

Town of Black Earth  
Minutes of Town Board Meeting  
Thursday, November 14, 2024

1. Meeting call to Order. Town Chair Tom Turk called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM. Supervisors Barb Parrell, Joann Bennett, Treasurer Brenda Kahl, and Clerk Stephanie Zwettler were present. Also in attendance: Jason Handel, Jim and Elaine Turk, Peter Wood, Peter Weil, and Steve Parrell.
2. Proof of Posting. An affidavit of posting was provided.
3. Approval of the Agenda. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried. 3-0
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – October 1, 2024. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve the Town Board and Budget Work Meeting minutes from October 1, 2024, as presented. Motion carried. 3-0
5. Financial Report.
  - a. Money Market: \$312,363.98                      Checking: \$28,216.25
  - b. Approval of checks written. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve written checks numbered 12464-12492, including direct deposit paychecks. Motion carried. 3-0
6. Plan Commission:
  - a. Dolores Fogel Survivors Trust, NW of 10477 Midland Rd – zoning change to create an agricultural lot of 9.47 acres, from FP-35 to FP-1, DCPREZ-2024-12119. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve the zoning change of 9.47 acres from FP-35 to FP-1, as submitted by Dolores Fogel Survivors Trust. Motion carried. 3-0
  - b. Village Edge LLC, 1704 Blue Mounds St – zoning change to separate farm buildings to create a 5.85-acre RR-4 residential lot, DCPREZ-2024-12117. Tom Turk moved and Joann Bennett seconded a motion to approve the zoning change of 5.85 acres to RR-4, as submitted by Village Edge LLC. Motion carried. 2-0 Barb Parrell abstained.
  - c. Village Edge LLC, 1704 Blue Mounds St – Conditional Use Permit – animal use exceeding one animal unit per acre for the proposed 5.85-acre lot, DCPCUP-2024-02644. Tom Turk moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit to exceed one animal unit per acre for the proposed 5.85-acre lot on DCPCUP-2024-02644, as submitted by Village Edge LLC. Motion carried. 2-0 Barb Parrell abstained.
  - d. Solar Energy Licensing Ordinance – Clerk Stephanie Zwettler provided an update on the status of the ordinance review by Attorney Hazelbaker.
7. Town Chairman’s Report. No report this month.

8. Patrolman's Report. Road Patrolman Jason Handel has begun mowing with the new tractor; two loads of salt were delivered; the Mack plow truck had annual maintenance; plows have been installed on the trucks; and he has been working on tree trimming. Jason Handel also reported that the road sign damaged by the stolen car on Fesenfeld Road is estimated to cost \$300.00; the Town Board directed Clerk Stephanie Zwettler to invoice the responsible party.
9. Ditch repair at Morton Park. Town Chair Tom Turk and Road Patrolman Jason Handel met with Boehnen's Excavating at Reeve Road to discuss adding a culvert and repairing a section of the road and right-of-way ditch; Boehnen's will provide a cost estimate, and Town Chair Tom Turk will contact the adjacent property owner to discuss a culvert replacement at their driveway.
10. Tree removal on Fesenfeld Road. The Town Board reviewed the tree removal proposal from Olson Toon Landscaping, Inc. Tree Division. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to hire Olson Toon Landscaping to cut down the oak tree in the right-of-way on the east side of 10565 Fesenfeld Road for \$3000.00 and notify the property owner by letter. Motion carried. 3-0
11. Wisconsin Heights omitted tax disbursement check – contribution for legal expenses. Wisconsin Heights School District wishes to contribute \$800.00 for the legal expenses in recovering the omitted taxes and requests the Town reissue the check less the contribution. Joann Bennett moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to reissue and deduct \$800.00 from the original tax disbursement check to Wisconsin Heights. Motion carried. 3-0
12. Newsletter to accompany tax bills. The Town Board reviewed the newsletter and the 2025 dog license fees approved by the Dane Co. Board. Joann Bennett moved and Barb Parrell seconded a motion to approve the Town's dog license fees – spayed or neutered dogs @ \$20.00 per license; unspayed or unneutered dogs @ \$30.00 per license; multiple dogs (kennel) @ \$60.00 per license. Motion carried. 3-0
13. Broadband internet service. Peter Weil provided an update from his communication with TDS's State Government Affairs Sr. Manager Angie Dickinson regarding the E-ACAM program funding for rural broadband expansion. Town Chair Tom Turk also provided his communication with TDS's Government & Regulatory Affairs Manager.
14. Adopt 2025 Town budget. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded a motion to approve the 2025 Town Budget as presented at the Budget Hearing on November 14, 2024. Motion carried. 3-0
15. EMS Board Report. Tom Turk discussed recent deliberations to combine District One EMS with the Village and Town of Arena.
16. Fire Board Report. Barb Parrell reported a discussion for a new tanker, requesting a portion of shared supplemental revenue and a potential name change for the department.
17. Discussion of future agenda items. Reeve Road ditch repair, solar ordinance review.

18. Adjourn. Joann Bennett moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried.  
The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Zwettler, Town Clerk