Town of Black Earth
Minutes of Town Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 22, 2026

1. Meeting call to Order. Town Chair Tom Turk called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. Supervisors Joann Bennett, Barb Parrell, 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. Joann Bennett moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – August 18, 2026. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve the minutes from August 18, 2026, as presented. Motion carried.

5. Financial Report.
   a. Money Market: $396,567.73 Checking: $53,256.31
   b. Approval of written checks. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve written checks numbered 12838-12852, including direct deposit paychecks. Motion carried.

6. Plan Commission – Land Use Plan amendments. Plan Commission Chair Steve Parrell presented the Plan Commission's recommendation to approve amendments to the Land Use Plan, including the Transfer of Development Rights program, Accessory Dwelling Units, Conditional Use Permits, and added definitions. Town Chair Tom Turk moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve the amendments and set the public hearing date for Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM. Motion carried.

7. Patrolman's Report. Patrolman Jason Handel reported that road salt has been delivered and moved with help from the Village Public Works Department; the Mack truck received an oil change and an annual safety check; there is no delivery date yet for the mower or the Reeve Road culvert; and crack filling is scheduled for October.

8. Reeve Rd bridge – update. No update.

9. Dane Co. Ordinance Amendment OA-006 – regarding cemeteries, private burial sites. The Town Board reviewed the proposed amendment, which would permit private burial sites on all lots of five acres or more and require a survey plat to be recorded with the Register of Deeds and filed with Dane County Planning and Development. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve Dane Co. Ordinance Amendment OA-006 as presented. Motion carried.

10. Town website redesign – quote. Clerk Stephanie Zwettler presented the quote received from graphic designer Gary Cox and Olivia Ruckstuhl for $1500.00 to restructure the existing town website to improve navigation and user experience. Barb Parrell moved and Joann Bennett seconded the motion to approve the website redesign proposal for $1500.00. Motion carried.

11. EMS Board Report. Tom Turk reported that the EMS budget would shift health care coverage from 100% to an 88/12 cost share. Existing ambulance fund reserves will help support the budget as revenues decline and overall costs rise. Volunteer participation has improved over the past few months.

12. Fire Board Report. Barb Parrell reported that the proposed budget remains largely unchanged. The Fire Board also prepared a document outlining the cost of the planned new fire truck purchase.

13. Future agenda items. Conditional Use Permit for Tylor Statz.

14. Adjourn. Joann Bennett moved and Barb Parrell seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Zwettler, Town Clerk