

Town of Round Lake – Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 12, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

Town Hall (10625 N County Road A, Hayward, WI 54843) and via Virtual Platform

1. Call to Order

Chairman Strandlund called the Regular Town Board Meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Board Members Present: Chairman Strandlund, Supervisors Jensen, Verbeck, Wilson, and Palmer. Also Present: Clerk Leuschen, Treasurer Palya, Fire Chief Schmidt, Road Supervisor Doug Laier, and members of the public attending in person and virtually.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Certification of Proper Meeting Notice (Wis. Stat. § 19.84)

Clerk Leuschen certified the meeting was properly posted in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes §19.84.

4. Approval/Reordering of Agenda

The Board reviewed the agenda and agreed to move Items 15 and 16 to follow Item 8 to address seasonal road-related matters earlier in the meeting. Motion by Supervisor Verbeck and seconded by Supervisor Jensen to approve the reordering of the agenda. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

5. Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the Regular Town Board Meeting minutes from February 12, 2026. A correction was made to change the spelling of “McLean” to “McClain.” Motion by Supervisor Jensen and seconded by Supervisor Palmer to approve February 12, 2026, Regular Town Board Meeting minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

6. Public Comments

Chuxie Barrows commented regarding property conditions at 12003 W Twin Lake Road, including flooding concerns, and referenced the sale of firewood. No action was taken on public comment matters not specifically notified for action.

7. Monthly Recycling Card Drawing

The monthly recycling card drawing was held.

8. Road Report – Doug Laier, Road Crew

The Board received the monthly road report. Winter maintenance operations were continuing. Road crew work also included cleanup related to storm damage. It was reported that the new pickup truck would need to return to Monroe for service.

9. Requests for Exemption from Town Road Weight Limit Restrictions

The Board discussed seasonal 6-ton road weight limit restrictions and requests for exemptions. Discussion included a request involving Republic Services and whether a lighter Ford F700 truck would reduce impact on seasonally posted roads. The Board discussed the importance of protecting Town roads during spring thaw conditions and whether limited exemptions should be made for specific uses or emergency service needs. The Board also discussed whether early-morning service windows or other limited-use conditions might be appropriate. After discussion, a motion was made to keep the Town's seasonal road bans unchanged. The motion was then amended to keep the seasonal road bans in place while allowing an exemption for Roadrunner Towing for emergencies. Motion by Supervisor Wilson and seconded by Supervisor Verbeck, as amended. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

10. Snowmobile Access – Pit Road to Phipps Fire Lane

The Board discussed possible snowmobile access from Pit Road to Phipps Fire Lane. Discussion included the basis for the request, route considerations, and the need for additional input from the ATV/Snowmobile Alliance and other relevant parties before Board action. Motion by Chairman Strandlund and seconded by Supervisor Jensen to table the item to allow the ATV/Snowmobile Alliance an opportunity to provide input. Motion carried (4-1).

11. Land Use Plan Commission Report – Supervisor Verbeck

Supervisor Verbeck reported on the recent Land Use Planning Commission meeting. He summarized the following items:

- Rezoning Request – RZN #26-006 – James Sokup and Sydney Ringheim: Supervisor Verbeck reported that the request involved rezoning approximately 3.49 acres from Agricultural One (A-1) to Residential/Recreational One (RR-1). He noted that four letters opposing the rezone had been submitted and that three of the four parties spoke at the Plan Commission meeting to express concerns. He further reported that the item had been tabled at the Plan Commission level and that the request was related to a broader project being worked on by the Plan Commission and Sawyer County Zoning regarding parcels with split or potentially incorrect A-1 and RR-1 zoning.
- Conditional Use Permit – CUP #26-008 – Matt Iverson: Supervisor Verbeck reported that the Plan Commission reviewed a CUP application for a 30-foot by 25-foot detached accessory building (garage) on a vacant Forestry One (F-1) parcel. He stated that the Plan Commission recommended approval with conditions, including additional language, that failure to apply for a building permit within one year would result in cancellation of the CUP, along with conditions numbered 2 through 5.
- Shipping Container – 12003 W Twin Lake Road: Supervisor Verbeck reported that the Plan Commission revisited the Town Approval application and Sawyer County materials for the existing shipping container at 12003 W Twin Lake Road. He stated that the Plan Commission recommended approval with the condition that all permit requirements be met by June 15, 2026.
- Town Survey: Supervisor Verbeck reported that Treasurer Palya would not be able to chair the Survey Committee and that a replacement would need to be identified. He noted that no further updates were available and that the item would appear again on a future agenda.

12. Callahan/Mud Lake District Report – Supervisor Verbeck

Supervisor Verbeck reported that the Town Hall Use form had been submitted by the Lake District; however, additional committee-related information was still pending.

13. Town Board Land Use Approval – Shipping Container – 12003 W Twin Lake Road

The Board reviewed the Town Approval application and associated Sawyer County Land Use Permit materials regarding the placement of a shipping container accessory structure at 12003 W Twin Lake Road. Discussion included that the request was being considered after the fact, as the container was already located on the property. The Board reviewed the recommendation from the Land Use Planning Commission and discussed the requirement that the container be moved to meet the required road setback. Chuxie Barrows was present and spoke on her own behalf. Supervisor Verbeck restated the conditions and compliance expectations discussed at the Plan Commission meeting. Following discussion, motion by Supervisor Palmer to approve the shipping container with the conditions recommended by the Land Use Planning Commission, including that all conditions and permit requirements be satisfied by June 15, 2026. Second was made by Supervisor Jensen. Motion carried (4-1).

14. Conditional Use Permit – CUP #26-008 – Matt Iverson

The Board reviewed the Conditional Use Permit application submitted by Matt Iverson for the construction of a 30-foot by 25-foot detached accessory building on a vacant parcel located in the Town of Round Lake and zoned Forestry One (F-1). Supervisor Verbeck summarized the recommendation of the Land Use Planning Commission. Mr. Iverson was present and appeared on his own behalf. The Board discussed the Plan Commission recommendation and the proposed conditions for the CUP. Motion by Supervisor Palmer and seconded by Supervisor Jensen to approve CUP #26-008 with the conditions described by the Land Use Planning Commission and Findings of Fact #2, #3, and #13. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Following Board action on the CUP, the Board then considered the related Town land use approval. Motion by Supervisor Verbeck and seconded by Supervisor Wilson to approve the Land Use application. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

15. Rezoning Request – RZN #26-006 – James Sokup and Sydney Ringheim

The Board reviewed the rezoning request submitted to Sawyer County Zoning and Conservation by James Sokup and Sydney Ringheim requesting the rezoning of approximately 3.49 acres from Agricultural One (A-1) to Residential/Recreational One (RR-1). Supervisor Verbeck summarized the Land Use Planning Commission's prior discussion and the broader work being done regarding A-1 and RR-1 split-zoned properties. Supervisor Wilson discussed the matter from the Sawyer County Zoning Committee perspective. James Sokup appeared and spoke on his own behalf regarding the reasons for the requested rezone. Sydney Ringheim also addressed the Board regarding the request and the reasons for seeking to bring the parcel into a single zoning classification.

The following members of the public also addressed the Board:

- Jennifer O'Phelan spoke in opposition to the rezone and favored tabling the matter in deference to the larger zoning review project.
- Maria and Tim O'Phelan spoke in opposition to the rezone and likewise favored tabling the matter.

- Brad Markowski spoke in opposition and supported deferring the request until broader zoning issues were addressed.
- Martin Hanson spoke regarding the rezone and the issues associated with converting the property to RR-1.

Supervisor Wilson also discussed the timing and pace of the rezone request. After discussion, motion by Supervisor Verbeck and seconded by Supervisor Wilson to accept the rezone request for RZN #26-006 with Findings of Fact #2, #3, and #7. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

16. Moose Lake Road Improvement Project – Selection of Alternative Proposal

The Board discussed the Moose Lake Road Improvement Project and the recommendations and proposals received from NWBE. Chairman Strandlund referenced NWBE's design recommendations and alternatives for the project, including the need for additional review before selection of a final direction. The Board discussed the benefit of meeting directly with NWBE to review the proposal details and alternatives before taking action. Discussion also included scheduling a special meeting with NWBE at 5:30 p.m. on a Monday or Tuesday. Motion by Supervisor Wilson and seconded by Supervisor Jensen to table Item 14 so the Board could meet with the NWBE engineering firm before selecting an alternative. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

17. Budget Resolution No. 03-2026 – EMS Funding Assistance Program Award Reserve Account Transfer

The Board reviewed Budget Resolution No. 03-2026, amending the 2026 Town of Round Lake Budget pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 65.90(5)(a) for the purpose of transferring and appropriating funds from the EMS Funding Assistance Program Award Reserve Account to Fire Department expense account DFK 52200. The resolution authorized the transfer of \$122.85 from the EMS Funding Assistance Program Award Reserve Account, which had a reported current balance of \$17,803.24, for eligible fire and EMS-related expenditures. The resolution further acknowledged that the expenditure had been reviewed and signed off on by Fire Chief Mike Schmidt and EMS Service Director Vance Haesemeyer, and that the 2026 Fire Department budget total would be amended to \$116,089.75 as a result of the transfer. A roll call vote was taken:

- Daniel Palmer – Aye
- Duane Jensen – Aye
- Jim Strandlund – Aye
- Marvin Verbeck – Aye
- Kay Wilson – Aye

Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

18. Sawyer County Mutual Fire Protective Assistance Contract (Mutual Aid Plan)

The Board reviewed the Sawyer County Mutual Fire Protective Assistance Contract, also known as the Sawyer County Mutual Aid Plan. Discussion included the purpose of the agreement to provide coordinated mutual aid among participating fire departments and emergency service organizations when a local emergency exceeds the capabilities of the responding department. The Board discussed operational and coordination benefits of continuing participation in the mutual aid arrangement. Motion

by Supervisor Palmer and seconded by Chairman Strandlund to approve the Mutual Fire Protective Assistance Contract. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

19. Fire Department Report – Mike Schmidt, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Schmidt presented the Fire Department Report. Discussion included the breakdown of fire runs involving Hunter and Spider Lake. Fire Chief Schmidt also reported that he had met with representatives from the Town of Spider Lake and that agreement had been reached regarding rates for the use of runs and equipment. The Board was further advised that 16 fire inspections had been completed. Fire Chief Schmidt indicated there was a need for additional assistance in completing inspections.

20. Clerk Report

Clerk Leuschen provided the Clerk's Report, including updates regarding:

- Year-to-date budget revenue,
- The Annual Town Meeting scheduled for April 21, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.,
- Board of Review scheduling, noted in the agenda materials as April 27, 2026, through June 11, 2026,
- April 7, 2026, Spring Election.

21. Treasurer Report

Treasurer Palya presented the Treasurer's Report, including monthly receipts, vouchers, and account balances.

22. Approval of Checks and Vouchers

The Board reviewed the checks and vouchers presented for payment. Motion by Supervisor Verbeck and seconded by Supervisor Jensen to approve the checks and vouchers as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

23. Closed Session

The Board considered a motion to convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public property, the investment of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. The stated purpose of the closed session was to review and discuss multiple offers and negotiation considerations related to the American Tower lease for Site #211543, located at 11556 W Lawry Road, Hayward, WI 54843, including potential lease amendments, renewal terms, financial considerations, and other contractual matters where public discussion could adversely affect the Town's bargaining position. Roll call vote was taken to convene in closed session:

- Wilson – Aye
- Verbeck – Aye
- Strandlund – Aye
- Jensen – Aye
- Palmer – Aye

The Board entered closed session at 8:47 p.m.

24. Open Session

Motion by Supervisor Jensen and seconded by Supervisor Palmer to reconvene in open session. Motion carried. The Board reconvened in open session at 9:13 p.m. Following return to open session, motion by Supervisor Jensen and seconded by Supervisor Verbeck to invite Mr. Jeff Broughton. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

25. Correspondence

The Board reviewed and discussed the following correspondence and reports:

- Clear Lake Boat Landing – Supervisor Jensen
- Clerk Leuschen and Supervisor Verbeck attending Spring Board of Review training in Cable, Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Towns Road School 2026 in Wisconsin Dells
- CPR/AED Training scheduled for April 11, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Chairman Strandlund and his wife signed up for the CPR/AED training
- Ordinance schedule for the Town website

No formal action was taken on these matters.

26. Future Agenda

The Board engaged in general discussion regarding potential topics for future agendas. Discussion primarily centered on follow-up items previously addressed during the meeting, including matters that had been tabled or require additional information prior to further Board action. No formal motions were made, and no specific future agenda items were formally scheduled by Board action at this time.

27. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.