

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TSHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, June 17th, 2026 at 10:00am
Timothy Tomsich Community Center or Zoom (see email for how to join)

Call to Order/Roll Call: President Nancy Larson at 10:12am

In-Person Attendance: Nancy Larson-President, Linda Folstad-Secretary, Dianna Sunsdahl-Board, Alan Kilberg-Board, Louise Gately-Vice President, David Desannoy-Board, Dick Peyla-Board, Diane Meehan-Treasurer (10:15)

Virtual/Phone Attendance: Mary St Onge-Board

Absent: Richard Hanson-Board, Linda Haugen-Board

Approval of Agenda and Action Items:

Motion by Louise Gately to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

2nd by David Desannoy

Motion carried 8-0

Meeting Minutes: May 20, 2026

Motion to Approve

Motion by Alan Kilberg to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2026, meeting

2nd by Louise

Motion carried 8-0

Treasurer's Report:

- April and May 2026

Motion to Accept Treasurer's Reports:

Motion by Dick Peyla to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented.

2nd by David

Motion carried 9-0

Motion to Authorize Disbursements: April and May 2026

There was much discussion on what documents need to be included in Treasurer Report for Board meetings. Going forward, it was suggested we change the agenda topic "Authorize Disbursements" to "Approve Transactions". The Treasurer's Report will include Transactions; Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss; and Budget vs Actual. The Reconciliation sheet will be eliminated.

Motion by Louise to approve this change and to approve April and May transactions.

2nd by Alan

Motion carried 9-0

Executive Committee: *No activity*

***Committee Reports:** (Per By-Laws, the President, or in his/her absence, the Vice-President, shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.)

Standing Committees and Leaders:

1. St. Louis County Historical Society: Linda Folstad – See attached
2. Communications: Louise Gately, Nancy Larson – See attached
3. Depot Museum and Trains – Facility Management: Linda Folstad, Linda Haugen, Nancy Larson – See attached
 - *Train Cars
 - *Settlers Cabin
 - *Depot Museum Management
4. Fire Hall Management: Leone Graf, Nancy Larson – See attached
5. Fund Raising (Pledges, Capital Campaign): Louise Gately, Nancy Larson – See attached
6. Grant Writing: Nancy Larson – See attached
7. Membership: Linda Folstad – 133 Active Members as of 5/31/2026

Project Committees and Leaders:

1. Annual Meeting: Louise Gately, Linda Haugen, Nancy Larson – *No report*
2. Events/Programs: Louise Gately, Nancy Larson – See attached
3. Nominating: (Appointed in July) – *No report*
4. Past Perfect Web Edition: Nancy Larson – See attached
5. Soudan Mine Memorial: Elaine McGillivray – *No report*

Committee Reports Questions/Discussion:

Motion to Approve Reports

Discussion on possible auction items for the Bash and request for volunteers.

Motion by Dianna Sunsdahl to approve the Committee Reports as presented.

2nd by Alan

Motion carried 9-0

New Business:

- Administrative Document Retention and Destruction: Dianna stated this was a draft version and will bring a finalized copy to review and approve to next month's meeting.
- Investment Policy: The December 2025 stock donation for the fire hall restoration project was losing value in its current account, and so Nancy made the decision to transfer it to a safer interest bearing account in May on the advice of the financial advisor. It was discussed that going forward as we accept gifts into our brokerage account, to immediately transfer the amount to an interest bearing account and hold until we cash it out for the specific project.
Ameriprise offered to give a short presentation to the Board on what is involved with gifts of appreciated securities; and IRA charitable rollovers, as a matter of information if the board is interested. These are tax efficient donation methods that can support the TSHS mission.
It was noted that the TSHS website provides information on these various methods that offer a tax advantage over a cash gift while supporting our organization.
Dianna made a motion to table the Investment Policy until the Executive Committee can review. Motion carried unanimously.
- Videographer Update: Nancy talked to Owen, and he said he will get the five videos from last year to us by June 30. She reached out to Brett Ross, a professional videographer from Ely, to do the videotaping for this year's annual meeting, but she has not heard back from him.
- Steam Pumper Interpretive Center – 2007: The Steam Pumper is sinking further in the sand so it either needs to be moved to prevent rot or put on wood blocks. Alan will see if he can get wood under the wheels where it is currently located or if it should be moved.

- 52 Club Raffle Tickets – Distribution: Everyone was given their two books to sell plus there are seven additional books once people run out. There are posters advertising them at the Civic Center and Fire Hall. Nancy will also make some smaller flyers for people to distribute.
- TSHS Website and Facebook Review Consideration: Nancy was curious how familiar Board members are with the website and Facebook page currently, and if we want to review different sections of either during Board meetings so everyone is aware what all is out there. Dianna could project it from her screen at the meetings.
- City of Tower Move to Fire Hall Update: The public reception area has gone out for bid so that it can be completed by early fall and the City staff can move in. Proposed for the lease agreement with the city: The City has a contract with a propane contractor at a much lower rate than we currently have so we will propose they hook up their tank once they move in and handle those costs directly. Same with putting electricity in their name with Minnesota Power. We will propose the fire and security systems also be under the City so they are called when there is an issue instead of the Historical Society members. We will propose an option for TSHS to transfer ownership of the building within five years to the city so that we would not be responsible for long-term maintenance and capital improvement costs, but we would maintain access to the Fire Hall section of the building for our own TSHS purposes/events.
- TSHS/City of Tower Lease Agreement: Nancy asked Alan and Dianna to review the final agreement with her once it is ready. It should be ready by the end of this month.
- Other: There was a suggestion to raise membership fees to generate more operating income. After discussion, it was decided that our current rates are reasonable (\$15 per individual; \$30 per couple); it was decided not to raise them at this time.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 11:45am

Next Board Meeting is July 15, 2026, at 10:00am.