

Thursday, April 16, 2026 Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting
Meeting held at Knife Lake Townhall
2013 260th Ave Mora, MN 55051

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ken Mattson at 8:00 PM. Supervisors Mary Fratzke and Ed Hamlin were present. Also present was Clerk Kim Christenson, Treasurer Lisa Olson, Zoning Administrator Gerald Evenson, and Mark Allseits with Couri & Ruppe, PLLP

Ken Mattson called the meeting to order

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Moved, Second, Carried MSC (Ed, Mary) to approve the agenda as amended: add nuisance ordinance, add Point Trail culvert.

MSC (Ed, Mary) to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2026 Board of Supervisors Meeting as corrected: gravel pit permit fee will cost \$2,500 per permit not \$2,000.

All monthly bills were reviewed. MSC (Ken, Ed) to approve and pay the bills.

The board discussed a letter they received from Sherman Builders concerning the decision made at the February 19, 2026 board meeting on their variance application. The board consulted with the township attorney. No action taken.

Keith Van Hale, on behalf of the Planning Commission, made the recommendation to the board to approve an updated zoning ordinance.

It was moved by Ed Hamlin, seconded by Mary Fratzke and carried unanimously to approve the following resolution:

Resolution #1 – 04/16/2026
Resolution Amending the Township Zoning Ordinance

TOWNSHIP OF KNIFE LAKE
COUNTY OF KANABEC
STATE OF MINNESOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-1

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the Township of Knife Lake adopted its Zoning Ordinance, last updated on June 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Knife Lake has the authority to establish and amend zoning districts and ordinances under the provisions of the Municipal Planning Act at Minn. Stat. § 462.357, subd. 2-4; and

WHEREAS, the Township Planning Commission, in accordance with the requirements of the Minn. Stat. § 462.357, has timely published and posted notice of the public hearing regarding the proposed zoning amendments; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was duly held before the Township Planning Commission on the 16th day of April 2026, at which time all members of the public who were present and wished to speak were heard, and their input was considered by the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, after considering all input received at the public hearing, the Township Planning Commission made a recommendation to adopt the proposed Ordinance Amending the Township Zoning Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Knife Lake has determined that a comprehensive rework of its Zoning Ordinance was necessary to reflect changes to State law and to best serve the interests of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Knife Lake has determined that cannabis businesses and adult uses are most appropriate as interim uses in the Agricultural-Open District; and

WHEREAS, Cannabis businesses create distinct and well-documented land use impacts that warrant careful regulation to protect nearby residences and existing commercial uses. Odor emissions from cultivation and processing, continuous exterior lighting required for security, and increased traffic and service activity can interfere with the use and enjoyment of adjacent properties and can undermine the character of established neighborhoods. Directing cannabis businesses to the A-O District places these higher intensity uses in an area already suited to accommodate them and provides an appropriate separation from residential districts. This approach is grounded in Minn. Stat. 342.13(c), which authorizes municipalities to regulate the time, place, and manner of cannabis businesses provided the regulation does not amount to a prohibition. Locating these uses within the A-O District is a reasonable and evidence-based exercise of that authority and reflects the Township's responsibility to safeguard public health, safety, and general welfare.

WHEREAS, adult uses are being zoned to the A-O District for the reasons established in Planning Commission Resolution 2026-1, which is incorporated herein by reference.

THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF KNIFE LAKE ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: REPEAL OF THE TOWNSHIP'S ZONING ORDINANCE LAST UPDATED JUNE 2006 TO ADOPT THE TOWNSHIP'S ZONING ORDINANCE, AMENDED THIS 16th DAY OF APRIL, 2026.

The Township's Zoning Ordinance last updated June 2006 is hereby repealed and replaced by the Township's Zoning Ordinance amended this 16th day of April, 2026, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A.

SECTION 2: REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 3: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect immediately after publication in summary format in accordance with applicable law.

MSC (Ken, Ed) to approve the summary of the updated zoning ordinance and direct the clerk to publish said summary in the Kanabec County Times.

The board discussed the abandonment of Garden Street. Attorney Allseits stated he will look into the process of vacating the road. The board will discuss this again at the May board meeting.

MSC (Ken, Mary) to approve the Fire Protection Agreement with the City of Mora for fire services. The agreement will be effective on July 1, 2025 and will expire in 5 years.

8:41pm - The chairperson called for public comment three times. None responded.

8:42pm – The chairperson closed public comment.

There was one land use permits were issued last month.

There were two shoreland permits issued since January 2026.

The supervisors will meet with Jerry Black on May 20, 2026 at 12:30pm to conduct the annual road review.

MSC (Ed, Ken) to approve Caleb Christenson Jr to mow lawn at the town hall for the summer of 2026.

MSC (Ed, Mary) to approve Knife Lake Ordinance #2, an ordinance defining nuisances, prohibiting their creation or maintenance and providing for abatement and penalties for violation thereof.

MSC (Ed, Mary) to approve the summary of the Nuisance Ordinance and direct the clerk to publish said summary in the Kanabec County Times.

MSC (Ed, Mary) to have attorney Allseits write a letter to the residents on Point Trail for installing a culvert without board approval.

MSC (Ed, Mary) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM.

Clerk

Chairman