

TOWN OF WEST POINT
TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2025

Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.84, the Town Board of the Town of West Point held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at the West Point Town Hall and via Zoom. The meeting was published in the Enterprise, the Star News, posted in the three designated places in the Town and on the Town's website.

The Town Board meeting was called to order by Ashley Nedeau-Owen - Town Chair, at 7:00 p.m. The Town Board members present at the Town Hall were: Ashley Nedeau-Owen - Town Chair, Kevin Kessler - 1st Supervisor, Scott Earnest - 2nd Supervisor, John Ungrodt - 3rd Supervisor, and Brian Gasser - 4th Supervisor. Also present was Taffy Buchanan - Town Clerk and Sharon Richmond - Town Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

A motion was made by Brian Gasser to approve the agenda as presented, 2nd by Scott Earnest – motion carried unanimously. Kevin Kessler asked why the Assessor's Plat was not on the agenda. The Town Chair stated it was not on the agenda because the Town Attorney, Scott Hewitt, and him will be having a meeting with Alliant Energy about the Assessor Plats on Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

Citizen Input – None

Copies of the April 10, 2025 regular Town Board Meeting minutes were emailed to each Town Board member prior to the meeting for their review. A motion was made by Brian Gasser to approve the minutes for the April 10, 2025 regular Town Board Meeting as presented, 2nd by Kevin Kessler – motion carried unanimously.

The Clerk presented the following report for the Treasurer Sharon Richmond: General Fund as of April 30, 2025 - \$548,460.81; Coronavirus Recovery Acct (ARPA Funds with interest) - \$140,685.12; Park Fund - \$2,727.00; Savanna Oaks Park Fund - \$1,170.97; Historical Society is \$9,179.38; and Assessor's Plat Fund - \$0.00. The Town Treasurer and Town Clerk reconciled the bank accounts for the month of April. A motion was made by Ashley Nedeau-Owen to rename the "Park Funds" to

“Park Funds Restricted” and rename the “Savanna Oaks Park Funds” to “Park Funds Unrestricted,” 2nd by Kevin Kessler – motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence The Open Book to discuss your property assessment with the Assessor will be held Thursday, May 15, 2025, from 10am to 4pm by phone. The Board of Review will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 4pm at the Town Hall. The Town received a letter dated April 25, 2025 from Sarah S.E. Keyeski, Wisconsin State Senator 14th District, regarding the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program. Lodi Fire Chief Report from April 16, 2025 and draft minutes from the March 19, 2025 LAFD Fire Commission meeting. Patty McKee Pesik sent a request for someone to look at the condition of Wartner Road. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin sent a notice that a draft environmental impact statement is available for a project to rebuild about 175 miles of existing transmission lines to support construction of a new 345 kV transmission line. Kevin Kessler brought to the attention of the Board that according to the Agreement signed with Lanzendorf on March 11, 2021, if the Board wanted, they could ask to have a meeting with Lanzendorf and Operator of the Mine relating to compliance. Columbia County Planning & Zoning held a public hearing for a CUP for Todd Stephenson on May 6, 2025.

The bills were reviewed by each Town Board member prior to the Town Board meeting. A copy of the bills, deposits, and budget for 2025 were given to each town board member for their information. A motion was made by Scott Earnest to approve paying the bills as presented, 2nd Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

The final pay request for \$20,261.18 for Slack Road was received from Payne & Dolan, Inc. and was recommended for payment by the Town Engineer. A motion was made by John Ungrodt to approve the final payment to Payne & Dolan, Inc. for \$20,261.18 for Slack Road, 2nd by Scott Earnest – motion carried unanimously.

The Town Clerk asked the Board for the authorization to set up automatic electronic payments for routine monthly bills so the Town does not incur late charges. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to authorize the automatic electronic payments of routine monthly bills for Madison Gas & Electric, Alliant Energy, and Charter / Spectrum, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

Columbia County Report – Doug Richmond stated they did separate the Emergency Management Department separate from the Sheriff’s Department. The

County Board is not looking into separating the Common Council Department from the Human Resource Department. The Health and Human Services Department received a \$999,999 grant for the mental health clinic from Congress. They created an Ad-hoc Facilities Committee to look at the best way to utilize the facilities and what they will need in the future.

A CSM for Kathleen Ballweg, Ballweg Family Trust, and Prime Industries LLC was presented for Tax Parcels #11040-491.01, #11040-491.2, & #11040-491 for a lot-line adjustment and to combine lots, from 3 lots to 2 lots. At the May 1, 2025 Plan Commission meeting they recommended approval. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to approve the CSM for the proposed lot-line adjustment, 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously.

A CSM for a lot-line adjustment and creating an Outlot for a garage for Xan Johnson & Shelia Cross was presented for Tax Parcels #11040-700.B, #11040-700.D, & #11040-700.J. The Plan Commission recommended approval at the May 1, 2025 meeting. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to approve the CSM for the lot-line adjustment and Outlot creation subject to the condition that the Outlot and Lot 10 of the Pleasant View Plat be legally joined 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously.

The opening for the bids for Selwood Drive Road Project was April 22, 2025. The Town Engineer received 4 bids and he recommended the Town accept the apparent low bid of \$286,779.00 from Tri County Paving. A motion was made by Brian Gasser to accept the low bid from Tri County Paving and award them the Selwood Project, 2nd by Kevin Kessler – motion carried unanimously.

The Town Board & Town Engineer conducted a “road tour” to look at the condition of the roads on Wednesday April 30, 2025.

There is a large hole in the Greimel because the culvert has failed. This is an emergency, John Ungrodt will put orange cones up to identify the hazard and the Town Chair will contact a local contractor bring in a load of gravel as a temporary fix until the culvert can be replaced. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler that the Board finds that the culvert failure on Greimel is an emergency and authorizes the Town Engineer to find a contractor that can replace it with a 36” culvert, 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously.

The Engineer put together a memo listing different roads as “urgent,” “poor,” and “good” to “fair.” The Engineer asked for input: should we patch the “urgent” road this year and bid them out next year to fix and sealcoat the “good”

to “fair” roads this year to keep them in that condition. A motion was made by Ashley Neddeau-Owen to have the County sealcoat Golf Road from Highway 188 to the bend just past Ingles Drive using the County Highway Aid, 2nd John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Scott Earnest to increase our borrowing for road projects this year to include chipsealing the remaining “good” to “fair” roads this year and simultaneously having the Engineer put together a plan to get the rest of our roads to “good” condition in a 3-year plan, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Scott Earnest to authorize the Town Clerk to make a check to Columbia County Highway for \$14,248.50 and send it with the County Highway Aid petition form by June 1, 2025, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

The Town Engineer will have a preconstruction meeting for Juniper Drive with Northwestern Stone on Monday, May 12, 2025. They are planning to start work on May 19, 2025. The County Highway will also start the work on East Harmon Road on Monday, May 19th also.

Scott Earnest gave the Board resources on the pros and cons, and the process of abandoning roads in the Town. The Town Engineer will put together a list of roads to discuss the possibility of abandonment.

At previous meetings the Town has been asked to petition the State to lower the speed limit on Highway 188 for safety reasons. The Town Chair said he has submitted a written request to the WDOT to lower the speed limit.

The Town has received complaints about several dogs “running at large” on Lake Drive. The Treasurer does not have record of the dogs being licensed in the Town. The Chair will send a letter to the owners saying we do not have record of their dog being licensed and they need to be controlled.

Reports:

Lodi Fire Commission – Brian Gasser reported they will meet on May 14, 2025.

Sauk Fire District – Brian Gasser reported they will be having a meeting in 2 weeks.

Sauk Prairie Ambulance – no report

Lodi EMS Commission – John Ungrodt reported they will be having a meeting on May 12, 2025 at 6:00pm.

Plan Commission – Kevin Kessler reported the Plan Commission met on May 1, 2025. They gave recommendations to the Town Board to approve the CSM for Ballwegs and for Johnson / Cross. The Plan Commission also received an update from Steve Bodenschatz on the progress on the Crystal Lake Park project.

Transfer Site Report – no report

Park & Open Space Committee – no meeting

A motion was made by Ashley Nedead-Owen to appoint Brian Gasser to the LAFD Fire Commission for the next 2 years, 2nd by Kevin Kessler – motion carried unanimously.

The next regular town board meeting will be on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 7:00pm, on the agenda is: Commission / Committee Appointments, Assessor's Plat, lowering speed limit for Highway 188, liquor, beer, cigarette licenses, building permits, Town roads, and any other business that can be legally added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Brian Gasser to adjourn the May 8, 2025, Town Board meeting at 10:35pm, 2nd by Kevin Kessler – motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By
Taffy Buchanan, Town Clerk