

Town of Black Earth  
Minutes of Town Board Meeting  
Tuesday, January 3, 2023

1. Meeting call to Order. Town Chair Barb Parrell called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM. Supervisors Don Ripp, Tom Turk, Treasurer Brenda Kahl, and Clerk Stephanie Zwettler were present. Also in attendance: Al Schroeder, Jim & Elaine Turk, Steve Parrell, and Deputy Jodi Hager.
2. Proof of Posting. An affidavit of posting was provided.
3. Approval of the Agenda. Don Ripp moved and Tom Turk seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried. 3-0
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings – December 6, 2022. Tom Turk moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to approve the minutes from December 6, 2022, as presented. Motion carried. 3-0
5. Public Comments. Dane Co. Sheriff's Deputy Jodi Hager presented call records from 2022 in the Town of Black Earth and answered questions. Don Ripp requested clarification on ATV use on county highways.
6. Financial Report.
  - a. Money Market: \$847,725.82    Checking: \$31,036.67
  - b. Approval of checks written. Tom Turk moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to approve written checks numbered 12098-12105 and 12107-12110, including direct deposit paychecks. Motion carried. 3-0
7. Plan Commission Report. No report this month. Next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2023.
8. Patrolman's Report. Town Patrolman Al Schroeder reported a car that is parked on Kahl Road is impeding snow removal and traffic. Clerk Stephanie Zwettler will send a letter to property owners of car.
9. Johnson Inspection – fee schedule for 2023. The Town Board reviewed the new fee schedule.
10. ATV/UTV Road Use Referendum – resolution. The Town Board reviewed Resolution No. 2022-2 calling for an Advisory (Non-Binding) Referendum question to solicit public input regarding the adoption of an ordinance permitting the use of ATV/UTVs on town roads. Referendum question will be: *Should the Town of Black Earth adopt an ordinance that permits individuals to operate ATV/UTVs on Town roads which are those roads in the Town not designated as state or county highways?* The question would be placed on the April 4, 2023, Town of Black Earth Spring ballot.

Tom Turk moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-2 calling for an Advisory (Non-Binding) Referendum question to solicit public input regarding the adoption of an ordinance permitting the use of ATV/UTVs on town roads. Motion carried. 3-0

11. Insurance – annual renewals, coverage report. The Town Board reviewed the coverage report received from the Rural Mutual agent. Clerk Stephanie Zwettler will inquire the individual insured values of the salt shed and garage, and request the combined value be increased to \$200,000.
12. Broadband internet service – update. The Town Board reviewed the letter submitted by Peter Weil to area political representatives and members of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission to highlight the lack of cooperation from local broadband providers in pursuing a PSC broadband grant.
13. Omitted property tax bill – update. Clerk Stephanie Zwettler presented email correspondence from the Town’s attorney Mark Hazelbaker acknowledging he will file a claim in small claims court for the unpaid omitted taxes.
14. EMS Board Report. No report this month.
15. Fire Board Report. Don Ripp reported the next meeting is on January 12, 2023.
16. Discussion of future agenda items. Omitted tax bill, insurance values, broadband internet.
17. Adjourn. Don Ripp moved and Tom Turk seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Zwettler, Town Clerk