

Town of Round Lake – Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 13, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

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

1. Call to Order

The Regular Town Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman Strandlund at 6:31 p.m. Present: Chairman Strandlund; Supervisors Verbeck, Palmer, Wilson, and Jensen; Clerk Leuschen; Treasurer Palya; and Fire Chief Schmidt. Supervisor Jensen participated via the virtual platform, so all five Board members participated. Road Crew Laier participated virtually for his report. LUPC Chair Ginny Chabek and 18 members of the public were also present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Certification of Proper Meeting Notice

Clerk Leuschen certified that the agenda was posted on August 11, 2026, on the Town website and at the Town Hall and Recycling Center in compliance with Wis. Stat. § 19.84. The notice identified the meeting date, time, location, virtual access, and agenda subject matter.

4. Approval/Reordering of Current Agenda

The Board changed only the order in which the noticed items would be considered. Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Palmer, to move agenda items 15 and 16 to immediately after the Road Report. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Approval of Minutes

Both sets of minutes were presented without corrections. Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Palmer, to approve the July 14, 2026, Special Town Board Meeting minutes and July 15, 2026, Regular Town Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Public Comments

Pat Feldner stated that the Fire Department Auxiliary would fund upgrades, lettering, lighting, and additional equipment for the newly purchased 1999 heavy rescue vehicle through a dedicated Town account. Mike Feldner described the six-month effort to locate the vehicle and its value for emergency response, including a climate-controlled walk-in work area and air-pack filling capability.

Cindy Bijold cited reported unpermitted road work and operations beyond stated permit limits as examples supporting qualified inspections of active mines. Edward Haugen encouraged continued work on the nonmetallic mining ordinance, including clearer definitions of inactivity and abandonment. These statements were received as public comments; no Board action was taken.

7. Monthly Recycling Card Drawing

The monthly recycling card drawing was held.

8. Road Report

Road Crew Laier reported that winter-storm cleanup was complete. Roadside mowing and gravel hauling were underway. A replacement culvert for Tiger Cat Road had arrived at the County shop, and a culvert for Moose Lake Road had been ordered. A beaver blockage at a large Twin Lake Road culvert was cleared, and trapping was arranged.

Laier also reviewed the two driveway applications heard after this report under agenda items 15 and 16. Chairman Strandlund reported that an auction account had been established for the Town truck and that he would work with Laier on an accurate listing of its condition.

9. Land Use Planning Commission Report

LUPC Chair Chabek reported on work with Northwest Regional Planning Commission for the Town's 2029 Comprehensive Plan update. The mapping work was expected to take approximately three to six months and would include public input, particularly for the future land-use map. The LUPC recommended approval of the Koch certified survey map and its access easement.

The LUPC continued reviewing the nonmetallic mining ordinance and planned to prepare written questions and proposed solutions in September before consulting legal counsel, possibly in October. Chabek also reported the LUPC's support for the proposed Sawyer County data-center moratorium and stated that regular LUPC meetings would move to the first Thursday of each month beginning in September to allow more time before Board meetings. No Board action was taken on the report.

10. Callahan/Mud Lake District Report

Supervisor Verbeck reported that the District approved its budget and increased its annual levy from approximately \$20,000 to \$80,000 to prepare for needed dam-related work. The District represents approximately \$44 million, or about 7%, of the Town's property value. District representatives were taking the lead in arranging a September meeting with the District, Town, Sawyer County, and WDNR.

11. Clear Lake Boat Landing Update

Clerk Leuschen reported that the Sawyer County staff member involved in the landing's original 2011 design had inspected the site but had not yet provided an evaluation. The WDNR advised that a permit would be required, with the permit type depending on whether the work involves dredging, reconstruction, or expansion. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers review may also be required if the project involves a larger redesign.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Palmer, to table the Clear Lake boat landing matter until the September meeting so the Board can receive the County's evaluation and determine the appropriate work and permits. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Additional Clear Lake Boat Landing Discussion

This agenda item covered the same landing conditions, maintenance, safety, and possible improvements addressed under item 11. No separate discussion or action was taken.

13. American Tower Lease Negotiation for the Lawry Road Tower

Jeff Brotherton reviewed the negotiated lease terms. He stated that the new terms would increase rent from a maximum of \$1,400 per month to \$3,000 per month with a 3% annual increase. He projected approximately \$1.712 million in rent over 30 years, compared with approximately \$504,000 under the prior terms, and stated that the higher rent would increase the lease's potential sale value. The prior \$618,000 lump offer was believed to remain available, but the Board discussed first finalizing the improved lease terms.

Motion by Supervisor Jensen, second by Chairman Strandlund, to complete the required paperwork and move forward with approval of the negotiated American Tower agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Certified Survey Map for Bryan and Noelle Koch – Callahan Lake Resort

The Board reviewed the proposed division of approximately 15.64 acres into three lots. The applicants explained that the survey would separate an existing residence, create a future family homesite, and provide space for possible resort expansion. The plan includes a 33-foot shared access and utility easement serving all three lots; the two improved lots have separate wells and septic systems, and space was identified for those facilities on the third lot.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Chairman Strandlund, to approve the certified survey map for Bryan and Noelle Koch as recommended by the LUPC. Motion carried 5-0.

15. Temporary Logging Driveway – RM Bay Logging Inc. – 11767 W Twin Lake Road

The request covered temporary access from July 30 through August 30, 2026. Road Crew Laier reported that the location was acceptable if logs and fill were placed in the ditch line, the angled approach minimized pavement damage, safe visibility was maintained in both directions, and the access was removed by the permit deadline.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Palmer, to approve the temporary logging driveway for RM Bay Logging Inc. with the Road Crew's conditions. Motion carried 5-0.

16. Driveway Permit – Dean Paskey – Wolf Island Road Lots 54 and 55

The application anticipated construction after the August 28 property closing and completion by the end of September. Road Crew Laier reported that the steep approach would require a culvert and should be constructed below road level to prevent debris and runoff from entering Wolf Island Road. Because the proposed driveway crosses both lots, the Board required the parcels to be combined into one lot.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Palmer, to approve the driveway permit with the stated conditions, including combining Lots 54 and 55 into one parcel. Motion carried 5-0.

17. Request from Mike Lynch Regarding Town-Owned Osprey Lake Property

Clerk Leuschen reported that the Town owns an unused parcel of approximately 0.49 acres on Osprey Lake, identified as Tax ID 40518. Mike Lynch expressed interest in purchasing or leasing the steep waterfront property for a future residence. The Board discussed the property's current public value, possible fair-market value, LUPC review, and the need to confirm any elector authorization required before a sale.

Motion by Supervisor Wilson, second by Supervisor Verbeck, to table the matter while a realtor provides comparable-value information, the LUPC reviews the land-use considerations, and the Clerk confirms the required legal and elector-approval process. Motion carried 5-0.

18. Room Tax Ordinance No. 02-2021 and Tourism Entity Agreement

The Board reviewed the Town's 4% room-tax program and its agreement with the Hayward Lakes Visitors and Convention Bureau. The Town received approximately \$117,555 since the program began in 2022 and approximately \$6,200 to \$6,300 during the first two quarters of 2026. Members discussed Town-specific promotion, the agreement's notice and annual-extension provisions, and the cost of creating a separate tourism entity.

Motion by Supervisor Palmer, second by Supervisor Verbeck, to continue the Tourism Entity Agreement and Room Tax Ordinance No. 02-2021 after December 31, 2026. Motion carried 4-1.

19. Town Website Policy Regarding Public Contact with Town Board Members

The Board reviewed revised website language clarifying that residents may contact individual Board members and provide information. The language cautions Board members against group or serial communications, reply-all email discussions, and commitments on future votes that could create Open Meetings Law concerns; it also notes that individual members do not act for the full Board.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the recommended website-policy changes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

20. Follow-Up on Elector Resolution No. 2026-01

The Board discussed the resolution approved at the April Annual Town Meeting, including the 3,000-foot mining setback, consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, and a possible nonbinding referendum. Members questioned whether additional Board action was required and wanted further information before deciding on any next step.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Wilson, to table the matter pending clarification of the Board's responsibilities and related mining issues. Motion carried 5-0.

21. LUPC Recommendation for a Sawyer County Report on Active Nonmetallic Mines

The Board reviewed the LUPC's draft letter requesting Sawyer County records and a written status report on each active nonmetallic mine in the Town, including permit status, operational and reclamation compliance, reported violations, enforcement actions, and recommended follow-up.

Chairman Strandlund made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Verbeck, to update the date, place the request on Town letterhead, and send it to Sawyer County. No vote was taken, so the motion was not adopted and no action was taken.

22. LUPC Recommendation Regarding Funding for Qualified Mine Inspections

The Board discussed whether inspections are already required of mine operators or performed by Sawyer County. The inspection scope, qualifications, estimated cost, and funding responsibility remained unresolved pending clarification of the County's process and responsibilities.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Palmer, to table consideration of Town funding for a qualified mine inspector until the County responds to the Town's request. Motion carried 5-0.

23. Proposed Policy 2026-03 – Virtual Attendance and Access to Town Meetings

The Board discussed the legal and practical differences between regular governmental-body meetings and meetings of the electors. Topics included virtual viewing, technical limitations, verification of electors, and the requirement for electors to attend in person to vote or exercise elector powers at an annual town meeting.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Chairman Strandlund, to table Policy 2026-03 and rewrite it as separate policies for regular Town meetings and meetings of the electors. Motion carried 5-0.

24. Policy 2026-02 – Notice of Nonmetallic Mining Conditional Use Permit Applications

The Board discussed Sawyer County's practice of notifying the Town when a new nonmetallic mining conditional use permit application is filed. County staff had advised that it is the Town's responsibility to notify the applicant of the Town's separate license requirements. Because the proposed policy expected the County to provide that notice, the Board took no action. The Clerk will continue the Town's applicant-notification process.

25. Budget Resolution No. 04-2026 – Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund Transfer

Clerk Leuschen explained that the Fire Department Auxiliary would fund upgrades and equipment for the heavy rescue vehicle but had not committed to the \$40,000 purchase price. The Equipment Reserve Fund held approximately \$52,601 before the transfer. The resolution transfers \$40,000 from that reserve to Fire Department account DFK-522-00 to cover the purchase.

Motion by Supervisor Wilson, second by Supervisor Verbeck, to adopt Budget Resolution No. 04-2026. Motion carried 5-0.

26. 2026 Chequamegon MTB Festival – Temporary Use of Phipps Fire Lane

The Board reviewed the annual request to use portions of Phipps Fire Lane for the September 19, 2026, Chequamegon 40-mile bicycle race, including temporary course signs, support vehicles, food and first-aid stations. Proof of liability insurance had been provided. One member raised safety concerns about bicycle use on gravel roads.

Motion by Supervisor Wilson, second by Supervisor Verbeck, to approve the temporary use of Phipps Fire Lane subject to the submitted insurance and the conditions in the application. Motion carried 4-1.

27. Twin Lake Road LRIP/TRIS Project – Engineering-Services Procurement

Clerk Leuschen reported that the LRIP facilitator advised that the Town may contract directly for engineering services and is not required to competitively solicit them for grant compliance. The Board discussed obtaining comparable estimates and allowing adequate time if proposals are requested. The construction work itself would still require bidding.

No motion was put to a vote, and no action was taken. The Clerk will seek an estimate from the engineering firm currently contacted and gather information about firms used for earlier Twin Lake Road work before the matter returns to the Board.

28. 2026 Crack-Sealing Services Through Sawyer County

The Board reviewed Road Crew Laier's list of numerous road segments needing crack sealing and discussed a direct contract with Sawyer County using available road-construction funds. Members requested a prioritized scope, expected material use, County availability, and cost information before setting a not-to-exceed amount.

No motion was put to a vote, and no action was taken. Additional information will be obtained from the Road Crew and Sawyer County for consideration at a future meeting.

29. Propane-Supply Proposals and Contract Award

The Board compared available pricing of \$1.449 per gallon from Como Propane, \$1.395 from Ferrellgas, and a verbal quote of \$1.339 from Superior Fuel. The Town uses approximately 5,000 gallons annually. Superior Fuel verbally described a five-year term and free tank monitoring but had not provided a written proposal. Members requested confirmation of whether the price was fixed for five years, tank-leasing arrangements, and delivery protections.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Palmer, to table the award until the written Superior Fuel proposal is received and the terms can be verified. Motion carried 5-0.

30. Preliminary Review of the 2027 Town Budget

The Board briefly reviewed personnel costs, the Moose Lake and Twin Lake Road projects, and a proposed increase in the legal services allowance due to possible litigation. The Clerk's working draft used \$30,000 as a preliminary legal allowance; no amount was approved. No budget decisions were made. The Board scheduled a special budget meeting for Monday, August 31, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., and the Clerk will provide personnel information in advance.

31. Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Schmidt presented the written monthly report. Fire inspections were in progress, approximately 3,150 feet of fire hose had been tested, and the Department was preparing billing for services provided to the Town of Spider Lake. No Board action was taken.

32. Clerk's Report

Clerk Leuschen reviewed the year-to-date budget reports. Building utilities and maintenance and recycling expenses were identified for continued monitoring. Republic Services' automated review had generated disputed recycling-contamination charges; after review, the Town received a \$550 credit.

For the August 11 primary election, 450 of 909 registered voters participated. Clerk Leuschen thanked the election workers, reported that ballot checks and County reporting went smoothly, and stated that additional workers were being recruited for the November election.

33. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Palya reported that computer problems prevented completion of the written monthly receipts, vouchers, and account-balances report, but that the accounts were balanced. The written report was deferred to the next meeting. No action was taken.

34. Approval of Checks and Vouchers

The Board reviewed questions about the Pine Point Road well-pump replacement, \$4,312 in Moose Lake Road preliminary engineering, road-patching materials, and erosion-control and reseeding work near the Robin's Nest restaurant.

Motion by Supervisor Wilson, second by Supervisor Jensen, to approve the checks and vouchers. Motion carried 5-0.

35. Correspondence and Reports

The Board received a report that the Back the Blue fundraiser had raised more than \$34,000, with fundraising still underway, for the Sawyer County Sheriff's Office. No action was taken.

36. Future Agenda Items

The Board identified the proposed request to Sawyer County for records and a status report on active nonmetallic mines as a future agenda item. Matters tabled or deferred for later follow-up included the Clear Lake landing, Osprey Lake property, Elector Resolution No. 2026-01, mine-inspection funding, virtual-meeting policies, Twin Lake Road engineering, crack sealing, and propane proposals.

37. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Leuschen III
Town Clerk