

**Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Regular Meeting of the Town Board
180771 County Road Z, Birnamwood, WI 54414**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to Order by Chairman, Tony Kautza

Chairman Kautza called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call – Town Supervisor, Pete Marien, and Town Supervisor, Scott McRae

Clerk Valerie Parker noted Marien and McRae were also present.

Also, in attendance: Treasurer, Connie Sippl, and Clerk, Valerie Parker

Sharon Pribbernow, 185037 Village Road

Rick Larson, 185153 County Road Z

Beverly Krejci, 240661 Nolan Road

3. Visitors

Krejci introduced herself stating that she resides in the Town of Harrison and is running for County Supervisor, District 13, against current District 13 County Board Member, Mike Ritter. It was brought up that she previously was on the Town of Harrison Board. She explained some ideas that she brought up with some of the other Towns that she recently met.

4. Public Comments/Concerns (Limit 5 Minutes Per Person)

5. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **January 13, 2026, Regular Board Meeting**

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve the meeting minutes of January 13, 2026.

6. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

Parker stated she is still waiting for the Town to receive its WI DNR PILT payment. She is also waiting to receive the tax settlement information from the County, so that she can get the payments out to the other tax jurisdictions.

There was discussion about the tax refund that the Town is providing to John, Kurt, and Doug Sippl (Sippl's Sap Shack, LLC). It was explained that back on January 6, 2026, Todd Anderson notified Parker that John Sippl's property (PIN 062-2910-113-0999) was removed from the WI DNR MFL program for 2025 and should have been reclassified to AG Use. In that message Anderson provided some guidance on what the Town needed to do to correct John Sippl's tax bill. The change in the tax bill was the following:

Assessed value on tax bill = \$156,000, and taxes were \$2,168.81

New Assessed value on tax bill = \$12,200, and taxes should have been \$169.61

Refund amount due = \$1,999.20

Sippl explained that she then contacted Connie Beyersdorf, County Treasurer, and Lynn Oldenberg, WI Dept of Revenue, to find out what we needed to do. In the meantime, John Sippl did pay the 2025 taxes, to avoid any penalties. She stated her discussions with Oldenberg were that the Town needed to file form PC-201 (2026 Request for Chargeback of Rescinded or Refunded Taxes), and how that form needed to be submitted to the State by October 1, 2026, and how the State would then make a determination by November 15, 2026, if this tax levy addition would be approved. She stated how Oldenberg told her that the Town would add this refunded amount into the Tax Levy Limit Worksheet, Section D, Line D, as an addition. She explained that she spoke with Anderson to find out what happened, and how Anderson explained to her that he sent the assessment notice to John Sippl, who needed to respond, but did not, which is why the assessment remained at what it was.

There was concern that the Town may not get paid back for this refunded amount, if the State does not approve our application. Parker stated she will get the form submitted and contact the State to find out what needs to

occur/or what will occur next. Also to find out if the Town's application (PC-201) is not approved, if we can request that refunded amount back from John Sippl (and if it is not paid back add to his next tax bill as a Special Assessment). In the meantime, she will hold off on sending the check to John Sippl.

7. Review and Action on 2026 Monthly Budget

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve the monthly budget.

8. Clerk's Report

Parker brought up that next Tuesday is the Spring Primary Election, which essentially is just for the Antigo School Board. She pointed out that only residents within the Antigo School District Jurisdiction can vote next week.

Parker stated that she filed the final report for the ARPA grant we received, back in 2022/2023 (in the amount of \$71,697.96).

Parker stated that she recently contacted the WTA regarding the Town Board potentially requesting a raise at the April Annual Meeting. Responses that she received were:

1) Q: Would the request to increase wages need to be listed on the agenda?

A: Agenda items are not required for the annual meeting, but if the Board knows they want this topic to be brought up at the annual meeting it is a good idea to add it to raise interest in those attending the meeting.

2) Q: Who can vote on the raise? Does it have to be electors, other than Board members?

A: All Town electors (including elected officers who are also Town electors) may vote.

3) Q: Can the raise go into effect this year, or would it only be effective beginning 2027?

A: Assuming your Board was elected in April of 2025, any raise voted on this year would not become effective until the new terms start in April of 2027.

Kautza asked if Parker could find a wage report of what other municipalities are paying their Board members.

9. Road Report

Kautza stated that some of the roads are getting better, and how we need some sun to help melt some of the snow/ice. He stated that Block is continuing to sand the roads and keeping an eye on conditions.

10. New Business

• Discussion and/or Action on Marathon County – Farm Consolidation Amendment (Chapter 17)

Parker brought up that Marathon County is requesting all County-zoned towns to provide their input on this proposed amendment.

Kautza believed that this stems from a court case on a property on the western side of the County

Parker stated the options that the County is giving each Town to decide on is:

1) Remove Farm Consolidations from the ordinance. Any subdivided property would require rezoning, giving townships more control over how property is divided.

2) Clarify the Farm Consolidation language to specify that relocations are not allowed. This would maintain the current pathway for splitting off a residence, providing property owners with a simple process that complies with State regulations.

3) Take no position.

The Board agreed that Option #1 would be their recommendation.

11. Old Business

• Discussion and/or Action on Snowmobile Crossing Issue on Hatchery Road

Kautza stated that he has not heard anything new on this item.

Kautza stated how the deputy explained to him previously that snowmobiles cannot be on the road, other than to cross straight over, that they are supposed to use the ditch. He stated that he has seen snowmobiles running on the roads all over, and how that is strictly illegal. He stated he sees snowmobiles crossing where there are no

signs. Kautza stated he is not going to push the issue, but will be following back up with the club coordinator and the lieutenant over there and let them know that no one ever got back to him; and that as of next year, if they don't change the crossing there, there will be no crossing our road.

Kautza requested to have this reflected in the minutes that if they don't follow-up on doing something with that trail, they will not be crossing our road, as he was told by the lieutenant that the Town can close the trail crossing there.

- **Continued Discussion on 2026 Roadway Projects**

Kautza stated that Pine View Road will be a priority project.

- **Continued Discussion on Possibly Ending County Zoning (Action Due by January 27, 2027)**

Parker stated that since the County is amending its Comprehensive Plan, all County-zoned Towns now have the option to opt out of County Zoning, versus waiting for until 2027 (per WI Act 264).

Parker stated if the Board felt strongly about getting out of County zoning, they adopt a resolution formally stating that we will no longer participate. As soon as the signed resolution is received by the County, we would no longer be under County Zoning. She stated that the Town has until January 27, 2027, to make a decision. If we do not make a decision, then as of that date, we will no longer be covered by County Zoning.

Parker stated that if we adopt a resolution to opt out, then we would not be subject to the State requirements to adopt a Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code. She stated that she was also told that if the Town wanted to be under County Zoning again, later in the future, we can rejoin, but would then need to adopt a Comprehensive Plan and provide an updated zoning map.

It was agreed that we would leave this on the agenda, under Old Business, to be discussed again at a later date.

12. Remarks from the Board

Parker stated that she will be present at Board of Review.

Marien asked if the Town has received its invoice from Birnamwood Fire Department EMS. Parker stated she has not received anything yet. He stated, following the passing of Klumpyan, Birnamwood is still having issues getting everything straightened out/accessing files.

Marien stated it appears the Ambulance Service is finally accruing some funds, where they are able to start saving, by putting \$100,000 into a 6-month CD, to draw some more account interest. He stated that they are considering lowering the funding request from municipalities next year. Kautza stated that we would prefer they not lower the request, just in case something else comes up where they need to request extra funding. Marien will express that at the next meeting.

There was discussion on the recent North Pole Road barn fire, and how there is a river along the property that may have been impacted by the fire suppression. Kautza stated how he informed RB that he needs to reach out to the DNR immediately, as there is a report that needs to get submitted. He stated how municipalities are exempt, but only if they file the report within 24 hours of the incident.

Parker stated that as soon as she gets the invoice from the Fire Department, she will get an invoice forwarded to the property owners there, hoping they can submit it to their insurance. If the property owner does not pay the invoice, then that cost will be placed on their next property tax bill. There was some concern that there may not be insurance, as most insurance companies will not insure old barns like that.

13. Future Items

- Spring Primary Election – Tuesday, February 17, 2026
- Regular Town Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 10, 2026
- Annual Town Meeting of Electors – Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
- Regular Town Board Meeting – Tuesday, April 21, 2026, Immediately following Annual Electors Meeting
- Open Book – Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Board of Review – Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

14. Adjourn

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to adjourn at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
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