

TOWN OF GRANT
9011 COUNTY ROAD WW
January 14th, 2026
Monthly Town Board Meeting

Board Members Present: Sharon Schwab (Chair), Doug Steltenpohl (Supervisor), Scott Provost (Supervisor), Greg Hakala (Treasurer), Stefanie Schlapa (Clerk),

Guests Present: Richard Duerr, James Yetter, Brian Kulmann, Kathleen Lee, Scott Soik, Kitty Gross, Diana Luecht, Jodi Lomma, Lee Llampert, Kathleen Rogers

Statement of Public Notice:

Agenda posted on January 12th, 2026, on the Town Website, at the Town Hall and Transfer Station. Clerk Schlapa provided the affidavit.

CHAIR SCHWAB CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00PM

Pledge of Allegiance led by Scott Provost

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Schwab announced that the Clerk or Deputy Clerk may be recording this meeting for the purposes of transcription. There may also be persons who may be videotaping this meeting.

Schwab announced members of the public who wish to address the Board should so state and topic of discussion. Register at this time. The following registered: Kitty Gross, Public Works. James Yetter, Public Works. Brian Kulmann, Public Works. Jodi Lomma, Zoning Ordinance. Scott Soik, Public Works

Schwab reported the receipt of letter from North Central Regional Planning Commission. The Town is required to file a PASER report (a survey of road conditions in the Town) every two years. In the past the Town contracted with Delmore to do this. This past year the Town was able to complete this through the North Central Regional Planning Commission at no cost to the Town. The Town has now received notice that everything has been submitted and accepted by the Wisconsin DOT.

Schwab reported that residents of the Town may have received a notice advising of a change in a route by the American Transmission Company. This is in regard to a small parcel near the intersection of HWY 73 and CTH U. The work involves the replacement of transmission lines.

Schwab shared that the UW Extension and the Rural Partnerships Institute is having a Wisconsin State Climatology session at Mid-State Technical College on Wednesday February 4, 2026, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Interested persons may register for free to attend this session.

Clerk Schlapa reported on the following actions taken in the last month:

Mailed the Conditional Use Permit to Matthew Steele for signature. Has not received it back.

Received correspondence related to harassment of government officials and shared this with board members.

Schwab requested report from James Yetter regarding County Board. Yetter reported that the Land and Water

Conservation Committee and Planning and Zoning had a joint meeting to discuss a livestock ordinance in Portage County. Yetter was not able to attend. There will be another meeting on February 24, 2026.

While on County Board issues, Yetter introduced attendees running for the position of Town of Grant representative on the Portage County Board: Greg Hakala running to replace James Yetter in district 21, Richard Duerr running for the same position, and Scott Soik running in district 19, the northern part of the Town of Grant and Amber Lee in district 19.

Although there would be no Town Board action, Schwab then offered the candidates a chance to introduce themselves.

Scott Soik, from district 19, states he is the Town of Linwood chairman, has previously been on the county board, works for Congressman Derrick Van Orden as his field rep for Portage, Wood, Adams, and Juneau counties, which is why he wants to speak on public works.

Richard Duerr – Lives on White Pine Court. In the area for 12 years. Experience working in county government. In Marathon County for over 10 years. Background in planning zoning, water conservation, public health, solid waste management. 715-897-2909

Greg Hakala – Had served previously. Was happy with Jim's work and would not have run again if Jim were to continue.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting of December 4, 2025, are presented with a noted omission of the word "years". Schwab asked if there were any other corrections or additions. Hearing none, asked for motion to accept the minutes as corrected.

MOTION (Schwab, Steltenpohl) to approve Steltenpohl and Schwab Aye. Provost Abstained.

Minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2025, are presented with a noted correction on page 2 showing Portage County Solar when it should read Portage Solar. Schwab asked for any other additions or corrections. Hearing none, asked for motion to accept the minutes as corrected.

MOTION (Provost, Steltenpohl) to approve minutes with change. Unanimous Ayes. Motion carries.

Committee Meeting Minutes/Reports:

First Responders: No meeting this month because two members were not well and one out of town, so no quorum. Clerk Schlapa reported that Krystal Clark hit a deer, so the town filed an insurance claim to cover her deductible. No response yet. Responder paperwork filed.

GCAC: No report. Wood County is having a citizen's water group meeting on Monday January 19, 2026.

Plan Commission: The Plan Commission met on 12/17/25. We completed the review of Attorney Austin Mogard's feedback of the ordinance and accepted his verbiage changes to the definitions. We then reviewed the Shoreland Zoning and Drainage district maps, and the only change that will be needed is to update the dates and request in a format that can be inserted into the ordinance as an appendix. The Plan Commission determined that a standalone ordinance for private burial plot will be developed at a

future meeting. No changes were made to the Board of Appeals section of the ordinance. The Plan commission recommended approval of the ordinance to the Town Board. Next meeting is 1/21/2026.

Zoning: No December Permits. Annual Report Received to be shared at Annual Meeting.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Officers' Reports:

The clerk reported the completion of the following tasks:

- Budget Completed
- Tax Statements mailed
- Statement of Taxes Completed
- Processed W2 tax forms
- WT-7 tax form
- Submitted Information to Social Security
- Quarterly reports including 941, wage reports (unemployment)
- WRS Annual Reconciliation
- Fire Dues Certification
- First Responders Grant Materials
- Attended Election Training with Vicky, Diana, Julie
- Attended another election training on Jan 14th.
- Completed Required Badger Books Training
- Will be installing required badger book update Saturday Jan 17
- Dispersed tax payments to school districts and county
- WRS Remittance % update
- New Mileage rate, \$.72.5 per mile
- Election Plan confirmed for 2026 – no February primary.
- Krystal Clark insurance Claim
- Issue with Waste Management regarding outstanding fees. Waiting for feedback related to which bills they believe are underpaid.
- Issue with Catalis regarding bill – clarifying start date for bill cycle transition from Claude to Town.
- Issue with WTA Bill - waiting on check to return then will void.
- Regarding Bike Path Proposal Insurance – current provider is not interested in coverage.
- On to do list today:
 - Safety Report
 - Recycling Report
 - Whatever else is waiting at the hall.
- Pending:
 - Electronics Recycling Report – pending feedback from ODC regarding weight reporting.
 - Fuel Tax Report – can't complete today due to scheduled maintenance.

Treasurer Hakala reports he spoke with Ryan Rose, head of parks for Portage County, and was informed that the State of Wisconsin gives recreation immunity to municipalities for outdoor activities.

FINANCIAL REPORT/REQUESTS:

Monthly reconciliations: Hakala reports that the Treasurer and Clerk records agree. Balances are:

Checking account	\$ 29,404
Park CD	12,827
Equipment Fund	3,068
Money market	<u>761,630</u>
Cash on hand	\$806,928

Profit/Loss Statement: This report cannot be completed until after the annual. It is expected that this will be completed by auditors in time to make a report at the annual town meeting.

2026 Budget: This budget has been passed and there does not appear that any action needs to be taken at this time.

Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP): Hakala reports he is working on a list of direct deposits which might go into such an account. However, current money market rate is so good that LGIP is not significantly better. No action will be taken at this time.

Letter to Portage County Drainage District: The Town of Grant is being charged by the Portage County Drainage District (PCDD) for beaver dam removals. It appears that if PCDD removes dams on private property the owner is not billed. However, when the dam is on Town property the Town of Grant gets billed. It appears that other townships are not being charged. Supervisor Provost wants to come to a memo of understanding on an equitable agreement on who gets charged for beaver dam removals. Provost has prepared a letter to PCDD which he wants the Grant Town Board to send to PCDD to request a meeting to discuss this matter. Schwab stated she would prepare the letter for Town Board members to sign.

Current Cost of Two Lawsuits: There was an addition of \$2,500 to the cost of lawsuits from our insurance appointed lawyer, Kasdorf, for a current approximate total of \$77,500.

ZONING ORDINANCE(ZO) AND RELATED:

Schwab took the time to recognize the Plan Commission work over the last decade on reviewing and writing a comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. Particular praise was given to Kathy Lee for hard work over the years. Also of note was the work by Attorney Austin Mogard in providing additional points and verbiage, most of which was accepted by the Commission. Schwab also noted that the Town of Grant has been independent from county zoning for 50 years. Schwab listed other independence the town asserts in ambulance service, fire departments, cellphone tower ordinance, among others. Schwab thinks we should be proud of this independence. She then called on Jodi Lomma as chair of the Plan Commission to review the presentation of the revised ZO.

Jodi Lomma stated that the review and revision plan started with a public hearing. Statements and comments from the hearing were examined and adapted or adjusted to complete needed revisions. The product of this process is now being presented by the Plan Commission and recommend to be adopted by the Town of Grant.

Therefore:

MOTION (Schwab, Steltenpohl) to approve and adopt the revised zoning ordinance. Discussion included a request by Provost to address the changes in zoning maps. It appears that current corrected maps are not available. Provost is uneasy about how enforcement will take place. The new ZO includes language for citations. Provost points out that the ordinance does not include a clear step by step path to enforce the ZO. Other topics of discussion included: Currents maps not available, clear outline of rezoned properties, availability of current “clean” draft of proposal, a resident request to see a copy of the proposed ordinance even though all stages have been available and the board has met all requirements on public hearings, and many other side conversations about current map versus correct and clean language. Therefore **MOTION (Schwab, Steltenpohl) to rescind motion.** No further discussion. **Unanimous Ayes. Motion carries to rescind the motion to approve and adopt the revised zoning ordinance.**

The net result is that action to accept and adopt a revised ZO is postponed at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Supervisor Steltenpohl reported on salting and brining on Lake Road. The reports say this took place on December 3, 5, 7, 10, 19, 22, 26, 29, 30, 31, 2025. On January 8, 2026, he reported he received a call from Kitty Gross that intersection of Lake Road and CTH U was slippery. Kitty was unhappy that it was not attended to in a manner that pleased her. It was explained that the town has no control of when Wood County takes care of this. She then went on to ask why the town could not sand this also and provide sand boxes so residents could help with this problem. Discussion included statement that boxes were available but have disappeared. When Kitty questioned when plows were sent out, she was advised that the plow policy is available online.

Scott Soik addressed the issue of the availability of trained CDL drivers. In the past towns could hire a person, give on the job training, have the person take the written test, and then use the town truck to take the road test. This is no longer allowed. He is asking if the Town of Grant has had problems obtaining CDL operators. If this is the case, Soik would take this up with Congressman Van Orden to see if anything can be done. Brian Kulmann reports he has been jumping through hoops to get a CDL learners permit because the state will not accept his doctor’s report regarding peripheral vision.

In relation to CDL Steltenpohl brought up the idea that a payloador may be an answer to this problem because you can plow with one but do not need a CDL to operate. A payloador has many other uses. These issues need to be discussed with the treasurer for possible future purchase.

On another matter Provost stated he has received two compliments on how the roads have been plowed. He also questioned whether the town should consider cold storage for future equipment purchases.

APPOINTMENTS: None

REVIEW/PAY BILLS

The board reviewed and paid bills.

MOTION (Schwab, Provost) to adjourn. Adjourned at 7:25PM.

Drafted by Deputy Clerk Kathleen Rogers. Respectfully Submitted by Clerk Stefanie Schlapa

Approved: February 11th, 2026