

Town of Black Earth
Minutes of Town Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 5, 2024

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: Mark Brunsell, Craig Gerlach, Barb Statz, Beverly Ripp, Cody Eastman, Steve Parrell, 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 – February 6 and February 19, 2024. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to approve the minutes from February 6 and February 19, 2024, as presented. Motion carried. 3-0
5. Plan Commission.
 - a. John Bobinski & Abbey Rust, approx. 9517 Blackberry Rd – driveway construction permit. Plan Commission Chair Steve Parrell presented the Plan Commission’s recommendation for approval. Adjoining neighbor Mark Brunsell inquired about the location of the proposed driveway. Don Ripp moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to approve the driveway construction permit as submitted by John Bobinski and Abbey Rust. Motion carried. 3-0
 - b. Land Division Ordinance amendments – lot road frontage, updated language. Plan Commission Chair Steve Parrell presented the Plan Commission’s recommendation for amending the current ordinance. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded a motion to amend the Land Division Ordinance,
from:
 (4) LOTS
 (c) The minimum lot size shall be 43,560 square feet in area (1 acre).

 (e) Access to public street or road. Every lot shall front or abut on a public street or road for a distance of at least sixty-six (66) feet, except that lots abutting the bulb of a cul-de-sac may front on that bulb for a distance of as little as thirty-three (33) feet, provided that provisions of Section 6.07(4)(b) are met.
to:
 (4) LOTS
 (c) The minimum **residential** lot size shall be **two (2) acres**.

 (e) Access to public street or road. Every lot shall front or abut on a public street or road for a distance of at least sixty-six (66) feet, except that lots abutting the bulb of a cul-de-sac may front on that bulb for a distance of as

little as thirty-three (33) feet, provided that provisions of Section 6.07(4)(b) are met. **Exceptions by the Town may be granted to a second or third lot if one lot has at least sixty-six (66) feet of public road frontage and has deeded access and a joint driveway agreement with any additional lots.**

Motion carried. 3-0 A public hearing for the proposed amendments will be held at 6:30 PM on Thursday, April 4, 2024, prior to the monthly Town Board meeting.

6. Wisconsin Heights School District Administrator Craig Gerlach presented information to support the April 2, 2024, referendum: historical data, a conceptual plan, and projected costs. Town Chair Tom Turk questioned the referendum amount and current district funds.
7. Financial Report.
 - a. Money Market: \$442,666.76 Checking: \$18,250.63
 - b. Approval of checks written. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to approve written checks numbered 12330-12350, including direct deposit paychecks.
Motion carried. 3-0
8. Patrolman's Report. Road Patrolman Cody Eastman presented prices for tool boxes and decals for the truck and discussed the order for the plow and spreader.
9. 2024/2025 Bridge Inspection requirements. The Board reviewed the 2024/2025 bridge inspection information received from the Dane Co. Highway Dept. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded a motion to approve the Dane Co. Highway Dept. to inspect the town's four bridges in 2024 and 2025 – fees = \$2,200.00. Motion carried. 3-0
10. WisDOT Small Bridge/Culvert Program. The Town Board reviewed the 2024 WisDOT program to inventory and assess small local bridges and culverts with spans between 6 and 20 feet. Local governments will be reimbursed by the State per inventoried structure. Don Ripp moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to approve contracting with Delmore Consulting to collect and input data on the towns' 6-20-foot bridges and culverts. Motion carried. 3-0
11. Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP). The Board discussed the reimbursement program.
12. Broadband internet service. No update this month.
13. Omitted property tax bill. Clerk Stephanie Zwettler reported that Attorney Mark Hazelbaker is still waiting for payment confirmation from the court.
14. EMS Board Report. Town Chair Tom Turk reported that the meeting has been rescheduled.
15. Fire Board Report. Supervisor Barb Parrell reported that the next meeting is March 14, 2024.

16. 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. Barb Parrell moved and Tom Turk 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 7:39 PM.
17. Reconvene Open Session per WI Stat. 19.85(2). Tom Turk 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 8:00 PM.
18. Discussion of future agenda items. Land Division ordinance amendment, salt contract, and possible CUP application.
19. Adjourn. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Zwettler, Town Clerk