

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF CROSSLAKE
FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026
11:00 A.M. – CITY HALL

The Council for the City of Crosslake held a Special Session on Friday, March 6, 2026. The following Council Members were present: Mayor Jackson Purfeerst, Jayme Knapp, Bob Heales, and Robin Sylvester. Council Member Sandy Farder attended via Zoom because she was traveling. Also present were City Administrator Lori Conway, City Clerk Char Nelson, Public Works Director Pat Wehner, Parks & Recreation Director TJ Graumann, and Zoning Director Jody Grund. Attorney Joe Langel, DNR Staff Charles Davis and DNR Staff Linda Erickson-Eastwood attended viz Zoom. There were three people in the audience.

Mayor Purfeerst called the meeting to order at 11:05 A.M.

Lori Conway reported that she was contacted by Sara Wennerberg, Grant Specialist of the DNR on March 2, 2026 to discuss her concerns with the bond proceeds for the National Loon Center. During this conversation Ms. Conway was made aware for the first time that the bonding was a cash bill and therefore did not have to go through a government entity and that the Loon Center could be named as the grantee. This would remove the City from a 37 ½ year obligation and any burden to payback the loan should the National Loon Center default or close its doors.

Sara Wennerberg was not present and had Charlie Davis, another Grant Specialist with the DNR, at the meeting to discuss this change of grantee. Mr. Davis stated that he started working on this project in October and could help the City move forward with any changes they would like to make to the bonding. After discussions, it was noted that to change the language of the bonding bill to a new grantee, a request would need to be drafted and presented to the legislature for consideration.

Council remained concerned that the timing was not ideal and wanted to make certain this would not jeopardize the \$2.5 million award or delay the National Loon Center construction.

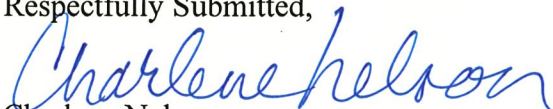
City Attorney Joe Langel stated that the current contract between the City and the National Loon Center protects the City, should the Loon Center default or close its doors. Attorney Langel stated that the City would be able to recover funds from them. Ms. Conway asked if there were “no funds” available, would the City be responsible for the life of the bond for 37.5 years.

Council Member Bob Heales stated that the intention of the meeting today was to protect the City long term and felt the City needed more information.

The Council directed Lori Conway to contact the MN Management and Budget Office to determine the next steps in modifying the language of the grant.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the special meeting at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charlene Nelson
City Clerk