

Town of Round Lake - Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 10, 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 meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Present were Chairman Strandlund; Supervisors Verbeck, Wilson, Palmer, and Jensen; Clerk Leuschen; Treasurer Palya; Road Supervisor Doug Laier; LUPC Chair Ginny Chabek; Fire Chief Mike Schmidt; and members of the public. Recorded 41 in-person and 13 virtual attendees.

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 the Town website and at the Town Hall and Recycling Center in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 19.84. The agenda was posted on September 7, 2026.

4. Approval/Reordering of Current Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Palmer, to approve August 13, 2026, Regular Town Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Palmer, to approve the August 31, 2026, Special Town Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Public Comments

Comments concerning the Town's nonmetallic mining ordinance were received from Connie, Holly Donato, Jim Dolby, Scott Wilson, Martin Hanson, Tom Tungseth, Karen Geeze, Ann Harlass, Cindy Bjold, Ginny Chabek, Travis Butterfield, Ed Haugan, Jerry Winters, Annalisa Mueller, and Rolfe Hanson.

Most of these speakers asked the Board to retain the Town's non-metallic mining ordinance or complete the LUPC and legal review before making changes. Comments addressed the 3,000-foot setback, inspections and enforcement, dust and silica, groundwater, noise, traffic and road wear, reclamation, nearby homes and property values, local gravel supply and hauling costs, and possible use of an ad hoc committee.

Travis Butterfield stated that employee dust sampling and health monitoring had not identified silica exceedances or silicosis among long-term workers.

Kari Strandlund separately raised concerns about ambulance response time and thanked local responders. Public comments are summarized as statements made by the speakers; the Board made no findings and took no action.

7. Monthly Recycling Card Drawing

The monthly recycling card drawing was held.

8. Road Report - Doug Laier

Road Supervisor Laier reported that gravel was placed in thin areas and along low shoulders, grading resumed after rainfall, and end-of-season mowing continued. Sawyer County identified separate candidates for crack sealing and chip sealing. Lower Twin Lake Road has extensive cracking and may not be suitable for chip sealing; McClaine Road was identified as a future chip-seal priority.

Bridge inspections were completed. Sawyer County was expected to shim the Tiger Cat bridge by mid-October and install the Moose Lake Road and Tiger Cat Dam Road culverts near the end of September. Road closures and resident notice will be coordinated when dates are known. The proposed shop wash curtain was not recommended because the building lacks sufficient space.

9. Land Use Planning Commission Report - Ginny Chabek

LUPC Chair Chabek reported recommendations to approve the Askin township application, Zinda CSM, Harris rezone, and CUP renewals #26-037 and #26-038 with stated conditions. The LUPC recommended tabling CUP #26-034 pending clarification of its status under the Town's mining ordinance. The Commission also continued reviewing proposed ordinance revisions and awaited a contract from Northwest Regional Planning Commission for Comprehensive Plan assistance.

10. Callahan/Mud Lake District Report - Supervisor Verbeck

Supervisor Verbeck reported that the District's September meeting was scheduled for September 14. A meeting involving Lake District and Town representatives and the Wisconsin DNR was planned for September 22 regarding the dam matter.

11. Permanent Driveway Permit - Jonathan and Jean Schmidt - Tiger Cat Road - Tax ID 25428

The Board reviewed the existing driveway location and the road crew's recommendation that the approach remain flat or lower for approximately 10 to 15 feet from the pavement before rising. No culvert was recommended based on current drainage conditions.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Jensen, to approve the permanent driveway permit. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Clear Lake Boat Landing Update

Clerk Leuschen presented information received from Sawyer County regarding the shallow launch and turnaround area. The Board discussed dredging, redesign, current low-water conditions, permitting, sediment testing, and obtaining cost information.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Palmer, to begin the Wisconsin DNR permitting process and required sediment study before proceeding with dredging work. Motion carried 5-0. No dredging or construction was authorized at this meeting.

13. T-Mobile RIP Project - Site No. A1N0963A - 11556W Lawry Road

The Board reviewed T-Mobile's proposed underground fiber-backhaul work at the existing tower site. Utility-location checks will be completed before construction.

Motion by Supervisor Jensen, second by Supervisor Verbeck, to approve the project as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Certified Survey Map - Sandra Zinda - 11077 Twin Lake Drive

The proposed CSM creates a second building lot from the approximately 8.98-acre property. The new lot will not have access to Tiger Cat Flowage and will use the access easement shown.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the CSM based on the LUPC recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.

15. Rezone Application #26-015 - Brian and Dawn Harris

The request rezones approximately 1.22 acres from F-1 to RR-1 so it may be combined with the adjoining RR-1 property. The LUPC recommended approval because the combination would remove a substandard forestry lot and reduce potential development density.

Motion by Supervisor Wilson, second by Supervisor Verbeck, to recommend approval based on findings of fact Nos. 2, 3, and 7. Motion carried 5-0.

16. Township Approval - James C. and Patti L. Askin - 10023W Moose Lake Road

The Board reviewed the proposed residence, attached garage, and detached shop/garage on the approximately 40.15-acre A-2 property and the LUPC recommendation.

Motion by Supervisor Wilson, second by Supervisor Palmer, to approve the township application. Motion carried 5-0.

17. Elector Resolution No. 2026-01

Clerk Leuschen reported guidance that the April 21 resolution is advisory and not legally binding on the Board. The guidance also indicated that the requested advisory referendum would not fall within the subjects currently authorized by Wisconsin law.

Motion by Supervisor Palmer, second by Supervisor Verbeck, not to accept Elector Resolution No. 2026-01. Motion carried 4-1; Supervisor Wilson voted no.

18. Select Materials, LLC Petition Regarding Ordinance No. 2022-04

Darryl Mast explained the request that the Town purchase gravel only from pits complying with the Town ordinance. The Board discussed the petition's advisory nature, local material availability, delivered cost, and whether purchasing policy should be used to address ordinance compliance. Members noted the need to retain flexibility to obtain suitable material for Town road work.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Palmer, to dismiss the petition while maintaining the advisory position that the Town should obtain gravel from pits that closely follow the Town ordinance. Motion carried 5-0.

19. CUP Renewal #26-037 - Point Sporting Goods Pit

Jeff Johnson, representing Mathy Construction/Milestone Materials, described the existing operation and dust-control practices. The Board reviewed the LUPC recommendation and County staff conditions.

Motion by Supervisor Palmer, second by Supervisor Jensen, to recommend approval with County staff conditions Nos. 1-5, white-noise backup alarms, and no-engine-braking signs at the entrance and exit, based on findings of fact Nos. 2, 6, and 7. Motion carried 5-0.

20. CUP Renewal #26-038 - Mrotek Pit

Jeff Johnson reviewed the existing operation, current County inspection, dust-control practices, and the CUP provision allowing extended hours for special demand. He stated that no current County complaints were identified and said the operator could notify the Town before special-demand work.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Chairman Strandlund, to recommend approval based on the LUPC recommendation and County staff conditions, including maintenance of the tree buffer, white-noise backup alarms, and no-engine-braking signs, based on findings of fact Nos. 2, 6, and 7. Motion carried 5-0.

21. CUP #26-034 - Hirschfeld Pit

Jeff Johnson stated that the pit has longstanding nonconforming status, that approximately 12 of the planned 39 acres have been opened, and that it is intended as a future source after the Mrotek Pit. The LUPC raised concern that no prior County-approved reclamation plan was identified and recommended legal review of whether the proposal is subject to the Town ordinance.

Motion by Supervisor Verbeck, second by Supervisor Wilson, to table CUP No. 26-034 pending legal review of its status under the Town's nonmetallic mining ordinance. Motion carried 5-0. No Town recommendation was made at this meeting.

The Board recessed at 8:35 p.m. and reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

22. Comprehensive Review of Nonmetallic Mining Ordinance No. 2022-04

Board members compared the Town's separate licensing requirements with Sawyer County's CUP, reclamation, inspection, and enforcement process. Discussion addressed possible regulatory overlap; the Town's capacity to administer technical monitoring and enforcement; potential litigation; the basis and practical effect of the 3,000-foot setback; local gravel supply and hauling costs; and protection of water, health, roads, nearby homes, and property values. Options included continued LUPC and legal review, amendment or replacement, an ad hoc committee or moratorium, and repeal. Some members favored greater reliance on County CUPs and site-specific conditions; others favored completing the review before changing the ordinance.

Motion by Chairman Strandlund, second by Supervisor Palmer, to direct the Clerk to draft an ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 2022-04 and its amendments, subject to Board review and final approval. Roll call vote: Supervisor Jensen - no; Supervisor Palmer - yes; Chairman Strandlund - yes; Supervisor Verbeck - no; Supervisor Wilson - no. Motion failed 2-3.

Motion by Supervisor Wilson, second by Supervisor Verbeck, to have the LUPC continue its review, obtain review by Town legal counsel, and return its recommendations to the Board. Roll call vote: Supervisor Jensen - yes; Supervisor Palmer - no; Chairman Strandlund - no; Supervisor Verbeck - yes; Supervisor Wilson - yes. Motion carried 3-2. No ordinance language was changed at this meeting.

23. Twin Lake Road LRIP/TRIS Project - Engineering Services

Clerk Leuschen reported a preliminary NWBE cost of \$40,500: \$25,500 for roadway design, \$10,000 for soil boring and geotechnical work, and \$5,000 for wetland delineation. The Board discussed the grant timeline and concluded that engineering services did not need to be competitively bid.

Motion by Supervisor Palmer, second by Supervisor Verbeck, to direct the Clerk to obtain an engineering-services contract from NWBE and return it to the Board. Motion carried 5-0.

24. Crack-Sealing Services Through Sawyer County

The Board reviewed Sawyer County's road list and scheduling and discussed contracting directly with the County. Most work may occur in 2027, although limited work could begin in 2026 if County time permits. A budget resolution may be needed to reserve unspent 2026 funds.

Motion by Supervisor Palmer, second by Supervisor Verbeck, to accept the Sawyer County crack-sealing proposal for the full listed scope, not to exceed \$126,750, subject to coordination and scheduling with the County. Motion carried 5-0.

25. 2026 Town Christmas Letter

Treasurer Palya asked Board members to submit short updates for the letter included with property tax bills. Prior letters will be circulated for reference. The final copy must be ready for printing by November 1. No formal action was taken.

26. Preliminary Review of the 2027 Town Budget

The Board briefly reviewed updated propane information, computer and audio-system options, and departmental equipment needs. The Fire Department Auxiliary contributed \$30,000 for additions and modifications to the recently acquired 1999 truck. Replacement of Brush Truck No. 2 was estimated at approximately \$180,000; any Auxiliary contribution toward the purchase had not been determined.

No purchases or final budget amounts were approved. Further budget review was scheduled for a Special Town Board Meeting on September 22, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., after additional State revenue estimates become available.

27. Fire Department Report - Chief Schmidt

Chief Schmidt presented the written monthly report and reported a planned training burn at the former Miller residence on Tiger Cat Road. The Board also discussed Spider Lake participation, medical-assistance calls, and the need for continued follow-up regarding ambulance service.

28. Clerk's Report

Clerk Leuschen presented year-to-date reports through August 31, showing \$505,657.65 in revenue and \$632,624.49 in expenses. August County settlements were received, and the Callahan Lake District payment was made. Remaining reconciliation entries and expected State payments will be reflected in later reports.

29. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Palya presented the written report. She noted late room-tax payments and related administrative difficulties. The Board discussed the program and determined that the revenue continues to justify its administration. Dog-license activity was also reviewed.

30. Approval of Checks and Vouchers

The Board reviewed checks, vouchers, receipts, payroll, election-worker payments, fuel, and culvert expenses for August 1-31, 2026. The report listed 65 checks totaling \$114,431.31 and eight deposits totaling \$200,698.27.

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

31. Correspondence, Reports from Conferences, Seminars, and Meetings

Board members discussed attendance and transportation for the Wisconsin Towns Association fall workshop. No action was taken.

32. Future Agenda Items

Future requested items included the Sawyer County Snowmobile & ATV Alliance request concerning use of Pit Road, possible winter maintenance practices for snowmobile access, and the Town ambulance-garage and ambulance-response matter. Supervisor Jensen stated that he would contact Representative Green and Sawyer County representatives regarding ambulance service.

33. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Leuschen III

Town Clerk