

Town of Duluth

Town Board Meeting June 11, 2026

6:00 p.m. Interview: Valerie Brady

The interview began at 6:02 p.m. Supervisors ArMand Nelson, Stacia Grayson, and Angela Wilson. Were in attendance. Jim arrived late. The interview concluded at 6:27 p.m.

Call to Order: The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 p.m. Supervisors Angela Wilson, ArMand Nelson, Stacia Grayson and Jim Ward were present. Police Chief Mark Haselow and Fire Chief Bob Engelson were present. Cemetery Sexton Molly Tillotson and Clerk Nicole Chatterson were also present.

Approve Minutes: Jim moved to approve Stupnik Appeal Hearing Minutes and Finding of Facts. Stacia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Angela moved to approve May 14, 2026, Regular Town Board Meeting. Jim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Agenda: Add sexton hiring to personnel.

Public Comment: The Nordin Family raised concerns with their families eight plots that were purchased by their great grandparents. Three of the sisters were here to discuss their concerns with the Board. They mentioned that there were issues with the recent head and footstone raising and note that there was a chip out of the bottom. They discussed issue involving the misassigned family burial plots. The plots had been sold in 1998. Two of the family's plots have been recovered; however, the remaining two plots are currently occupied by burials. The family would like to have the two plots at the foot of their grandparents, but they are owned but not occupied. Molly has tried to find the owners or next of kin to request purchasing the plots back but has been unsuccessful. Molly will provide the names of the affected plot owners to the Clerk's Office, and a notice will be included in the July newsletter seeking information on this family. The Nordin family discussed a possible resolution included: Providing two replacement plots at the foot of the grandparents' graves or near their uncle's grave and/or exhuming the two occupied graves to restore the original family plots. The Board was not interested in exhuming the occupied graves and will work to find the unoccupied plot owners. Molly will continue to work with the Nordins.

Sue Lawson: Sue Lawson addressed the Board and submitted a letter requesting that the Board implement a moratorium on data centers to allow additional time for further study and evaluation of their potential impacts. The Board agreed to look into the possibility of implementing a moratorium on data centers and will gather additional information before considering any further action.

Finances: The Treasurer provided a report with a Beginning Balance of \$480,695.51, with Deposits of \$4,524.80, and Expenses of \$23,668.14, for an Ending Balance of \$461,552.17. **Motion:** Stacia moved to approve the financial statement and payroll. Angela seconded. The motion unanimously passed. The payroll net pay account distributions and the claims list for approval were approved and signed.

Department Reports

Police: The Police Department received a \$1,500.00 grant from Cooperative Light & Power to assist with upgrading or replacing the squad computer. The upgrade will ensure the department is in compliance with the county's new computer system requirements.

Fire: The department has approximately \$3,000.00 remaining in its Firewise grant, which must be expended by the end of the month. To utilize the remaining grant funds, the department hired T & T to remove dead and dying trees surrounding the Town Hall.

Planning and Zoning: A Conditional Use Permit hearing for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) on a property located on Ryan Road is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2026.

Legal: Nothing new to report.

Roads: Jim reported that Bob was bitten by a tick and was hospitalized, including a stay in the intensive care unit (ICU). Jim will contact Bob to determine when he expects to resume the Township's spring road maintenance. Jim will also contact Silver Creek Township to determine whether they can apply chloride to Greenwood Road before Grandma's Marathon, as the road had been graded prior to Bob's hospitalization. Jim further reported that Torgeson Road experienced a 50-foot washout that will need to be repaired. If Bob is unable to complete the work, Jim will contact JBL to make the necessary repairs. ArMand asked Jim about providing educational information to the Board regarding road maintenance, vendors, and the procedures for emergency road closures and signage. Jim responded that Bob is the primary contact, as he has the emergency road closure signs. Jim also noted that the Township could reach out to other resources, including St. Louis County, for additional guidance and assistance.

Town Hall: ArMand initiated a discussion regarding the original plans for expanding the Town Hall parking lot. Nicole will contact Beth to determine whether any of the original plans related to Phase III of the building and facilities improvement project are still available. The Board identified a suitable lawn mower for purchase for use at the Town Hall.

Motion: Stacia moved to approve the purchase of a Troy-Bilt lawn mower for an amount not to exceed \$2,800.00. Angela seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. With the purchase of the lawn mower, additional storage space will be needed in the shed. Roger will remove the oven that has been stored in the shed since it was replaced as part of the ARPA-funded project. The oven will be advertised for sale in the July newsletter for \$50.00.

Jim reported that he received bids for resurfacing and striping the Town Hall parking lot. As of the meeting date, A1 and Asphalt of Duluth had submitted completed bids, while the third company had not provided a bid. Asphalt of Duluth submitted a bid for \$6,995.00, and A1 submitted a bid for \$4,990.00. Jim noted that A1 recently completed the parking lot project at Betty's Pies and that they did an excellent job.

Motion: Angela moved to hire A1 for parking lot cleaning, seal coating, crack filling, and striping services at a cost of \$4,990.00. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The DNR requires the Board to sign an agreement for the installation, maintenance, and use of a test hole or water-level observation well on private or public land, which was previously approved at the May meeting.

Motion: Angela moved to approve the agreement with the DNR for installation of a water-level observation well at the Duluth Township Town Hall. Stacia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Materials Management: The Township is currently down one recycling attendant for the summer. An advertisement will be placed in the newsletter seeking a substitute attendant. In the meantime, Roger will cover the open shifts.

Cemetery: The Township received a donation check from the Estate of John J. Rasmussen designated for the Cemetery.

Resolution 06112026.2: Accepting Donation from the Estate of John J. Rasmussen.

Motion: Jim moved to approve Resolution 06112026.2 accepting the donation from the Estate of John J. Rasmussen. Angela seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

Communications: Newsletter in process for July.

Personnel: **Motion:** Angela moved to offer Valery Brady the Cemetery Sexton position with wages set at \$750.00 per month during the summer months and \$250.00 per month during the winter months. The Board will revisit the wage structure in June 2027. Stacia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Angela moved to increase Molly's salary to \$750.00 per month for the summer of 2026 during the training period and to set Valery's wages at 50% of Molly's salary until the training period is complete. Stacia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: ArMand provided an update regarding the potential land donation. He reported that approximately 700 feet of trail would need to be created as part of the project. The Board will meet prior to the regular July Town Board meeting at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 5356 McQuade Road to walk and review the property that may be donated to the Township.

New Business: **Resolution 06112026.1:** Authorizing Execution of Joint Powers Agreement with the North Shore Management Board and Designating Authorized Signatory.

Motion: Angela moved to adopt Resolution 06112026.1, appointing ArMand as the authorized signatory for the North Shore Management Board on behalf of the Township. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Township received its annual letter from the State Demographic Center regarding Annual Population and Household Estimates. The current estimates are 2,091 residents and 825 households.

Correspondence

- Gnesen Township Newsletter
- Barco Products
- CLP Powerlines

Calendar Events and Meeting Schedule

- Thursday, June 19, 2026, Clerk's office Closed for Juneteenth
- Wednesday, July 1-3, 2026, Clerk's office Closed
- Thursday, July 9, 2026, 5:15 p.m. Special Town Board Meeting at 5356 McQuade Road
- Thursday, July 9, 2026, 6:30 p.m. Town Board Meeting
- Wednesday, July 29, 2026, 10:30 a.m. Public Accuracy Test
- Saturday, August 8, 2026, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Come on Home Party
- Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Minnesota Primary Election
- Thursday, August 13, 2026, 6:30 p.m. Town Board Meeting

Adjournment: Angela moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Stacia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.