

Town of Black Earth
Minutes of Town Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 3, 2025

1. Meeting call to Order. Town Chair Tom Turk called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Supervisors Joann Bennett, Barb Parrell, Treasurer Brenda Kahl, and Clerk Stephanie Zwettler were present. Also in attendance: Jason Handel, Steve Parrell, Peter Wood, Derick Rettenmund, Steve Knapp, Barbara Rieck, Jan Paiva, Peter Wood, Pat Helmenstine, and Tom Ripp.
2. Proof of Posting. An affidavit of posting was provided.
3. Approval of the Agenda. Joann Bennett moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried. 3-0
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – May 6, 2025. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve the minutes from May 6, 2025, as presented. Tom Turk abstained. Motion carried. 3-0
5. Financial Report.
 - a. Money Market: \$454,303.35 Checking: \$28,544.20
 - b. Approval of written checks. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve written checks numbered 12606-12612, including direct deposit paychecks. Motion carried. 3-0
6. Plan Commission.
 - a. Michael & Christina Ryan, 124 Main St – zoning changes to create a 2.24-acre lot for sale and annexation to the adjacent landowner in the Village (RM-16 to UTR), and the remaining 14.33 acres to rezone existing residence (RM-16 to RM-8) – DCPREZ-2025-12176. Steve Parrell presented the Plan Commission’s report and recommendation. Joann Bennett moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to approve the creation of a 2.24-acre lot from RM-16 to UTR, along with the zoning change for the remaining 14.33 acres of the existing residence from RM-16 to RM-8 on petition DCPREZ-2025-12176. Motion carried. 3-0
 - b. Tim & Catherine Kowalski, approx. 10580 Fesenfeld Rd – driveway construction permit. Steve Parrell presented the Plan Commission’s report and recommendation. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve the driveway application as submitted, with an evaluation by the Town Patrolman regarding a possible culvert. Motion carried. 3-0
7. Patrolman’s Report. Town Patrolman Jason Handel provided an update on the chipsealing progress, is currently mowing right-of-ways, and reported that he has not yet received a response from Boehnen’s regarding the commencement of Reeve Road work.

8. Dane Co. Board of Adjustment – variance application, Mark/Derick Rettenmund, 4873 State Hwy 78. Derick Rettenmund explained that the application requests a variance from the minimum required setback from a highway, allowing for the construction of an addition to the existing farm accessory building. Joann Bennett moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to support the variance application to the Dane County Board of Adjustment as presented. Motion carried. 3-0
9. Reeve Rd bridge – update. Clerk Stephanie Zwettler reported that the SMA agreement has been signed and submitted, and should receive the governor's signature within the next couple of weeks.
10. Fesenfeld Rd/Sutcliffe Rd – road speed signs. Chair Tom Turk reported that the request to relocate the speed board to Sutcliffe Road has been submitted to the Dane County Sheriff's Department. Jan Paiva suggested that installing a blind driveway and cautionary speed signs would be beneficial for Sutcliffe Road. The Town Board will have further discussion at the next town meeting.
11. Noise disturbance, Fesenfeld Rd – update. Neighbors Steve Knapp and Barbara Rieck spoke about the buzzing noise they hear from the adjacent farm for 6 to 8 hours each day. Derick Rettenmund discussed a potential solution being explored by the farm. Town Chair Tom Turk explained that he takes this situation seriously and plans to contact the property owner for an update on the noise issue.
12. Broadband internet service – TDS fiber optic cable installation projects. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve the TDS Utility Work Permit to bury fiber in the right-of-way on Kahl Road south of US Highway 14 to the Village line, and Fesenfeld Road from County Highway F to Mickleson Road, and to waive the \$100.00 Utility Work Permit fee. Motion carried. 3-0
13. EMS Board Report. Chair Tom Turk announced that several candidates have applied for the position EMS Director, and the interview process is scheduled to begin soon.
14. Fire Board Report. Barb Parrell reported that discussions continue about ordering a new truck.
15. Discussion of future agenda items.
16. Adjourn. Joann Bennett moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Zwettler, Town Clerk