

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

Tuesday, March 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

Rick Larson, 185153 County Road Z
Heidi Kroll, 234754 North Pole Road
Craig Schwocho, of McCoy Construction/John Deere

3. Visitors

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

5. Minutes from Previous Meeting

• February 10, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve the meeting minutes of February 10, 2026.

6. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

7. Review and Action on 2026 Monthly Budget

Marien confirmed that Block is receiving higher wages when plowing & sanding/salting the roads. He asked about the issue with Block's payroll. Parker stated that when she was setting up her spreadsheet to incorporate the secondary wage rate, she missed editing a formula in the spreadsheet that made it where the employment taxes were not reflected in his January pay. This will be fixed through the new few payrolls.

Marien pointed out the bi-annual EMS service fee cost of \$14,735.00, stating it appears it may have gone up some. He also questioned on the summary report what the -\$4,103.74 was for in the Other General Government fund. Parker reviewed the budget and stated that reflects the payments we send out to property owners who overpay on their property taxes.

Parker stated there were a few more invoices that she had to pay, that she added the payments with the expenditures being signed tonight, but they are not reflected in the budget yet. She will update the budget and re-send to the Board following this meeting. None of these payments will adversely impact the budget.

Parker confirmed that the Town Board wants her to continue holding onto the Sippl Sugar Shack refund check. Kautza stated yes, until we know 100% sure that the Town will get their money back from the State. It was discussed this may not happen until later in November/December. Kautza stated that is fine, that we will continue to hold the refund check until that happens. Parker read the emails that she received from Lynn Oldenberg (attached at end of minutes).

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

8. Clerk's Report

Kautza brought up the very low Spring Primary Election turn-out, which resulted in a total of 18 voters. Kautza stated that he heard from a few other municipalities that since the Antigo School Board was the only race on that ballot, that we can charge the school for our costs. Parker stated that she has not heard of that and will check into it.

Parker brought up the Annual meeting next month, which is April 21st (3rd Tuesday). She will be preparing the financial report for that. She confirmed with the Board to add to the agenda discussion and action on a Board wage increase.

Parker stated that she has not purchased a new Town printer yet, as she ran out of time, and wants to physically go to Office Depot to look at options. When reviewing costs online, it appears a new printer could range from \$329.00 - \$389.00. She stated that she is hoping they will take back any unopened ink cartridges. Kautza stated this should not be a problem.

Parker stated that between now and the Annual Meeting, she will be working on revising our recycling ordinance, which all municipalities are required to do before April 30th. She will be filing our annual Recycling Grant Report before April 30th. She will also be completing the 2025 Municipal CT Financial Report to the WI DOR.

Marien commented on the Annual Meeting date and if there will be a conflict with Open Book. He pointed out that on the agenda, for Future Items/Meeting Dates, Parker has Open Book scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st, from 12:30pm – 6:30pm, and our evening meetings start at 6:00pm. Parker stated that is an error on the agenda, and she will fix it. She stated that Open Book is only from 12:30pm – 2:30pm.

9. Road Report

Kautza stated that Block posted the Town Road weight limits yesterday. He stated there were a few roads where the signs were missing (such as County Road N and South Pole Road). Larson stated there is a pile of old signs in the shop, that Block should look through those to see what is there.

Kautza stated that Don Dahms, of Antigo Arborist, was out doing some more ROW tree cutting for the Town this week. He started along Village Road and Hatchery Road, and if the weather holds up will continue along South Pole Road.

He stated that Clay Road is going to need more granite, along with Sportsman Drive.

10. New Business

- **Discussion and/or Action on Purchase Option with John Deere for John Deere Backhoe Tractor**
Schwocho was present to discuss the purchase option for a new John Deere Backhoe Tractor. He stated this a 5-year lease to purchase is set up where we have 1 year from the delivery date and signing before our 1st payment is due. Payments will be annual. He stated the way the lease agreement documents are set up, the State should be fine with using this on our Tax Levy Reporting (Parker is going to share this agreement with the WI DOR to confirm it will be accepted). The total cost of the machine is \$159,000, with annual payments of \$32,426.33. This will come with a 3,000 hour / 5-year warranty.

Kautza confirmed that our current tractor loan will be paid off this year.

It was discussed that with our current backhoe that we can try to sell it on our own, by advertising it, or going through Wisconsin Surplus.

There was discussion on purchasing a sweeper brush attachment for the new John Deere Backhoe Tractor. Schwocho stated that would run \$17,984. They discussed the specifications on that attachment. They also discussed the option of renting (rent-to-own) a brush from McCoy, which would cost about \$3,400 per month. There was a question on the upkeep costs for the brush attachment and Schwocho stated he can check into that for us.

There was discussion on the upcoming grader training for Block, which is currently scheduled for the first week of April.

An idea was brought up to sell (or trade) our old backhoe to McCoy for the cost of the brush attachment with an extra brush. Schwocho stated he would check on that option.

Kautza stated to Parker to be sure to update our insurance on this.

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve purchase of the John Deere Backhoe Tractor from McCoy, for the total price of \$159,000.00.

11. Old Business

- **Discussion and/or Action on Snowmobile Crossing Issue on Hatchery Road**

Kautza stated that he will be pursuing this more over the next couple of months, so that it is figured out before next winter.

- **Continued Discussion on 2026 Roadway Projects**

Kautza stated that at the April meeting he will have a list of projects for the Town to advertise bids on. Some of these road maintenance projects included: Hatchery Road, Old Lake Road, Pine View Road

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

Kautza stated this topic will just stay on the agenda for now.

12. Remarks from the Board

There was discussion on the Town's generator. Parker stated she spoke with Matt Szews last Thursday. Sounded like there was a little bit of work left to do. Szews was hoping to complete it that Friday, but with the rain, it may have been delayed. This is most likely why Block has his own personal generator at the hall right now.

13. Future Items

- 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. – 2:30 p.m. ~~6:30 p.m.~~
- Board of Review – Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Regular Town Board Meeting – Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

14. Adjourn

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to adjourn at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
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