

Town of Black Earth
Minutes of Town Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 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: Cody Eastman, Deputy Jodi Hager, and Peter Wood.
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 – August 1, 2023. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to approve the minutes from August 1, 2023, as presented. Motion carried. 3-0
5. Public Comments – non-agenda items. Peter Wood inquired about the Open Book procedure. Dane Co. Sheriff's Deputy Jodi Hager presented call records from thus far in 2023 in the Town of Black Earth and answered questions.
6. Financial Report.
 - a. Money Market: \$385,492.70 Checking: \$28,072.98
 - b. Approval of checks written. Don Ripp moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to approve written checks numbered 12231-12244, including direct deposit paychecks. Motion carried. 3-0
7. Patrolman's Report. Patrolman Cody Eastman discussed possible projects and supplies needed in the town garage and salt shed; reported on water quality in the building and will contact Black Earth Utilities; discussed repairing brakes on the Ford truck.
8. Town cell phone for patrolman – discussion. Town Chair Tom Turk reported on the cellular plans offered by area companies. Plan prices are similar between companies, and none offers a discount for the government. Chair Tom Turk and Clerk Stephanie Zwettler will purchase a plan and phone from US Cellular for the town patrolman.
9. Reeve Rd Bridge replacement – WI DOT aid. Clerk Stephanie Zwettler reported that the bridge aid report to replace the Reeve Road bridge was approved for replacement by the Bureau of Structures at the WI DOT. The clerk will submit an application for the project to WI DOT and the Dane County Local Bridge Program Manager.
10. Utility Work Permit – MG&E gas service installation on Kahl Road. The Town Board reviewed the application and map of proposed underground work. Don Ripp moved and Barb Parrell seconded a motion to approve the Utility Work Permit from MG&E as submitted. Motion carried. 3-0

11. Emergency Operations Plan – draft plan, resolution. The Town Board reviewed the draft Emergency Operations Plan and offered suggestions. Clerk Stephanie Zwettler will update the Plan for the next town board meeting.
12. Broadband internet service. No update was provided.
13. Omitted property tax bill – court case update. Clerk Stephanie Zwettler reported that no update has been received.
14. Board of Review – set Open Book and Board of Review dates, appoint alternates. Open Book is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2023, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM, and Board of Review is scheduled for Friday, October 6, 2023, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Barb Parrell moved and Tom Turk seconded a motion to appoint Dayna Dreis as an alternate member for the 2023 Board of Review. Motion carried. 3-0
15. Set date for Budget Work Meeting. The Budget Work Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 6:30 PM.
16. EMS Board Report. Tom Turk provided an EMS board update.
17. Fire Board Report. The fire board held their financial planning meeting.
18. Discussion of future agenda items. Updates on Reeve Road bridge, Emergency Operations Plan, broadband, omitted taxes.
19. 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. Roll call vote: Barb Parrell – Yes; Don Ripp – Yes; Tom Turk – Yes. Motion carried. 3-0 The closed session convened at 7:22 PM.
20. Reconvene Open Session per WI Stat. 19.85(2). 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 7:45 PM.
21. Adjourn. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Zwettler, Town Clerk