of the fire by street address or section, township, and range, or directions and distances from known roads or landmarks.
- Additional information can be extremely helpful. Dispatchers may ask you about:
 - * whether any structures or other improvements are threatened
 - * the approximate size of the fire
 - * the type of fuels the fire is burning and the type of fuels it is approaching (i.e., grasses, brush, forest)
 - * color of the smoke—white, black, gray
 - * the type of terrain and access into the fire

- * the time the fire started, as well as who started it, if known information on whether anyone is working on the fire

Evacuation

Plan, prepare, and practice before a wildfire occurs. Here is a good [wildfire evacuation checklist from FEMA \(PDF\)](#). Have a go-bag ready for when an evacuation is necessary. FEMA provides a [go-bag checklist \(PDF\)](#) you can print.

- If the fire approach is imminent - open gates and fences for your horses/livestock
- If you have any concerns, leave early to avoid heavier traffic, decreased visibility, or need extra time due to small children, pets, or physical challenges.
- If you have time:
 - * Close all doors and windows
 - * Close heavy drapes
 - * Open light drapes
 - * Remove combustibles from near the house/decks/propane tanks.
 - * Put a ladder up to the roof (for firefighters).
 - * Put your hose out so it is available for firefighters to fill water tanks or set up sprinkler systems.
 - * Leave power on (so the hose works).
 - * Turn propane off.
 - * Leave a note that you have left with contact information.
 - * Leave the house unlocked.



Fredenberg Art Weller Recycle Center News

The Center is sponsored by an annual grant from Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD).

Hours: Wednesday: 5-8 pm and Saturday: 9 am-1 pm. **Closed when the district schools are closed.**

Chesney Auto Salvage, 6250 Beaver River Road, will accept batteries and waste oil.

Please use Resource Renew Household Hazardous Waste Facility and Product Reuse Center, 2626 Courtland St. (take the S 27th Ave W freeway exit), for other household hazardous waste and yard waste materials.

Below are a few rules to follow when using the Fredenberg Recycle Center.

1. The Center will only accept rinsed/cleaned & emptied cans, bottles & containers.
2. Styrofoam, in any form, is not recycled at this Center.
3. The Center does not accept household garbage of any kind and it is NOT to be dumped at the Center or the dumpster. Dumping garbage of any kind at the Center is illegal.
4. The Center does not accept any metal or plastic gas cans.
5. The Center does not repurpose any form of electronics. They can be brought to WLSSD Materials Recovery Center, 4587 Ridgeview Road, off the Rice Lake Road. For more information, check out the website at wlssd.com.
6. The Center does not accept take out containers, fruit/vegetable plastic containers or deli clam containers.
7. The outside dumpsters are for cardboard, newspaper/paper and glass/plastic/tin cans.

Please be respectful of the rules and the STAFF when using the Center. The Town may be charged for dumpsters/bins containing non-recyclables. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Town Hall/Community Center Exercise Classes

Classes held at the Community Center/Town Hall, Reservoir Riders Clubhouse, Pavilion

Instructors: Sandy Rock: \$4/class,

Anita Anderson: \$5/class

Sandy Rock classes are held through out the week. Please call her at 320-766-2902 for information.

Yoga: June-September

Tuesdays 7 - 8 am at the tennis courts (in inclement weather we will move to the Reservoir Riders clubhouse)

Town Hall/Community Center Rentals

The Town Hall / Community Center is available to rent for township residents, non-residents, and events. There is a full kitchen with stove and refrigerator. The rental agreement can be found at the town's website: Fredenberg.org. Please call ahead for date and time availability at 218-721-3991 or email at fredenbergtwp@gmail.com. A \$100 refundable damage deposit and a copy of homeowners insurance is required.

Newsletter Advertising Rates

Business Card Size: \$10 per month

Full page: \$80 per month

Half page: \$40 per month

Insert: \$80 per month

Send your ad request to Clerk, fredenbergtwp@gmail.com or call 218-721-3991, by the last day of month for printing. The newsletter is available on the Fredenberg.org website.



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Estate planning should not be stressful!
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Fredenberg Town Board Meetings

Regular Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, 7 pm at the Town Hall.

Meetings are in-person and held in the Board room, second floor.

The next scheduled meetings are:

June 3, 2026

July 1, 2026

August 5, 2026

Fredenberg Community Center

The Center is open to the public and available to rent.

For information on rentals and fees, please contact the Office at 218-721-3991, email at Fredenbergtwp@gmail.com or go to the website at Fredenberg.org.