

TOWN OF EASTON, MARATHON COUNTY, WI
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD
Monday, March 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Beck

Chairman Beck called the regular meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Roll Call

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Present</u>
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Dean Beck	Yes
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Susan Kurth	Yes
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Mark Pingel	Yes
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Also present were Treasurer Melanie Neuendank, Clerk Sherry Weinkauff, Fire Chief Dustin Merriam Public Works Rob Weinkauff and Mark Schlund.

3. Approval of February 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Kurth, seconded by Supervisor Pingel, to approve the February 9, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Public Comments

a. Representative from Harter's to discuss proposed sanitation and recycling contract July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2031

Judy Welch, on behalf of Harter's, reviewed the proposed changes to the contract. She explained that the proposed contract no longer includes a CPI increase not to exceed 4% per year. She talked about the increase in tipping fees. Beck talked about an issue related to Harter's not picking up due to bad roads. It was indicated the town would like to be notified when things like this happen. There was a brief discussion of the process and procedures for ordering new dumpsters. ***Motion by Supervisor Kurth, seconded by Supervisor Pingel, to approve the sanitation and recycling contract July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2031, as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.***

5. New Business

a. Adopt Town Board resolution supporting a comprehensive sustainable transportation funding solution

Beck said the Wisconsin Towns Association recommends municipalities adopt this resolution and forward to the state. ***Motion by Supervisor Kurth, seconded by Supervisor Pingel, to approve Resolution 2026-01 supporting a comprehensive sustainable transportation funding solution as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.***

b. Wages for Town Board members

Beck stated that this item must be addressed at the Annual Meeting, as it is traditionally handled during an off-election year. He proposed a monthly increase of \$25. ***Motion by Supervisor Kurth, seconded by Supervisor Pingel, to place this item on the Annual Meeting agenda, with a proposed increase of \$25 per month for both the Chairperson and Supervisors. This would bring the Chairperson's total compensation to \$700 per month and Supervisors' compensation to \$400 per month. All in favor. Motion carried.***

c. Wages for Public Works employees

Beck reported that he reviewed wage rates from neighboring communities. A brief discussion followed regarding benefits, including overtime eligibility after eight hours worked and contributions toward health insurance. Beck recommended increasing the full-time Public Works wage to \$30 per hour and raising the part-time public works wage by \$1 per hour to remain competitive with surrounding municipalities. ***Motion by Supervisor Kurth, seconded by Supervisor Pingel, to approve a \$1 per hour increase for part-time public works employees, to set the full-time public works wage at \$30 per hour, and to contribute \$400 per month toward health insurance for the full-time public works position. All in favor. Motion carried.***

d. 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. Old Business

a. Intergovernmental Equipment Sharing Agreement between the Town of Ringle and the Town of Easton for the shoulder reclaimer

Discussion was held regarding the intended use of the shoulder reclaimer, along with a brief discussion on depreciation, maintenance, and fair market value. ***Motion by Supervisor Pingel, seconded by Supervisor Kurth, to approve Intergovernmental Equipment Sharing Agreement between the Town of Ringle and the Town of Easton for the shoulder reclaimer for \$10,521.50 with 50/50 ownership. All in favor. Motion carried.***

7. Reports

a. Treasurer

Neuendank reviewed her Treasurer Report dated 2/28/26.

b. Fire Department

Merriam reported that he submitted the annual Fire Department report to the Clerk. He also provided an update on a recent chimney fire response. A brief discussion followed regarding the new thermal camera imagers.

c. Clerk

• Annual Report

Weinkauf asked the Board whether they wanted to continue printing a detailed annual report now that a website is in place. Beck suggested proceeding with printing the detailed report this year and revisiting the topic at the annual meeting. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 21.

• Board of Review Dates – Open Book 4/20 from 1:30 to 3:30 and Board of Review 5/4 from 5:00 to 7:00

Weinkauf asked the Board if these dates were acceptable, and they agreed.

d. Public Works

Rob Weinkauf gave an update on the recent flooding. He also reviewed his report with the Board.

8. Remarks from Supervisors

Kurth received the name of a business that could perform the town's roof repair and noted that it has good reviews. She provided the contact information to Beck. She also requested that Clerk wages be placed back on the agenda for review, as she believes the current wage may be incorrect based on her notes from the meeting at which they were approved.

9. Remarks from Chairman

a. Solar update

Beck gave an update on the court opinion regarding solar energy in the Town of Wausau, as well as an update regarding the Town of Rome's solar project being approved by the PSC despite local opposition.

b. Local Small Structures Improvement Program

There was a short discussion regarding culvert ratings.

c. Seasonal weight limits

Beck said the weight limit signs will be installed soon.

d. 5-year solid waste plan update

Beck stated that Marathon County did approve a 5-year solid waste plan.

e. Equipment update

Beck reported receiving quotes for both a new truck and a grader. The Board held a brief discussion regarding capital projects.

f. Town Board/Appointed duties

Beck stated that he would like the town to continue moving forward and working together to accomplish its goals.

10. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Pingel, seconded by Supervisor Kurth, to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.