

## Township of Otto

### Policy Proposal: Utility Infrastructure Removal & Right-of-Way (ROW) Clearance

To keep our roads safe and well-maintained, Otto Township asks all utility providers to help us manage the physical assets within the public right-of-way. Our goal is simple: ensure that abandoned or unused equipment doesn't become a safety hazard or an obstacle for township maintenance or future infrastructure.

#### 1. What We Consider "Unused Infrastructure"

If equipment is no longer in active service, we'd like to see it removed. This includes:

- **Poles:** Old poles left behind after a "transfer-of-attachment" (double-poling).
- **Lines:** Sagging or "dead" wires no longer part of a functional network.
- **Ground Equipment:** Decommissioned cabinets, pedestals, or anchor guys.

#### 2. Coordination & Removal

We request that once equipment is decommissioned or replaced, providers work with the Township to establish a mutually agreed-upon timeframe for removal. We are happy to coordinate these removals alongside our own scheduled road or ditch work to make things more efficient for everyone.

#### 3. Responsibility & Site Care

- **Costs:** Removal and site restoration (like filling holes or fixing damaged turf) are the responsibility of the provider.
- **Safety:** Providers remain responsible for their equipment until it is fully removed and the site is cleared.

#### 4. Our Approach to Resolution

We prefer to solve issues through continued communication with the town board. However, the Township maintains its authority to manage public rights-of-way under **Minnesota Statute §237.163** and **Minnesota Rule 7819.3300**.

If equipment is left for an unreasonable amount of time or if our requests for a plan are ignored, the Township reserves the right to:

- Perform the removal/abatement ourselves.
- Invoice the provider for the actual costs of labor and disposal.
- Apply an administrative fee only in cases where a lack of cooperation requires significant additional Township resources to resolve.

Effective Date: April 13, 2026

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

