

Town of Round Lake, Wisconsin

Annual Meeting of the Electors – Minutes

Date: April 21, 2026

Location: Town Hall, Round Lake, WI

Time: 4:12 p.m. – 6:40 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The Annual Meeting of the Electors was called to order by Chairman Jim Strandlund at 4:12 p.m. A notably large turnout was observed, with 58 electors present along with several non-electors. The Chairman welcomed attendees and acknowledged the strong public interest in the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Oath of Office

The oath of office was administered to newly elected Town Supervisors:

- Dan Palmer
- Scott Verbeck

Both individuals affirmed their commitment to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Wisconsin and to faithfully and impartially perform the duties of their office. Applause followed the administration of the oath.

4. Verification of Public Notice

The Clerk explained that while the Annual Meeting held on the third Tuesday of April does not require formal notice under Wisconsin law, notice was provided in accordance with best practices and Wisconsin Towns Association guidance:

- Published in the Sawyer County Record on April 8 and April 15
- Posted at Town Hall, Recycling Center, and Fire Station
- Posted on the Town website

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed and accessible to the public.

5. Elector Qualification and Meeting Procedures

Chairman Strandlund reviewed procedures for the meeting, including:

- Requirement that only qualified electors may vote
- Sign-in procedures for electors to ensure accurate vote counts
- Explanation of voting methods (voice vote or show of hands unless ballot is requested)
- Rules for public comment, including one opportunity to speak per item unless all others have spoken

- Expectations for respectful conduct and orderly discussion

The Clerk confirmed that elector sign-in sheets would be used to verify vote counts if needed.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. April 15, 2025, Annual Meeting Minutes

A correction was noted to change the meeting date from April 17 to April 15.

- Motion by Pat Feldner to approve as corrected
- Second by Vickie Palya

Discussion included clarification regarding posting of prior minutes and acknowledgment of administrative transition at the time.

Vote: 53 in favor, 0 opposed, 6 abstentions – Motion carried

b. October 30, 2025, Special Meeting of the Electors Minutes

- Motion by Kay Wilson to approve
- Second by Darin Jensen

Minimal discussion occurred, with general acknowledgment of improved clarity in documentation.

Vote: 58 in favor, 0 opposed – Motion carried

7. Presentation of 2025 Financial Report

The Clerk presented a summary of the Town's 2025 financial position. It was noted that figures were rounded for simplicity and compiled from multiple reports.

Key figures included:

- Beginning Balance: \$2,058,134
- Ending Balance: \$2,198,942
- Total Revenues: \$1,549,130
- Total Expenditures: \$1,186,231
- Estimated Surplus: approximately \$362,899
- Total Debt (end of 2025): \$376,863.70
- Current Debt: \$286,072.95

Reserve accounts were also reviewed, including paving reserves and fire department funds.

Extensive discussion followed, including:

- Requests for more standardized financial statements (balance sheet, income statement, cash flow)
- Concerns regarding prior budget resolutions and surplus allocations
- Clarification of restricted use of 2% Fire Dues funds and accounting practices

- Observations regarding the complexity of municipal accounting software
- Suggestions for improving transparency and reporting consistency

The Clerk noted efforts to maintain continuity while working toward improved reporting practices.

8. Elector Action – Financial Audit

Motion:

To request a state audit or equivalent review of the Town's financial records

- Motion by Jim Bakler
- Second by Cindy Bijold

Discussion included:

- Questions regarding cost and funding of an audit
- Whether the State of Wisconsin provides such services directly
- Consideration of hiring an independent CPA firm
- Suggestion that training or financial guidance may be beneficial prior to a full audit

Vote: 35 in favor, 12 opposed, 11 abstentions – Motion carried

Subsequent Motion:

To accept the 2025 financial report as presented

- Motion by Darin Jensen
- Second by Vickie Palya

Discussion reflected continued concerns regarding clarity and completeness of the financial information.

Vote: 19 in favor, 23 opposed, 16 abstentions – Motion failed

9. Town Board Reports

Reports were provided on current and upcoming Town projects and initiatives:

- Moose Lake Road Project planned for 2027 – Scott Verbeck
- Twin Lake Road grant approval and timeline – Chairman Strandlund
- American Tower lease and communications site (Lawry Road) – Chairman Strandlund
- Ongoing review and discussion of the Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance – Chairman Strandlund

Electors were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

10. Lake District Discussion

Matt Casper presented information regarding the Callahan/Mud Lake District, including:

- Background and history of the district's formation
- Purpose and structure of lake districts in Wisconsin
- Potential benefits and responsibilities
- Plans to present additional information at a future Town Board meeting

Additional comments were provided by Scott Verbeck and Kay Wilson regarding:

- Town involvement and representation
- Financial implications
- Long-term planning considerations

11. Clerk and Treasurer Position Discussion

Discussion occurred regarding the structure and administration of the Clerk and Treasurer positions, including:

- Current compensation levels and workload expectations
- Whether the positions should remain elected or transition to appointed roles in the future
- Comparisons to other municipalities, including trends toward appointed positions in certain communities
- Challenges in recruiting candidates for elected positions and maintaining continuity
- Timing considerations, with several comments suggesting that compensation decisions are typically addressed during the budget process in the fall
- The need for additional time, research, and evaluation before making any long-term structural changes

Motion (as stated):

To authorize the board to discuss the salary and appointment for the positions of clerk and treasurer in the fall or at the next special meeting of the electors.

- Motion by Dianne Roth
- Second by Cindy Bijold

Discussion included:

- Complexity of the roles
- Comparison to other municipalities
- Need for qualified individuals and continuity

Vote: 47 in favor, 1 opposed, 10 abstentions – Motion carried

12. Matters Raised by Electors

- a. Ambulance Services

Mike Feldner raised concerns regarding emergency response times and overall ambulance service coverage within the Town. Discussion highlighted response time comparisons and service expectations.

b. Elector Resolution No. 2026-01 – Non-Metallic Mining

- Resolution introduced and read by Cindy Bijold
- Chairman reviewed statutory authority of electors
- Extensive discussion occurred with multiple electors speaking in opposition to potential changes to the non-metallic mining ordinance

Discussion topics included:

- Setback requirements
- Environmental and community impacts
- Availability of gravel resources
- Historical context of the ordinance

A letter from Tom Siverson was read in the record.

Motion:

Adopt Elector Resolution No. 2026-01 as an expression of the will of the electors

- Motion by Cindy Bijold
- Seconded by Phil Jarog

Vote: 43 in favor, 0 opposed, 15 abstentions – Motion carried

b. Teleconference Policy for Annual Meeting

Motion:

Hold the Annual Meeting at its standard time and develop a policy allowing video conferencing participation

- Motion by Pat Feldner
- Second by Rolfe Hanson

Discussion included accessibility, participation, and technological considerations.

Vote: 58 in favor, 0 opposed – Motion carried

c. Additional Public Comments

Additional topics raised by electors included:

- Agricultural programs and initiatives
- Road maintenance concerns, including Pit Road
- Potential improvements to the Twin Lake Road boat ramp
- Fire Department operations and updates

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Leuschen III

Town Clerk

Town of Round Lake

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