TOWN OF EASTON, MARATHON COUNTY, WI

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD

Monday, July 13, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Beck

Chairman Dean Beck called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Board members present were Chairman Dean Beck, Supervisor Mark Pingel, and Supervisor Susan Kurth.

Also present were Clerk Sherry Weinkauf, Treasurer Melanie Neuendank, Public Works Employee Rob Weinkauf, Fire Chief Dusty Merriam, resident Mark Schlund, and one additional audience member.

3. Approval of June 8, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes and June 8, 2026, Bid Opening Minutes

Motion by Pingel, second by Kurth, to approve the June 8, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes and the June 8, 2026, Bid Opening Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action on purchasing a new grader

Chairman Beck reviewed the proposals received for replacement of the Town grader. Discussion included the demonstrations of the Caterpillar and John Deere graders, differences in horsepower, engine size, operating characteristics, warranty coverage, delivery schedules, trade-in values, financing considerations, and long-term maintenance. Public Works staff discussed the Town's operational needs for snow removal and road maintenance and recommended purchasing a machine comparable in size and capability to the current grader.

The Board discussed financing options, anticipated delivery dates, and the importance of maintaining a reliable grader while maximizing the trade-in value of the existing machine.

Motion by Pingel, second by Kurth, to approve the purchase of a John Deere 672P All-Wheel Drive grader from McCoy Construction & Forestry for a purchase price of $433,000, with a trade-in allowance of $245,000, for a net purchase price of $188,000. Motion carried, with Chairman Beck voting no.

The Board authorized Chairman Beck to execute the purchase documents on behalf of the Town. Payment will be made upon delivery of the equipment.

6. New Business

a. July 14, 2026, to June 30, 2027, Operator/Bartender License for Darian Leah Stankowski

Clerk Weinkauf reported that the applicant will be employed at the Q & Z Expo Center. A background check revealed no criminal record, all required fees had been paid, and approval was recommended.

Motion by Kurth, second by Pingel, to approve the Operator/Bartender License for Darian Leah Stankowski for the period July 14, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Motion carried.

b. Purchase of ballot drop box

The Board discussed the recommendation received from the Marathon County Clerk regarding installation of a secure absentee ballot drop box due to mail delivery concerns. Various models and costs were reviewed, including both exterior and interior-mounted units. The Board discussed security, placement, daily monitoring, signage, and the possibility of using the box for tax payments in addition to absentee ballots.

Motion by Pingel, second by Kurth, to authorize the purchase of an indoor secure wall-mounted ballot drop box. Motion carried.

c. Discussion and possible action on Highpoint Road Asphalt LRIP Bid – Project ID 39508802701

Chairman Beck reviewed the bids received for the Highpoint Road LRIP Asphalt Project. Three bids were received. American Asphalt submitted a bid of $248,765.22, RC Pavers submitted a bid of $258,687.04, and Meverden Materials submitted a bid for the road base portion of the project only. Because Meverden's bid did not include the complete scope of work required by the bid specifications, it was not considered for award. The Board also discussed the anticipated LRIP reimbursement and minor quantity adjustments that may occur during construction.

Motion by Pingel, second by Kurth, to award the Highpoint Road LRIP Asphalt Project to American Asphalt in the amount of $248,765.22. Motion carried.

d. Proposed Schedule of Fees

Clerk Weinkauf reviewed the proposed Schedule of Fees, noting that it had been reviewed by the Town Attorney. Discussion included the history of the Fire Department fees, construction permit fees, building inspection fees, and public works permit fees. The Board also reviewed utility right-of-way permit fees and agreed to revise that section to match Marathon County's current fee schedule. The Clerk was directed to update the utility right-of-way fees accordingly and to include language clarifying that building inspection fees are subject to change based on the Building Inspector's current fee schedule.

Motion by Kurth, second by Pingel, to approve the Schedule of Fees as presented, with the revisions discussed regarding utility right-of-way fees and construction fee language. Motion carried.

e. Discussion and possible action on proposed Solid Waste Ordinance

The proposed Solid Waste Ordinance, prepared by the Town Attorney, was reviewed. Chairman Beck explained that the ordinance was drafted to strengthen the Town's ability to enforce solid waste regulations and provide adequate legal authority if enforcement actions become necessary. The Board discussed the relationship between the ordinance and the Town's Schedule of Fees.

Motion by Kurth, second by Pingel, to approve the proposed Solid Waste Ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

f. Discussion and Direction Regarding a Proposed Town of Easton Land Division and Subdivision Ordinance

Clerk Weinkauf presented a policy questionnaire prepared for Board consideration regarding a future Land Division and Subdivision Ordinance. The questionnaire identifies policy issues and development standards for Board consideration before the Town Attorney prepares a draft ordinance.

The Board discussed roadway standards, minimum lot sizes, subdivision infrastructure, acceptance of roads, and lessons learned from previous developments. Board members agreed to review the questionnaire individually, make comments, and continue discussion at a future meeting before directing the Town Attorney to prepare a draft ordinance.

g. Discussion on the possibility of any other ordinances the Board would like to see the Town have in place

The Board reviewed the Town Attorney's recommendations for additional ordinances that the Town may wish to consider in the future. Discussion included public nuisance ordinances, junked vehicle regulations, no parking and towing provisions, and confirmation of existing ordinances already adopted by the Town. No action was taken. The Board agreed to continue reviewing potential ordinances as needed.

h. Presentation of bills for approval

Motion by Kurth, second by Pingel, to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried.

7. Reports

a. Treasurer

Treasurer Neuendank presented the financial report. She reviewed the balances of the Town's checking, savings, and Fire Department savings accounts and provided a mid-year budget comparison. Revenue through the first half of the year exceeded budget projections, while expenditures remained under budget in several categories. The report also included updates regarding transportation aids, garbage and recycling expenses, Fire Department expenditures, and remaining ARPA reporting requirements.

b. Fire Department

Fire Chief Merriam reported that preparations are underway for the Fire Department's annual fundraiser. Raffle tickets have been printed, promotional flyers are being distributed, and a fundraising postcard mailing will be sent to residents. The Chief also reported that the Department's air packs are due for their annual inspection and recertification. The inspection is covered under warranty; however, the Town will be responsible for the annual inspection costs. In addition, the Board discussed the Remington Foundation's commitment to provide annual $10,000 contributions beginning in 2027 through 2029, with the funding to be re-evaluated in 2029. Discussion also included tracking those restricted funds within the Fire Department savings account.

c. Clerk

No comments.

d. Public Works

Public Works Employee Rob Weinkauf provided an update on ongoing road maintenance activities and preparations for the Highpoint Road LRIP project. Discussion also included planning for upcoming road work and equipment needs.

8. Remarks from Supervisors

The Supervisors briefly discussed the installation of generators for Town facilities and the status of related planning efforts. No action was taken.

9. Remarks from Chairman

a. Road projects update

Chairman Beck led a discussion regarding the possibility of completing an additional mile of improvements on Highpoint Road. The Board discussed preparing bid specifications and the possibility of holding a bid opening on August 3, 2026, to facilitate the project, subject to receipt of the necessary bid documents. No formal action was taken.

b. Snowstorm disaster fund update

Chairman Beck reported that the Town's snowstorm disaster reimbursement application had advanced to the next level of review. Additional documentation and federal assurance forms are being completed as part of the process. Discussion also included communication with the State regarding the reimbursement request, the anticipated reimbursement of approximately **$12,600**, and establishing ACH payment for receipt of the funds.

c. Wind and Solar update

Chairman Beck provided an update on recent Marathon County Wind and Solar Committee activities. Discussion included upcoming meetings with county representatives, proposed developer agreements, potential impacts on local roads and property values, and the importance of protecting the Town's interests as future wind and solar projects are considered.

10. Additional Public Comments

Treasurer Neuendank shared that she had received a call from a resident regarding a zoning matter. The Board advised that zoning questions should be directed to Marathon County Zoning, which administers zoning for the Town of Easton.

11. Adjourn

Motion by Pingel, second by Kurth, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at **9:46 p.m.**