

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Town of Silver Cliff
Regular Town Board Meeting
Tuesday February 10th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. located at the Silver Cliff Town Hall, Marinette County WI

MINUTES

1. Call to order at 7:04 by Chair Dee Farley; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll call-Chair Dee Farley, Supervisor Jim Fencl, Supervisor Scott Volkmann, Treasurer Carol Kitchmaster, Constable Sabin Rosenbaum, Clerk Lisa Weinrich; Verification of Meeting Notice - Posted on the Town Website, Town Hall, Community Center and Red Pine BP
3. Approval of Agenda - motion made by Supervisor Jim Fencl, Supervisor Scott Volkmann seconded, motion carried
4. Approval of Town Board Monthly Meeting Minutes from 01/13/2026; #5 which was the budget and levy amounts was tabled last month for further review of Chair Dee Farley; Supervisor Scott Volkmann made the motion to approve the agenda acknowledging that #5 was tabled until this meeting, Supervisor Jim Fencl seconded motion carried.
5. Approval of budget numbers: approved budget of \$950,810.00 and 2026 levy \$165,935.00; Supervisor Scott Volkmann made the motion to accept the budget and levy amounts, Supervisor Jim Fencl seconded, motion carried
6. Approval of Payroll, Vouchers, and Bills
 - a. Check #10687 to Check #10708; approval of corrected and voided checks, additional approval of checks 10709 for 10745, in addition to 8 ach payments and payroll rescue squad and 2 FD February tax settlement; Supervisor Scott Volkmann made a motion to approve all payments and voided checks, Supervisor Jim Fencl seconded, motion carried

Consider for discussion, approval, or other actionable items:

7. Speaker: Marinette Co. District Attorney DeShea D. Morrow - Public Safety and the Public Safety Referendum for April Elections - 3 safety issues law enforcement and work with victims of crime, they currently have 3 attorneys and 2 support staff; DeShea is looking to enhance the vital interactions with law enforcement. There were 14 fatal crashes and law enforcement especially the Sheriff is working to address the extreme amount of drugs especially the meth, cocaine and fentanyl in our county. In 2025 there were two big busts in Marinette Co. If that isn't bad enough there is the internet crimes against children of sexual assault utilizing digital evidence (internet communication). There will be a referendum in April seeking funding to maintain our law enforcement which the county is looking at cutting even though the number of felonies has jumped from 200 to over 400 in 2025. Needless to say the district attorneys office and law enforcement are extremely short staffed and now looking at possibly losing funding to keep what they have and with the demands being placed on the county they are urging everyone for their support. Supervisor Jim Fencl asked how many fatalities were impaired incidents, according to the D.A. she said there were 2 that she was aware of but would have to same most of the incidents were from speed and distractions. The D.A. thanked everyone for the chance to speak.
8. Status of new town insurance - Chair Dee Farley stated that she spent two days filling out insurance information and applications but has not heard anything back yet. Chair Dee Farley also stated that she is working with an Insurance Broker to reach more insurance companies.

Respectfully Submitted by Lisa K. Weinrich, Silver Cliff Town Clerk

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9. Status of Community Center repairs - Jeff DeBauche has called several places but no one is showing up and no one is calling him back, and the same thing for the town hall repairs. He is continuing to explore possible contractors to do repairs and if anyone knows of someone who is licensed and insured to please let him know.
10. Full Time Employees vs. Part Time Employees - This discussion was skipped over to be addressed later in the meeting.
11. Employee handbook changes - Review of the handbook has started however, the handbook was tabled due to time restraints and a working meeting will be scheduled in the near future.
12. Hire Roadcrew Worker - Due the resignation of Ricky Stachowicz we are currently seeking an additional employee, Ricky said he would stay on until we find someone. Discussion then took place regarding getting another part time employee or full time. It was presented by Supervisor Jim Fencil that we would be better suited to hire a full time employee over part time because you will get a better number of candidates for the job, we will have better coverage and yes, the cost would be more approximately \$6,000/year unless we want to do seasonal? Treasurer Carol Kitchmaster also stated that in the past we always had 2 fulltime employees. It was also noted that we should be advertising in more places than our usual, Jeff DeBauche suggested we post it on facebook and somewhere other than the Peshtigo Times since their paper circulation has dropped dramatically. Sabin Rosenbaum suggested that we incorporate the Eagle Herald out of Marinette whose circulation is greater and we would get much better coverage. After some discussion it was established we would post the job listing in both the Eagle Herald and Peshtigo Times. It was also suggested that we investigate posting jobs on the governmentjobs.com website. A motion to hire a full time employee was made by Supervisor Jim Fencil, Supervisor Scott Volkmann seconded, motion carried.
13. Pay for committee meetings and/ or training - This topic was tabled until next month.
14. Emergency Plans - Fire Chief Al Walesh was going to work on a plan for Town of Silver Cliff emergency management however he was not present at the meeting. Planning Commission Chair Sabin Rosenbaum stated that they did have a plan in place and it should be posted in all of the town owned properties, Planning Commission Chair Sabin Rosenbaum also stated that he has a copy and will bring it to the next town board meeting
15. Installation of Spectrum Issues - We are all hooked up but need to have the lines secured. It was suggested the use of PVC to try to stop any damage. Spectrum will be out on Friday to try to fix the cables laying on the ground according to Supervisor Scott Volkmann. Supervisor Jim Fencil thinks they need to be able to get fixed before they are damaged.
16. Short Term Rental Registry Ordinance final draft - According to the Planning Commission Chair Sabin Rosenbaum the registration fee needs to be determined, there have been discussions about a one time fee vs. an annual fee, all short term rentals will be required to register with the State of Wisconsin and meet those requirements for tourist/ boarding house registration. The commission did compile an application that property owners will be filling out. Supervisor Jim Fencil asked how many short term rentals do we have currently in Silver Cliff. Margaret Lewis stated that there are 16 that she knows of and of that 11 are licensed with the state. Chair Sabin Rosenbaum stated that they plan on having the registration for the town to be coordinated with the timing of the State registration which is June 30th and there may be late fees included, the actual fees themselves have not been determined and it was

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expressed that the fees are basically to cover administrative costs. The board was asked to review the document, make a recommendation for the fee at the next board meeting.

17. Weight limit ordinance - Roadcrew foreman would like to know when the weight limits are to begin for Marinette County and how long after Marinette County removes their limits are we planning on holding onto our limits? According to Planning Commission Chair Sabin Rosenbaum and presented the Weight Limit Restriction Ordinance for review which basically states that the weight limits will run 2 weeks longer than Marinette County. In addition, if the roads thaw earlier we can always drop them, Amberg and Athelstane are both working on the same ordinances - Motion by Supervisor Jim Fencl made to accept the Seasonal Weight Limit Restriction Ordinance, Supervisor Scott Volkmann seconded, motion carried.
18. Signed Original Documents Retained in Town Files -Town Clerk Lisa Weirnich stated that there are some documents that our town needs to retain but we have not been able to locate them. An ongoing review of locations will be conducted.

Reports/ Updates

19. Chair Report - Per Chair Dee Farley the last 6 months there has been talk about getting a new town truck and we hoped for a grant for approximately \$350,000 because it will take a year for lead time from the time of the ordering of the truck. Supervisor Jim Fencl asked which truck was being discussed? Supervisor Jim Fencl asked is it the '09? According to Roadcrew Foreman Jeff DeBauche it is the '09 and the reason why is because we have had to weld the frame together which is starting to seriously fail in addition to being twisted and the patches are now being patched. Chair Dee Farley stated that she was hoping for a grant however, she is unaware of anything at this time so the town would have to take out a loan to pay for it. Mark Smith asked if we had to special order it or couldn't we look to other sources to try to find a deal on a comparable vehicle that is used. There was a discussion about size and functionality of certain trucks and it was suggested that we look at vehicle websites, it was also stated that used vehicles you are asking for someone else's problems. It was stated that Stevenson has a tandem for sale but have a lot of issues with it. Marinette County Supervisor Chris Norton suggested we get on the Marinette County's list for equipment, that way we would be able to see what they have that they are getting rid of, not always about issues rather than age that they would get rid of vehicles, and that would grant us an opportunity to be in line for when they sell off equipment. Chair Dee Farley suggested that we do more research into the feasibility of such actions. Supervisor Jim Fencl stated that he would like to look into that course of action, and since no one has looked into possibly getting a loan for a new truck, especially terms and conditions of the current loans we should look into a financial plan. This has been tabled until the next meeting.

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20. Supervisor 1 Report - Supervisor Jim Fencl stated that the roads are slippery and urges everyone to slow down and be cautious, so far 4 people have gone into the ditch on Old J rd. Supervisor Jim Fencl also stated that there is a pedestal that he would like to put a boulder in front of so if anyone slides off the road they won't take out the pedestal. Laura Fencl asked about additional signage to encourage people to slow down in that area, due to not being able to find additional road treatments. At this point there is no were in the State that has a surplus and everyone is in need, no salt or sand which has also been on the news. Supervisor Jim Fencl suggested that we need to get our sand buildings filled next year so we don't run into this issue next year, Supervisor Scott Volkmann agreed.
21. Supervisor 2 Report -Supervisor Scott Volkmann stated that Hardwood Lanes had met with Marinette County in an effort to establish a variance. They want to add two more buildings and their septic is rated for a two bedroom residence not for the short term rental which they are pushing. The owners of Hardwood Lanes LLC was granted the variance providing they can meet the 10 conditions set forth by the Marinette County Board. Supervisor Scott Volkmann stated that even if that LLC does meet the conditions set forth that the Town of Silver Cliff has the last say and can override the variance that was issued by the County. The owner of Hardwood Lane LLC told Supervisor Scott Volkmann that he feels he deserves the right to be able to develop as many small parcels as he wants.
22. Treasurer's Report - Checking - \$19,055.02; Money Market - \$191,635.20; There are no totals on taxes yet. **Fire Department Treasurers Report**- Checking: \$1,014.12; CD (1015): \$27,561.19; CD (1927): \$10,000.00; MM: \$40,544.29; Outstanding: \$0.00; Net Balance: 79,119.60
23. Constable's Report - Sabin reported that there were 2 people in ditches, one happened right in front of him and one stray dog
24. Planning Commission Committee Report - Already gave report
25. Recycling Committee Report - No meeting, no report
26. Cemetery Committee Report - No meeting, no report
27. Community Center Committee Report - Chair Keith Gilbert stated that they held a meeting on February 2nd at the community center, some topics of discussion were the possibilities of activities such as pickle ball, flea market, and hope to repurpose the remaining pews into book shelves and chairs. Also looking into additional fund raisers. The next meeting is Monday March 2nd at 10 a.m. The public is welcomed to attend.
28. Road Status Report - Big discussion was due to the state wide lack of sand and salt available. Jeff DeBauche and Jim Fencl are investigating other sources but it doesn't look promising. Large emphasis on everyone doing their part and slow down! They are doing their best to hit curves and hills but supply is dwindling quickly and it is only February.

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29. Fire Department Report - Assistant Chief Jeff DeBauche stated that they had 2 incidents, one was a vehicle and the other a snowmobile roll over; a structure fire which was put out with a fire extinguisher before arrival; they have the Fire Departments Banquet set and even though we currently are not members of MABIS it is something that is being reviewed because all municipalities are low on manpower and this would help to address that issue. MABIS is basically mutual aid specifically designed to address calls as categorized by each municipality, it is of no cost to the municipalities and it is believed that in 5 years it will be mandatory. The fire department plans on bringing a proposal to the next town board meeting.
30. Marinette County Supervisor Report - Marinette County Supervisor Chris Norton stated that there is a lot of discussion about the UW campus since the original deal to utilize the campus and the YMCA property may also have the owner back out of the deal. There has been discussion as to what to do with the 40 plus acres, possibly getting a grant. They are currently working with a consultant but for the last 3 years these buildings have been vacant and not heated so the deterioration will begin soon and some kind of action needs to be taken.

Public Participation at Town Board Meetings - Welcome No public comment correction take no out

- a. **Guidelines for Public Comments** – Time limit of 5 minutes maximum per person; Maximum time allowed for this session is 30 minutes total
- b. This is a listening session for the community to address the Town Board
- c. This is a listening session **ONLY!** The purpose of this session is for the Town Board to listen to the views of the community;
- d. **PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND THEN STATE YOUR COMMENT**
- e. **NO Actions will be taken, Please be courteous and respectful to all**
 - i. Chris Norton asked Jim about the salt from the DOT, Chris stated that we need to get on the Counties list so when the salt/sand comes in we would be ahead of others not on the list and we would remain on the list from year to year.
 - ii. Sabin Rosenbaum stated that we always went to Peshtigo Times but their circulation has dropped down significantly so we are starting to incorporate the Eagle Herald out of Marinette that is published several times a week and has greater circulation.
 - iii. Margret Lewis asked if the Board had contacted legal council regarding Short Term Rental Ordinance, especially regarding a fee and it has been suggested several times that it might be a good idea to find out who all has short term rentals and meet with them to discuss the situation, what if we did a voluntary registration which would include the ordinances but request donations in lieu of a fee. Also she suggested that we could upgrade our website so that the short term rental owners could advertise their properties on it along with any other events available in our community which she feels will help everyone follow the rules

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- iv. Mike Smith asked about getting sand out of our gravel pit due to the unavailability of sand/ salt? Supervisor Jim Fencil stated that it was a good thought but our sand is like beach sand, very fine, it would have to be gone through to get out any larger rocks which can cause problems for our equipment.
- v. Sam Greenburg said that with his background in forestry, he would like permission to plant trees in our park which was devastated by the tornado in 2022. Margret Lewis suggested that there are more people who would be glad to help plant as well.

Motion to Adjourn - Supervisor Jim Fencil made the motion, Supervisor Scott Volkmann second, motion carried at 9:00 pm

NOTE: THE AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS ALLOWED BY WISCONSIN STATE LAW

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