

## Town of Round Lake – Special Town Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 3, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall – 10625 N County Road A, Hayward, Wisconsin

### 1. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Strandlund called the Special Town Board Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Present were Chairman Strandlund, Supervisors Verbeck, Wilson, Palmer, and Jensen, Clerk Leuschen and Treasurer Palya were also present. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to update the Board and the public on emergency road clearing efforts following the severe ice and snowstorm the previous week.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### 3. Certification of Proper Meeting Notice

- a. Clerk Leuschen certified that the meeting notice had been properly posted on the Town website, at the Town Hall, and at the Recycling Center in compliance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. He confirmed that the notice met the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 19.84

### 4. Discussion – Emergency Road Clearing Following Winter Storm

- a. Chairman Strandlund provided an overview of the extensive storm damage, noting that the ice and snow event left many Town roads blocked by fallen trees and branches. The Fire Department responded to multiple 911 calls the night before Thanksgiving and deployed 6–7 firefighters to clear roads to allow ambulance access.
- b. Road Crew Doug Laier joined the meeting remotely and provided an in-depth update on emergency clearing operations:
  - i. Multiple mini excavators from Butterfield were deployed beginning on Clayton Road, later expanding to McClain and Tiger Cat Roads
  - ii. A large excavator was working in the Moose Lake/Pine Point area, with an additional machine expected in the coming days.
  - iii. Contractor Jon Sorensen completed several days of work, including Whaley Drive and Moose Lake Club Road.
  - iv. Machines were removing branches, pushing back larger trees when possible, and opening travel lanes for public safety. Additional heavy equipment is expected to assist with brushing and debris removal.
- c. Chairman Strandlund explained that these actions were necessary due to immediate public safety concerns and that bidding was not possible under emergency conditions. He noted that Town funds appear sufficient to support the response, and potential revenue from the

sale of the old dump truck—previously estimated at approximately \$55,000—may further assist the budget.

- d. Laier reported that Quality Tree Service, owned by Mark Halquist, met with Town representatives earlier in the day and plans to begin work the following day, provided road surfaces can be adequately sanded for traction. Their operations will include removing high-leaning trees along: Moose Lake Road and Forest Circle Road. The contractor's process will involve dropping dangerous leaners onto the roadway and immediately chipping material using skid steers with grapples. Estimated completion time is approximately four days, depending on conditions.
- e. Laier also reported on communication with the U.S. Forest Service, which confirmed they are facing staffing shortages but have arranged to bring an excavator into the area via County Highway and Forest Road 164. The Forest Service will begin clearing up along these routes and intends to add a second machine if possible.
- f. Throughout the discussion, Board members and residents raised concerns about:
  - i. The extent of road blockages and number of remaining hazardous trees.
  - ii. Whether roadside brush clearing practices should be widened in future years.
  - iii. Power outages and damage to private property, including broken vehicle and equipment windows.
  - iv. Potential insurance claims for equipment damaged during emergency response.
  - v. The need to review Emergency Operations procedures, including the Town Hall's availability as a warming and charging center.
- g. Questions from attendees focused on:
  - i. The status and priority of specific roads.
  - ii. Whether certain roads remained impassable.
  - iii. The potential need for wider clearing zones.
  - iv. Sanding operations and the difficulty of spreading material when it becomes wet or frozen.
- h. Laier explained that initial sanding was hindered by wet, compacted material and overlapping snowfall, and that the Road Crew's priority remained opening blocked roads before resuming routine winter maintenance.

## 5. Adjournment

- a. Hearing no further questions, Chairman Strandlund made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

TOWN OF ROUND LAKE  
STATE OF WISCONSIN

*James Strandlund*

chairperson

*Kay Nelson*

supervisor

*Bob Strider*

supervisor

*Tom Strider*

supervisor

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supervisor  
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