

TOWN OF EASTON, MARATHON COUNTY, WI
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD
Monday, December 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Beck

Chairman Beck called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

| <u>Board Members</u> | <u>Present</u> |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Dean Beck | Yes |
| Susan Kurth | Yes |
| Mark Pingel | Yes |

Also present were Treasurer Melanie Neuendank, Clerk Sherry Weinkauff, Public Works Rob Weinkauff, and Fire Chief Dustin Merriam. There was one other audience member present.

3. Approval of November 5, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes, November 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes and November 24, 2025, Budget Special Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Kurth, seconded by Supervisor Pingel to approve the November 5, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes, November 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes and November 24, 2025, Budget Special Meeting Minutes as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Public Comments

Bryan Delahunt reviewed the proposed CSM for Lot 2 of the Rastl property. He said he is interested in dividing Lot 2 into 6 ½ acres each. Beck explained how the County will review this and then this item will come back to the Town Board.

5. New Business

a. Adopt the final 2026 Town of Easton budget per Wis. Stat. SS. 60.40(4)

Motion by Supervisor Kurth, seconded by Supervisor Pingel to adopt the final 2026 Town of Easton Budget. All in favor. Motion carried.

b. Appointment of Election Inspectors for the 2026-2027 term

Motion by Supervisor Kurth, seconded by Supervisor Pingel to appoint the list of Election Inspectors provided by the Clerk for the 2026-2027 term. All in favor. Motion carried.

c. Sending tax payment receipts to taxpayers

Neuendank said she is proposing to not send tax receipts. She reviewed a proposed letter that she would send along with the tax bills. She believes there would be savings of approximately \$500 to \$600. There was a short discussion on the proposed options for paying tax bills which include paying in person, sending a self-addressed/stamped envelope and printing the receipt from Marathon County's website. ***Motion by Supervisor Kurth, seconded by Supervisor Pingel to approve sending the proposed letter with the tax bills and to accept the proposed receipt options as listed above. Beck was opposed. Motion approved.***

d. Clarification on meeting pay for Town Board members and appointed employees

Beck proposed the meeting pay for the Town Board and appointed employees be changed to \$25 for one hour and \$50 for anything over one hour. He indicated this should be for off-site meetings only. ***Motion by Supervisor Kurth, seconded by Supervisor Pingel to amend the current meeting pay***

to \$25 for one hour and \$50 for anything over one hour, with the contingency this is for off-site meetings only. All in favor. Motion carried.

e. Clarification on hourly pay for Town Board members when they help Public Works

Beck explained that there are times when Board members may need to help Public Works and when they do, they should clock in like the hourly employees. This is important for workers' compensation purposes. Kurth said she did check with the WI Towns Association and the maximum a board member may get paid should not exceed \$15,000 per year.

f. Clarification on paying Evan Pingel for equipment work that was done for the Town

Beck explained that Evan Pingel helped with mechanical work for Truck 5 and should be paid. It was suggested that he should be paid as a sub-contractor and the Clerk would have him fill out a W-9 form. **Motion by Chairman Beck, seconded by Supervisor Kurth to pay Evan Pingel as a sub-contractor at \$25 an hour. Supervisor Pingel abstained. Motion approved.** It was indicated this issue would be addressed again in the future.

g. Revision to the Marathon Country General Code of Ordinances: Chapter 17-Zoning Code - Fence amendment town feedback requested from Marathon County

Beck explained the proposed amendment and said that Marathon County requested feedback. He reviewed the proposed amendment and Section 17 of the zoning code. The consensus of the Board was to leave as is. They were not in favor of amending the fence conditions.

h. Presentation of bills for approval

Motion by Supervisor Kurth, seconded by Supervisor Pingel to approve and pay the bills as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Reports

a. Treasurer

Neuendank reviewed her Treasurer Report dated 11/30/25. There was a short discussion on the equipment and road loans. Neuendank said that she would make the loan payments by the end of the year.

b. Fire Department

Merriam reported that the department will see a demo on the thermal imager tomorrow. He did receive a quote for approximately \$5,135 plus shipping. He feels it would be beneficial for the department to have two of the thermal imagers. The consensus of the Board was to go ahead with ordering two of the thermal imagers based on the quote received. They also suggested Merriam ask the vendor about getting a discount if the department orders two instead of one.

c. Clerk

Clerk Weinkauff reported that she will be filing the statement of taxes and the levy limit worksheet with the state by the December 15th deadline.

d. Public Works

Rob Weinkauff reviewed his Public Works report. There was a short discussion on equipment repairs.

7. Remarks from Supervisors

Pingel recognized both the Clerk and Treasurer for the work they did to get the 2026 budget ready. He also asked about the schedule of fees. Both Beck and Weinkauff need to meet with the attorney to review.

8. Remarks from Chairman

a. Two-acre minimum lot size for residential parcels

Beck explained this was voted on a long time ago. He said the Town received a request to possibly reduce it. The consensus of the Board was to leave as is.

b. Solar update

Beck attended a recent meeting regarding solar and gave the Board an update.

c. Grant update

Beck said the Town should be receiving a grant for approximately \$30,000 that he applied for.

d. Winter manure spreading update

Beck gave a brief update on the winter manure spreading.

Beck also reported the bridge on Rivers Edge will need repair. The town's cost for repairs will be approximately \$105,000 with a total cost of approximately one million. This needs to be completed by 2031.

9. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Pingel, seconded by Supervisor Kurth to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.