

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Date: September 8, 2026

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Oakland Town Hall, 6152 S County Rd K South Range WI 54874

Board Members Present: Chairman, Pete Fornengo, Supervisors Randy Polson and Dana Dolsen, Clerk, Laurie Dolsen, and Treasurer, Stacy Fornengo

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: 28 Interested Citizens

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Pete Fornengo. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call

Board members present: Pete, Randy, Dana, Stacy, and Laurie. Approximately 28 interested citizens were also present.

3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the August 12 Regular Board and August 20 Special Board meeting minutes. RP requested one change to the August 12 minutes (change hired to consulted). DD motioned to approve the minutes as presented with the one change, RP seconded, all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

4. Bills

After reviewing the bills, DD motioned to pay the bills as presented, RP seconded, all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

5. Reports

- Town Clerk: Reported she is working on the amounts for the budget from the recent workshop and the upcoming budget workshop on 9/23; paid bills and ran payroll, learning the updated website, preparing for the November 3 General Election, working on Open Records Requests, going through emails, gathering information for the tax bills, and working with Stacy on many items.
- Treasurer: Per a report, there are 30 outstanding garbage charges (on tax bills) that remain unpaid; Workhorse has been put on hold until a new clerk is appointed and/or elected and QuickBooks will continue to be used until then; and a request for an audit of the union has been received from a company we have never heard of and we will not be participating. On a separate note, DD shared an audit of the town's books would cost about \$15,000 and she will work to get additional quotes from auditors.
- Board Members: Dana had nothing to report. Randy said he has received calls regarding the roads and the façade on the grader. Pete has been working on hiring process documents and separation benefit documents.
- Fire Department: The Fire Department reported 1 medical call and 1 mutual aid medical call. New hoses were purchased and installed and are now in service. Two (2) members are in entry level FF and we have one certified EMT now. Gerry Petite recently attended a presentation from BK Technologies for radio options. The county is currently working on grants for new radios. There were 3 new address assignments. South Range Sandbar is undergoing inspection. SF applied for an EMS grant and is waiting to hear if we will be awarded a grant. Discussion followed of putting together a grant/funding subcommittee to research and apply for grants to fund a new piece of fire equipment. After questions, RP motioned to form a funding subcommittee to look for ways to fund new fire department equipment, DD seconded, all were in favor via voice vote, motion carried.
- Road Crew: No employees—no report.
- County Board Representative: Joe Moen shared the Forestry Committee completed a regional audit and all is good. Zoning Committee is updating the floodplain ordinance. The Land & Development Committee—the transition to on-line bidding is going well.
- Community Events Group: The Fall Fest is happening on September 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free and there will be many activities—Chili contest, face painting, tractors, a dunk tank, vendors, cornhole games, etc. All are welcome.
- Planning Commission: They met today and reviewed 3 applications received. There was no opposition for a campground application (Hudacek) and they recommend approval. DD motioned to approve the Hudacek campground application, RP seconded, all were favor via voice vote, motion carried. Two non-metallic mine renewals were received from Alliance Steel and they recommend approval. DD motioned to approve the 1st non-

metallic mine renewal for Alliance Steel, RP seconded, all were in favor via voice vote, motion carried. DD motioned to approve the 2nd non-metallic mine renewal for Alliance Steel, RP seconded, all were in favor via voice vote, motion carried.

6. Garbage Charging Letter to Residents

A letter will be sent out to residents giving them heads up on garbage charges going up to \$369.26 with a charge for any additional cans. When the letter is ready, LD will work with the County Clerk to get labels or with Maxine Petite with a mailing service. PF said to email him if a 96 gallon can vs a 64 gallon can is needed.

7. License and Fire Inspection for Previous Kopper Kettle Location

Gerry Petite shared the South Range Sandbar (former Kopper Kettle location) was recently inspected and is still under construction and far from being ready. He recommends that we issue a conditional license pending further inspections so they can work with vendors, etc. SF/LD will investigate this option.

8. Payout Schedule/Amounts for Previous Road Crew Employees

After receipt of the final timesheets and working with the lawyer to ensure the two previous employees were paid correctly for all their earned PTO and Comp Time, the letters and checks are ready to be printed (copies to the board were presented). PF motioned to pay out the amounts as listed in the letters, RP seconded, PF/RP were in favor via voice vote and DD abstained; motion carried. Greg indicated he wanted his payout paycheck on August 31, 2026, and he should get double the pay per the law (no specific law was stated). His last day was Friday, August 28, and his timesheet was received that weekend. The Board must approve the separation benefits and those were just approved and the letters and checks will be paid out immediately. Citizens present expressed great dissatisfaction with what was occurring and insults toward Pete and the board members were made. Pete moved on to the next agenda item.

8. Possibly Hiring Temporary Employees or Contracting Out Road Work Until New Employees are Hired (combined agenda items)

PF shared he has looked at ways to hire temporary employees to maintain the roads until new employees are hired to replace the two employees who recently resigned from their road crew positions. Options would be hiring a former employee (Randy Martin) on a part-time basis to help maintain the roughest roads or asking the County, neighboring townships, or contractors for assistance (quotes were received from 3 private contractors). RP shared the roads are in rough shape and he is supportive of whatever we do as he has been receiving calls about the roads. PF asked for public suggestions for options to pursue—one citizen volunteered to do it for free. Most citizens present were not in favor of hiring former employees (they cannot work for a non-union entity and don't know our new equipment), the County (\$103 per hour), neighboring townships (availability?), or private contractors (too costly) and wanted to know what could be done to bring back the 2 former employees and the Union. No action was taken.

9. Job Posting for Two (2) Full-Time Road Crew Positions—Application Process

The job has been posted on-line on the website and has been shared on our Facebook page. Applications will be collected until September 23; interviews will be held; and final selections will be made from the most qualified applicants.

10. Employee Policy Handbook

A draft Employee Policy Handbook will be reviewed by the board after Public Comment. Timeline—we are working towards approval hopefully before we bring new employees on board or soon after.

11. Public Comment

It was brought up that signs have been placed in the right of way and were asked to be removed. It was also brought up that a resident has a rock in the ROW that should be removed and everyone should be treated the same. PF will check the ROW issue regarding the rock. No more comments were received and PF shared that citizens could stay while the board reviewed the draft Employee Policy Handbook if they wanted to. The board began reviewing the handbook.

12. Next Meeting

The next regular town board meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2026, at 7 p.m.

11. Adjournment

The meeting concluded. RP motioned to adjourn, DD seconded, all were in favor via voice vote; meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Laurie K. Dolsen, Clerk _____