

Town of Black Earth  
Minutes of Town Board Meeting  
Tuesday, August 1, 2023

1. Meeting call to Order. Town Chair Tom Turk called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Supervisors Don Ripp, Barb Parrell, Treasurer Brenda Kahl, and Clerk Stephanie Zwettler were present. Also in attendance: Al Schroeder and Cody Eastman.
2. Proof of Posting. An affidavit of posting was provided.
3. Approval of the Agenda. Don Ripp moved and Barb Parrell seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried. 3-0
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings – July 10 and July 25, 2023. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to approve the minutes from July 10 and July 25, 2023, as presented. Motion carried. 3-0
5. Public Comments – non-agenda items. There were no public comments.
6. Financial Report.
  - a. Money Market: \$299,858.55                      Checking: \$24,197.02
  - b. Approval of checks written. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to approve written checks numbered 12223-12230, including direct deposit paychecks. Motion carried. 3-0
7. Reeve Rd Bridge replacement – WI DOT aid. Clerk Stephanie Zwettler reported that the bridge aid report to replace the Reeve Road bridge was submitted to the Bureau of Structures at the WI DOT for federal aid. Upon approval from the Bureau of Structures, the clerk will submit an application to WI DOT and the Dane County Local Bridge Program Manager.
8. Patrolman’s Report. Patrolman Al Schroeder reported there was little damage from the recent rain storm.
9. Assessor – updates, contract review. The Town Board reviewed the contract extension from Gardiner Appraisal Service ending October 15, 2023, to December 31, 2023. Don Ripp moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to extend the current maintenance contract to December 31, 2023. Motion carried. 3-0

The Town Board reviewed the retirement letter from Gardiner Appraisal Service, which also introduced the new owner, Bruce Gardiner. Town Board members reviewed the proposed maintenance contract from Bruce Gardiner Appraisal Service for January 1, 2024-December 31, 2026. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to approve the 2024-2026 maintenance contract from Bruce Gardiner Appraisal Service. Motion carried. 3-0

10. Broadband internet service. No update was provided.
11. Omitted property tax bill – court case update. No update was provided.
12. EMS Board Report. Tom Turk reported on the transition to the interim director and that volunteers are returning to the district.
13. Fire Board Report. Don Ripp reported on the election of the fire board and recent truck repairs.
14. Convene Closed Session, under WI Stat. 19.85(1)(b) and (c). Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Don Ripp moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to convene a closed session to consider the Town Road Patrolman applicant. Roll call vote: Barb Parrell – Yes; Don Ripp – Yes; Tom Turk – Yes. Motion carried. 3-0 The closed session convened at 6:46 PM.
15. Reconvene Open Session per WI Stat. 19.85(2). Approve Town Patrolman applicant, compensation package. Don Ripp moved and Barb Parrell seconded a motion to reconvene the open session. Roll call vote: Barb Parrell – Yes; Don Ripp – Yes; Tom Turk – Yes. Motion carried. 3-0 The open session reconvened at 7:33 PM.

Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded a motion to approve the Town Patrolman’s compensation package - \$26.45 per hour, 40 hours per week mandatory; optional compensatory hours in lieu of overtime pay; health insurance – reimbursement of premium of \$600 to an HSA account, retirement – ETF match of 6.8%; 80 hours of paid time off; six (6) Holidays per year – New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day; and Town cell phone. Motion carried. 3-0

The Town Board reviewed the Town Patrolman application and interview. Don Ripp moved and Barb Parrell seconded a motion to offer the Town Patrolman full-time position and compensation package to Cody Eastman, and after six months of service, the Town will review the hourly rate, health reimbursement, and paid time off. Motion carried. 3-0

16. Discussion of future agenda items. Open Book and Board of Review scheduling, bridge aid application, omitted taxes, broadband.
17. Adjourn. Don Ripp moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Zwettler, Town Clerk