

# Worthington Hockey Association – Board Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2026 | 5:45 PM | JBS Fieldhouse

Location noted in agenda email as: JBS FIELDHOUSE.

## 1. Call to Order / Quorum

The meeting was called to order. Quorum and voting count were discussed; it was noted that once additional members arrived, quorum would be met.

## 2. Attendance

Present:

- Nick Einck
- Matt Kennedy
- Shannon Andrea
- Andy Berg
- Tyler Nienkerk
- Amy Khamphanh
- Nikki Reiter
- Jason Larsen
- Josh Platt
- Josh Iten
- Becky Heitkamp – Virtual
- Nate Grimmus

Absent:

- Jason Johnson
- Josh Miller
- Anna Smith
- Aaron Sieve

## 3. Approval of Minutes

Prior minutes were approved via text on February 6, 2026. Motion: Aaron Sieve; Seconded: Tyler Nienkerk; 12 affirmative votes.

## 4. Treasurer's Report / Financial Report

- Last month's financial report was approved via text on February 4, 2026. Motion: Nikki Reiter; Seconded: Jason Larsen; 12 affirmative votes.
- The Treasurer's report / Treasurer update was postponed to the next month due to Treasurer absence.

## 5. Old Business

### 5.1 Arena Operations / City Coordination

Old business related to arena operations was raised; attendees indicated limited updates were available at that time.

### 5.2 New Arena Project

- A Healthcare Foundation lobby sponsorship was referenced as approved at \$250, with city vote still pending on the lobby naming sponsorship.
- The board noted fundraising would continue for other needs/extras, and that additional approvals would trigger rollout/intro specifications and related materials.
- Further new arena discussion was tabled until the next meeting when additional members (Josh and Jason) could be present.

## 6. Gambling Report

The following documents were provided to the Board: Bank Reconciliation: Month-end physical inventory; bank register; perpetual inventory; G1 & LG100A; LG1004.

### 6.1 January Gambling Summary (Gross Profit; site commission applies)

- Tap: approximately \$3,100 (gross).
- MAV: approximately \$3,800 (gross).
- VFW: approximately \$7,600 (gross), including approximately \$6,300 in e-tabs.
- Brewery: approximately \$1,800 (gross).
- January raffles/events: Spring raffle \$1,241; Mini-Mite Jamboree \$857; Wombat Warrior game \$211; Phantom split-the-pot \$173 (and other small items referenced).
- January total: approximately \$16,000 (gross).
- Ice contract reported as paid in full.
- United Prairie Bank balance: approximately \$13,400; Savings account balance: approximately \$5,353.

### 6.2 Board Approval – January Gambling Expenses

- Monthly lease fee at MAV: \$320.24.
- Spring raffle tickets: \$122.95.
- Supplies (rubber bands/envelopes/markers, etc.): \$43 and \$43.69 (as referenced).
- Referee costs for 12U districts: \$1,592.

Motion made and approved to pay the above January gambling expenditures.

### 6.3 Project Hockey Payment

A second Project Hockey payment was stated as due in the amount of \$7,577.27. It was discussed that the gambling account would not have sufficient funds after current expenditures.

Motion made and approved to pay the \$7,577.27 from the General Fund (to avoid splitting across sources).

#### **6.4 Compliance Review Update**

No new updates were reported from compliance at the time of the meeting; guidance was still awaited on how far back certain reports may need to be amended (e.g., interest reporting).

#### **6.5 Gambling Report Approval**

The board approved the gambling report.

### **7. ACE Coordinator / Hockey Operations**

#### **7.1 Goalie Training Arrangement**

Hockey Operations discussed a goalie-related arrangement; due to incomplete fulfillment, the association indicated it was unwilling to pay costs at this time and would revisit based on remaining sessions and performance.

#### **7.2 JV Team Concept (Next Season – Exploratory)**

- Exploratory discussion about adding a JV team next year to improve competition and development at the high school level.
- Potential impacts discussed: pulling up bantam players; bussing/travel; reduced youth practice ice if JV schedule is added; and safety/size mismatch concerns for younger players.
- The discussion was framed as brainstorming, not a final decision, and began early due to lead-time needs.

### **8. Dibs / Volunteer Hours**

- Discussion on how volunteer (Dibs) hours are tracked and whether reporting continues after reaching the required threshold.
- Concession stand coverage was emphasized as the most critical area to ensure positions are filled and tracked; tournament operations were also raised as important.
- Game operations roles were described as expected responsibilities (announcer/timekeeper/penalty boxes/music and iPad/game sheet support).
- A small-group committee approach was preferred for future Dibs adjustments; Becky Heitkamp volunteered to participate and provide perspective from a different organization. The rest of the members of the committee are the same as last year: Nick Einck, Anna Smith, Jason Johnson, and Tyler Nienkerk.

### **9. Banquet Date / Awards**

#### **9.1 Banquet Timing (Discussed)**

- Potential conflicts were noted for March 21 (including Pheasants Forever banquet and a possible year-end event).

- A plan was discussed to target Sunday, March 15 with food 12:00–1:00 PM and banquet/awards 1:00–3:00 PM (time window discussed, with acknowledgment it may run slightly long).
- Food coordination was discussed with reference to Andy/Bubba based on prior year approach.

## 9.2 Play Maker Award

The board discussed selecting the annual Play Maker Award recipient. It was noted this often goes to a senior family but does not have to; the board planned to share candidate names promptly and vote soon enough to allow time to order trophies.

## 10. Board Elections / Member Voting (Expanded)

### 10.1 Election Method & Testing

- The board reviewed using the same online election tool used previously; a test run was completed with board members.
- Several addresses bounced (described as older Hotmail accounts). A workaround discussed was contacting those members by text with login/password instructions so they can vote on the website.
- The tool cost was referenced as approximately \$40 because the election pool is over 20 people.

### 10.2 Timing / Voting Window

- The board discussed opening voting earlier in the week and closing before the banquet to allow troubleshooting of bounced email addresses.
- A suggested approach was to open/send around Tuesday, address bounces on Wednesday via text, and close before the banquet (Saturday close was discussed as an option to have results ready).
- It was noted that once the election is closed, it cannot be changed in the system.

### 10.3 Ballot Items

- Board member elections (candidate list). The board discussed sending a pre-vote email describing ballot items and possibly including a short snippet about each candidate.
- A membership temperature-check question on adding player names to jerseys. The board discussed providing explanatory cost context (and replacement cadence) in an email or in the ballot description field, while keeping the ballot response simple (yes/no).

### 10.4 Board Size & Term Breakdown

- The board discussed whether to keep the board at 16 members or return to 15; additional capacity was cited as a benefit of 16.
- Term structures discussed included 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year terms and the need to fill multiple seats this cycle (8 to 9 seats depending on the final board-size decision).

### **10.5 Term Assignment Approach**

- The board discussed that shorter terms may help recruit volunteers who are hesitant to commit to three years.
- A straightforward approach discussed was assigning the longest terms to the highest vote-getters to support staggered continuity, while acknowledging potential edge cases (e.g., a top vote-getter preferring only a one-year term).
- The board emphasized the purpose of staggering terms is to avoid replacing a large portion of the board every year.

## **11. Other New Business**

### **11.1 Annual “Free Weekend” Concept**

A concept was raised about an association-wide “weekend off” for family travel. The board discussed scheduling complexity and indicated this would be difficult at the association level; team-level scheduling requests were suggested as more workable.

### **11.2 Donation Request – Eagles**

The Eagles requested a donation (e.g., concession card or similar) for a member event. The board noted Eagles had supported hockey previously and discussed a modest donation amount. Motion made and approved to proceed with a donation.

### **11.3 Other Donation Discussion**

The board discussed renewing another donation (referred to as “Loony”), including confirming what was done last year and then voting via text as needed.

## **12. Next Meeting**

Next meeting scheduled for March 18 at 5:45 PM. The board also discussed potentially moving meetings back to Mondays in the offseason, with the next meeting remaining on the 18th.

## **13. Adjournment**

Motion made and approved to adjourn.

## **Appendix A – Action Items (As Discussed)**

1. Issue Project Hockey payment of \$7,577.27 from the General Fund.
2. Continue Dibs work in a small committee; include Becky Heitkamp for additional perspective.
3. Finalize banquet plan (target March 15 timing discussed) and coordinate food planning.
4. Collect Play Maker Award nominations and vote promptly to allow time for trophy ordering.
5. Prepare election communications and ballot; include jersey-name temperature-check question; plan to handle bounced emails via text outreach.
6. Confirm prior-year donation amount and propose renewal amount for vote.