

Town of Black Earth
Minutes of Town Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 1, 2024

1. Meeting call to Order. Town Chair Tom Turk called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Supervisor Barb Parrell, Treasurer Brenda Kahl, and Clerk Stephanie Zwettler were present. Supervisor Joann Bennett was excused. Also in attendance: Steve Parrell, Jason Handel, Chuck Bruhn, Susan Michaud, Bill Pulvermacher, Steve and Lisa Flogel, Joas Bontrager, Marion Otto.
2. Proof of Posting. An affidavit of posting was provided.
3. Approval of the Agenda. Barb Parrell moved and Tom Turk seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried. 2-0
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – September 3, 2024. Barb Parrell moved and Tom Turk seconded the motion to approve the minutes from September 3, 2024, as presented. Motion carried. 2-0
5. Public Comments – non-agenda items. Hillsboro-area residents introduced themselves and discussed hopes of bringing their vegetable farming to the Black Earth area. They discussed the needs of their community and inquired about local permitting requirements.
6. Financial Report.
 - a. Money Market: \$377,164.37 Checking: \$23,654.80
 - b. Approval of checks written. Barb Parrell moved and Tom Turk seconded the motion to approve written checks numbered 12450-12463, including direct deposit paychecks. Motion carried. 2-0
7. Plan Commission: Solar Energy Licensing Ordinance – update. Steve Parrell presented the Plan Commission’s recommendation to approve the Solar Energy Licensing Ordinance. Barb Parrell moved and Tom Turk seconded the motion to direct the Clerk to send the Solar Energy Licensing Ordinance to Attorney Mark Hazelbaker for legal review. Motion carried. 2-0
8. Patrolman’s Report.
 - a. Ditch repair at Morton Park – update. Town Chair Tom Turk reported an upcoming meeting with representatives from Scott Construction and Patrolman Jason Handel to evaluate the ditch washout, rainfall issues, and potential remedies for the ditch at Morton Park.
 - b. Training from Al Schroeder, compensation. Road Patrolman Jason Handel received training from former patrolman Al Schroeder on Saturday, September 9, 2024, from 6:30 AM – 2:15 PM. Tom Turk moved and Barb Parrell seconded a motion to compensate Al Schroeder \$400 for his work on September 9. Motion carried. 2-0

9. 2024 Road and equipment repairs budget – review costs to date. The Town Board discussed options for other road work projects for 2024 and considered designating remaining funds for carryover to 2025 to fix ditches on Reeve Road.
10. Town tractor – review new equipment options and scheduling. Patrolman Jason Handel discussed repairs needed for the town tractor and loader and presented information received from tractor bidders. The Board reviewed the bid information and trade-in quotes from Sloan Implement and Mid-State Equipment. Barb Parrell moved and Tom Turk seconded a motion to authorize funds to purchase a 2023 John Deere 6120E Cab Tractor for \$95,532.07, a 2024 John Deere H310 Loader for \$11,400.00, less a trade-in allowance for the town's tractor of \$62,000, for a balance of \$44,932.07 from Sloan Implement. Motion carried. 2-0
11. Lake Ridge Bank – credit line increase. Barb Parrell moved, and Tom Turk seconded the motion to increase the Visa credit line from \$1500.00 to \$4500.00. Motion carried. 2-0
12. Broadband internet service – update. No update.
13. Set date for Public Budget Hearing and Special Meeting of the Electors. The Public Budget Hearing and Special Meeting of the Electors is scheduled for Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 6:30 PM. The Town Board meeting will follow at approximately 6:45 PM.
14. EMS Board Report. Tom Turk reported that the board approved the budget, which includes a 30% increase to their levy, and continues to discuss a possible merger with Arena EMS.
15. Fire Board Report. Barb Parrell reported that the public hearing for the proposed fire budget is October 2, 2024.
16. Discussion of future agenda items. Rezone applications and road repairs.
17. Adjourn. Barb Parrell moved and Tom Turk seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Zwettler, Town Clerk