

Town of Black Earth  
Minutes of Town Board Meeting  
Tuesday, January 6, 2026

1. Meeting call to Order. Town Chair Tom Turk called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM. Supervisors Barb Parrell, Joann Bennett, Treasurer Brenda Kahl, and Clerk Stephanie Zwettler were present. Also in attendance: Jason Handel 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 the motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – December 2, 2025. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve the minutes from December 2, 2025, as presented. Tom Turk abstained. Motion carried. 2-0
5. Financial Report.
  - a. Money Market: \$420,712.27                      Checking: \$613,742.54
  - b. Approval of written checks. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve written checks numbered 12675-12698, including direct deposit paychecks. Motion carried.
6. Plan Commission.
  - a. Levi Yoder, north of 5250 John Wilkinson Rd – driveway construction permit. Joann Bennett presented the Plan Commission’s recommendation to table the application until further information can be submitted by the applicant.
  - b. Land Use Plan amendments – updating language for Transfer of Development Rights program, Conditional Use Permits, Accessory Dwelling Units. No discussion or taken by Plan Commission.
7. Patrolman’s Report. Jason Handel reported that the hydraulic line on the truck was repaired; spoke to Burke Truck about a future truck replacement plan; will order winter tires for the F550; and reserved a tractor and side-arm mower for the end of March.
  - a. Roadwork projects for 2026 – discuss. The Town Board reviewed the planned work for 2026, including chip sealing Fesenfeld Rd to the Reeve Rd intersection, overlaying part of Midland Rd with TRIP funds, and crack filling on Olson, Kahl, and Midland Roads.
8. Insurance – annual renewals, coverage report. The Town Board reviewed the policy renewal and the town’s equipment. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve the 2026 insurance policy and workers’ compensation dues from Rural Mutual Insurance for \$10,399.00. Motion carried.

9. Reeve Rd bridge – update. No update this month.
10. Broadband internet service – update. No update this month.
11. EMS Board Report. Town Chair Tom Turk reported that the next meeting is on January 15, 2026.
12. Fire Board Report. Supervisor Barb Parrell reported that the next meeting is on January 15, 2026.
13. Future agenda items. Road project bidding, remove broadband from the agenda.
14. Adjourn. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried.  
The meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Zwettler, Town Clerk