TOWNSHIP OF ROME

FARIBAULT COUNTY, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-11

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE ROME TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' POSITION AND ACTION PLAN REGARDING THE PROPOSED POWERON MIDWEST 765 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT (MINNESOTA PUC DOCKET NO. ET3, E002/CN-25-117)

WHEREAS, a coalition of utility companies, including Xcel Energy, Great River Energy, ITC Midwest, and Otter Tail Power Company, has announced the proposed "PowerOn Midwest Project," which involves the construction of a high-voltage 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission line passing through southern Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the utility coalition has filed a Certificate of Need with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) under Docket No. ET3, E002/CN-25-117, initiated to establish the regional necessity of this transmission infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the proposed route corridors for this 765 kV transmission line intersect portions of Rome Township, Faribault County, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the construction of a 765 kV transmission line requires massive infrastructure, including steel towers up to 150–200 feet in height and a right-of-way easement up to 250 feet wide, which poses unique, permanent, and significant disruptions to the local community; and

WHEREAS, Rome Township's economy, culture, and tax base are fundamentally rooted in agricultural operations, and the proposed infrastructure threatens prime tillable acreage, center-pivot irrigation systems, underground drainage tiling networks, and the safe operation of modern farming equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Rome Township Board of Supervisors is charged with protecting the health, safety, economic well-being, and property rights of the residents and landowners within the Township; and

WHEREAS, while Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.10 preempts local zoning ordinances and moratoriums regarding high-voltage transmission lines, the statutory framework explicitly permits local government units to formally intervene, submit evidence, and propose alternative routing to the Minnesota PUC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROME TOWNSHIP, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. FORMAL OPPOSITION TO THE CURRENT ALIGNMENT: The Rome Township Board of Supervisors formally objects to the current proposed routes through Rome Township due to the severe and disproportionate impacts on prime agricultural lands, residential homesteads, and local infrastructure.

2. AUTHORIZATION TO INTERVENE: The Board hereby authorizes the Township's legal counsel to prepare and file a formal Petition to Intervene in Minnesota PUC Docket No. ET3, E002/CN-25-117, to grant Rome Township official legal standing to participate, submit expert evidence, and cross-examine witnesses before the Administrative Law Judge.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF ROUTE ALTERNATIVES: The Board, in coordination with local landowners and agricultural experts, will actively develop and submit alternative routing options during the Route Permit phase, prioritizing alignments that run parallel to existing major transportation corridors, section lines, or non-tillable lands to minimize agricultural fragmentation.

4. COOPERATIVE REGIONAL COALITION: The Board directs the Township Chair and Clerk to coordinate advocacy and legal resources with the Faribault County Board of Commissioners, neighboring townships, and local grassroots citizen coalitions to present a unified regional defense before the PUC.

5. LANDOWNER EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY: The Township will actively disseminate information to affected residents regarding their legal rights under Minnesota's "Buy-the-Farm" statute (Minn. Stat. § 216E.12, Subd. 4), ensuring landowners understand their right to compel the utility to purchase their entire property if an easement is executed.

6. DISTRIBUTION OF RESOLUTION: The Township Clerk is directed to forward certified copies of this Resolution to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Faribault County officials, and the legislative

representatives representing Rome Township in the Minnesota State Senate and House of Representatives.

Passed and adopted by the Rome Township Board of Supervisors this 12th day of October, 2026.

Township Board Chair Steven Hansen

ATTEST:

Township Clerk Andrew Nelson

Next Steps for the Township Board:

1. Consult the Township Attorney: Have your municipal attorney review this text to ensure it aligns perfectly with any specific local bylaws or procedural requirements.

2. Add to the Public Agenda: Place the resolution on the agenda for the next scheduled town meeting. Ensure public notice is given so residents can attend and show their support.

3. Vote and File: Once voted on, the clerk must sign it and formally upload it to the Minnesota PUC eDockets system under Docket No. 25-117 so it becomes a matter of official public record.