

Town of Black Earth  
Minutes of Town Board Meeting  
Tuesday, January 7, 2025

1. Meeting call to Order. Town Chair Tom Turk called the meeting to order at 6:21 PM. Supervisor Joann Bennett, Treasurer Brenda Kahl, and Clerk Stephanie Zwettler were present. Barb Parrell was excused. Also in attendance: Jason Handel, Steve Parrell, Dan Meier, Bill and Brenda Pulvermacher, and Jim and Elaine Turk.
2. Proof of Posting. An affidavit of posting was provided.
3. Approval of the Agenda. Joann Bennett moved and Tom Turk seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried. 2-0
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – December 3, 2024. Joann Bennett moved and Tom Turk seconded the motion to approve the minutes from December 3, 2024, as presented. Motion carried. 2-0
5. Comments by Town residents – non-agenda items. Bill Pulvermacher inquired about the status of the omitted tax collection.
6. Financial Report.
  - a. Money Market: \$1,111,254.28           Checking: \$29,374.87
  - b. Approval of checks written. Joann Bennett moved and Tom Turk seconded the motion to approve written checks numbered 12507-12523, including direct deposit paychecks. Motion carried. 2-0
7. Plan Commission: Solar Energy Licensing Ordinance – update of review by Attorney Hazelbaker. No update was provided.
8. Patrolman’s Report. Town Patrolman Jason Handel reported that he met with a couple of engineers bidding on the Reeve Rd bridge replacement project; cutting limbs and branches around signposts, and that the inspection for the salt building is coming up.
9. Cell Phone Reimbursement policy – town patrolman. Chair Tom Turk reported that the town patrolman prefers to use his cell phone and carry only one phone. The Town Board discussed the draft Cell Phone Reimbursement Policy. Joann Bennett moved and Tom Turk seconded the motion to approve the Cell Phone Reimbursement Policy and reimburse the Town Patrolman \$25.00 monthly for using a personal cell phone for town use. Motion carried. 2-0
10. Reeve Rd bridge replacement – DOT design consultant selection. Dan Meier from Lynch & Associates made an introduction, discussed his initial analysis of the Reeve Rd bridge, and answered questions. Clerk Stephanie Zwettler reported the next steps for selecting a design engineer. Requests for Proposals were emailed to engineering firms from the DOT list of eligible

consultants. The Town Board, acting as the Selection Committee, will conduct a review of the received proposals on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

11. Reeve Rd at Morton Park – culvert and road repair. Town Patrolman Jason Handel reported that Boehnen’s is working on providing an estimate.
12. Dane Co. Ordinance Amendment OA-23 – CUP review process. The proposed amendment would remove the local veto option and public hearing requirement on Conditional Use Permits to comply with WI state statute. Joann Bennett moved and Tom Turk seconded the motion to recommend approval of Dane Co. Ordinance Amendment OA-23 to comply with WI §. Motion carried. 2-0
13. Insurance – annual renewals, coverage report. The Town Board reviewed the coverage report and inquired about the listing for the plow and salt spreader for the truck. Clerk Stephanie Zwettler will consult with Rural Mutual.
14. Broadband internet service. No update provided.
15. EMS Board Report. No update this month.
16. Fire Board Report. The next meeting is Thursday, January 9.
17. Discussion of future agenda items. Reeve Rd bridge project, Reeve Rd culverts and road repair estimate, Solar Ordinance update.
18. 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. Joann Bennett made the motion and Tom Turk seconded to convene into closed session. The board convened into closed session at 7:01 PM. Roll call vote: Tom Turk – yes, Joann Bennett – yes.
19. Reconvene Open Session per WI Stat. 19.85(2). Tom Turk motioned to reconvene to open session and Joann Bennett seconded. Roll call vote: Tom Turk – yes, Joann Bennett – yes. The board reconvened to open session at 7:17 PM.
20. Policy adjustment for comp/PTO carryover. Joann Bennett moved, and Tom Turk seconded the motion to amend Jason Handel’s contract to allow him to carry over 40 hours of unused Paid Time Off or comp time into the following year. Motion carried. 2-0
21. Adjourn. Joann Bennett moved and Tom Turk seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Zwettler, Town Clerk