

Town of Black Earth
Minutes of Town Board Meeting
Thursday, April 4, 2024

1. Meeting call to Order. Town Chair Tom Turk called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM following the public hearing. Supervisors Don Ripp, Barb Parrell, Treasurer Brenda Kahl, and Clerk Stephanie Zwettler were present. Also in attendance: Cody Eastman and Steve Parrell.
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 – March 5, 2024. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to approve the minutes from March 5, 2024, as presented. Motion carried. 3-0
5. Financial Report.
 - a. Money Market: \$423,440.13 Checking: \$22,860.96
 - b. Approval of checks written. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to approve written checks numbered 12351-12380, including direct deposit paychecks. Motion carried. 3-0
6. Land Division Ordinance amendments. The Town Board held a public hearing for comments on the Land Division Ordinance amendments. There were no comments presented. Town Chair Tom Turk closed the public hearing. The Board considered the amendments.

Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to adopt the amendments to clarify the minimum residential lot size of 2 acres and allow exceptions for second or third lots if one lot has at least sixty-six (66) feet of public road frontage and a deeded joint driveway agreement with any additional lots. Motion carried. 3-0
7. Plan Commission appointments. Town Chair Tom Turk reappointed Bruce Johnson and Pat Helmenstine as Plan Commission members through April 2027. Don Ripp moved and Barb Parrell seconded a motion to ratify the appointments of Plan Commission members Bruce Johnson and Pat Helmenstine. Motion carried. 3-0
8. Patrolman’s Report. Town Patrolman Cody Eastman and Town Chair Tom Turk toured every town road to compile repair status information, culvert conditions, and sections requiring gravel.

Patrolman Cody Eastman also reported the wing tips were missed on the bid for the new plow but can be installed at a later date; the F450 truck was delivered to Wisconsin Surplus for auctioning.

9. 2024 Road repairs, supplies – review costs to date. The Town Board discussed road repairs and budget costs. The Board directed Patrolman Cody Eastman to determine which roads most need chip sealing and which section on Reeve Road needs pavement overlay. Both bids will be published with a bid opening due date of May 6, 2024, and the Board will consider and award road repair contracts at the Town Board meeting on May 7, 2024.
10. 2024-2025 Sodium Chloride Municipal Agreement. Patrolman Cody Eastman confirmed the overall storage shed capacity – 360 tons; current salt shed inventory – 170 tons; and the 2024-2025 salt ordered through WI-DOT – Seasonal fill – 40 tons. The Town Board reviewed the salt order submitted on March 29, 2024.
11. Utility Work Permit – Alliant Energy electric cable installation on Reeve Road. The Town Board reviewed the application and map of proposed underground work. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded a motion to approve the Utility Work Permit from Alliant Energy as submitted. Motion carried. 3-0
12. Broadband internet service. No update this month.
13. Omitted property tax bill. Clerk Stephanie Zwettler presented a letter drafted by Attorney Mark Hazelbaker to Lake Ridge Bank.
14. EMS Board Report. Town Chair Tom Turk reported on the current EMS budget and that the billing process is now outsourced.
15. Fire Board Report. Supervisor Barb Parrell reported that the fire board discussed shared revenue at their meeting.
16. Discussion of future agenda items. Road repair bids, truck updates.
17. Adjourn. Barb Parrell moved and Don Ripp seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Zwettler, Town Clerk