TOWN OF WEST POINT
TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2026

Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.84, the Town Board of the Town of West Point held their regular monthly meeting on September 10, 2026, at the West Point Town Hall and via Zoom. The meeting was published in the Tribune Enterprise, the Independent 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 7:00p.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 were Taffy Buchanan - Town Clerk and Sharon Richmond - Town Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

A motion was made by John Ungrodt to approve the agenda as presented, 2nd by Kevin Kessler – yes 4, no 0, abstain 1 - motion carried.

Citizen Input – none

Copies of the August 13, 2026, 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 August 13, 2026 regular Town Board Meeting with corrections, 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously.

The following report was presented by the Treasurer Sharon Richmond: General Fund as of August 31, 2026 - $669,429.31; Coronavirus Recovery Acct (ARPA Funds) - $21,689.57; Park Funds Restricted - $2,727.00; and Historical Society - $9,035.54. The Town Treasurer and Town Clerk reconciled the bank accounts for the month of August.

Correspondence – Brian Gasser said he has received complaints about the Transfer Site closing earlier than the posted hours, even though the dumpsters were not full. Ashley Nedeau-Owen received a call from Ranger McCormick, WDNR, he was concerned about UTV's crossing and riding on Highway 60 by Schoepp Road

and having open containers. Columbia County Board of Adjustments met on September 9, 2026, about the Timmon's variances. The Town has received multiple emails from residents stating their opposition to the possible routes of a 765-kV transmission line through the Town from Midcontinent Grid Solutions. The Plan Commission drafted a letter to the Midcontinent Grid Solutions Project Team about the BECI 765-kv proposal. Columbia County approved a resolution opposing the transmission line routes. The letters were sent out to the property owner of the land within the Assessor's Plats for the special assessments on August 31st, 2026, and about a third of them have already responded with their choice on how they are choosing to pay their invoice. The Town received LAFD Lodi Fire Chief Report dated August 19, 2026. The Town also received the proposed 2027 Lodi Fire District Budget. The Town received a memo dated August 24, 2026, from the Lodi Area EMS Chief and LAEMS President on behalf of the Commission regarding a financial shortfall.

The bills were reviewed by each Town Board member prior to the Town Board meeting. A copy of the bills, deposits, and budget for 2026 were given to each Town Board member for their information. A motion was made by John Ungrodt to approve paying the bills as presented, 2nd Scott Earnest – motion carried unanimously.

Columbia County Report – Doug Richmond reported that the County the first day of budget hearings will begin tomorrow. Doug said the County passed a resolution opposing the transmission line routes and will have another resolution coming before them this month to add more of their concerns and have it ready to be sent to the PSC when they start accepting comments. Doug and eight other counties had a zoom meeting to begin the process of getting a quote from legal counsel to represent the group as interveners before the PSC. The County's Corporation Counsel's last day will be next Friday, and they oversaw Court Counsel and Human Resources; the Board is working with the Counties Association to do an assessment of what is really needed for those departments.

The Town Board with the Town Engineer took a three hour "Road Tour" on September 2, 2026, to go over the conditions of the Town roads. The Town Engineer said Hillcrest Drive, Trails End, and the Old Sauk Road bridge were found to have issues that he would recommend addressing next year. The Town will also want to look at Jensen Drive and Lovering Road. The Engineer will try to have cost estimates for Hillcrest and Trails End for next month.

Other Road Issues: On Reynolds Road going up the hill around the corner, the gravel by the edge of the road has washed out and needs to be filled in. The Town Engineer is getting quotes to put in a wider culvert for the Louise Benish field access on Van Ness Road. Trisha Pickarts sent an email requesting the lowering of the speed limit on Old Sauk Road and is working on getting petition signed by the residents.

"Impact of Abandoning Minor Roads and the Legal Process" – no update.

Reports:

Lodi Fire Commission – Brian Gasser reported there are currently 37 firefighters and so far in 2026 they had 109 calls. They proposed 2027 budget increased by 3.5%. The Fire Commission will have their next meeting on September 16, 2026.

Lodi EMS Commission – John Ungrodt reported they had a meeting on August 19th, 2026. The Commission was told of a financial shortfall for 2026. The Commission received a draft of the procedural audit from KerberRose.

Sauk Fire District – no meeting

Sauk Prairie Ambulance – Kevin Kessler stated they met on July 23rd, 2026, and are moving to a paramedic-based service and the are anticipating an increase to $18.00 per capita for the 2027 budget. They will meet again on September 24, 2026.

Plan Commission – Kevin Kessler reported they discussed a CSM for Marian Thistle dividing her parcel into four lots, but the easements need to be reviewed by the Town Attorney. A surveyor gave an informal presentation for a land division for Jim Ballweg to build a house. The Plan Commission drafted a letter stating their opposition to the proposed transmission line routes and suggested revisions for the Town's Chapter 9 Mobile Home Ordinance.

Park & Open Space Committee – no meeting

The Town Chair presented the Board with "Protecting Township Roads – Two Model Documents for Wisconsin Town Boards Facing Large-Scale Construction Projects" prepared for by Farmland First for the Clark County Towns Association.

He received it from the Town Chair of the Town of Lowville. He asked the Board to review it so it can be discussed at the next Town Board meeting.

Brendan Flanagan, Lodi Area EMS Commission Treasurer, explained they are still gathering facts and reviewing the full financial picture of what contributed to the financial shortfall. They are looking into what has been billed, what has been collected, and what has been paid out. There have been unforeseen legal expenses from the separation and transition from the former administration and challenges accessing QuickBooks and other financial documents. The Town of Lodi will be helping put the financials together and looking at why there is a financial shortfall this year and will help work on the 2027 budget.

There was nothing new to discuss for "Inter-Governmental Agreement for Establishment of a Public Safety Building Steering Committee," "Lodi Area EMS Inter-governmental Agreement," "Municipal Emergency Operations Plan," and "Emails for Town Supervisors" so they were postponed until next month.

The next regular Town Board meeting will be on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 7:00pm, on the agenda is: Lodi Area EMS Budget, Lodi Fire District Budget, Lodi Area EMS IGA, Public Safety Building Steering Committee, Town email addresses, lowering speed limit on Old Sauk Road, ATV/UTV ordinance, Highway Access Permit, Lodi School Referendum presentation, municipal emergency operations plan, abandoning of minor Town Roads, Town roads, and any other business that can be legally added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to adjourn the September 10, 2026, Town Board meeting at 9:03pm, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By
Taffy Buchanan, Town Clerk