

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Town Board meeting on January 7, 2026
(this meeting was correctly posted)

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Declaration of quorum followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve minutes from 12/17/25
5. Public input
6. Payment of bills
7. Administrator Report
8. Update on Townwide Broadband Project
9. Update on former Rowley's Bay property
10. Move Excess Room Tax Funds
11. Consider on-site Random DOT testing
12. Recommendation from Personnel Committee
13. Short Term Rental licenses
14. Correspondence
15. Future meeting(s)
16. Adjourn

Chairman Goss called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. Supervisors Janet Johnson, Dan Watts, Cathy Ward, and Billy Appel were present. Administrators Buckingham & Kalms were also in attendance along with Clerk/Treasurer Pamela Donart-Welcome, and 11 members of the public.

Ward moved, Johnson seconded to approve the agenda as posted. **Carried 5 – 0**

Ward moved, Goss seconded to approve the 12/17/25 minutes as presented. **Carried 5 – 0**

Public input: Paul Schwengel of 824 Top O the Thumb Ln, Ellison Bay noticed that at the last board meeting, there was mention of a bid by JF Construction to demolish the buildings at the Mariner Park property and wanted to have the Town move forward with getting that done.

Ward moved, Johnson seconded to approve the payment of LGUD#1 bills totaling \$283.42. **Carried 5 – 0**

Johnson moved, and Goss seconded to approve the payment of Town bills totaling \$67,415.53. **Carried 5 – 0**

Administrator's Report: Administrator Buckingham reported that several snow falls recently have kept the Town Crew busy with plowing, salting, and sanding roads, requiring an order of 225 tons of additional road salt to ensure we have adequate supply; due to the heaviness of the snow, many mailboxes have been knocked off their posts, so Buckingham shared a reminder of Ordinance 5-22 indicating the Town would not be responsible for replacement if mailboxes are closer than 36" from the road surface; the application for Door County Community Foundation grant funds to help with the costs of a floating pier at the Ellison Bay Marina was submitted on December 18th; the potential hearing schedule has been established with the PSC regarding sewer

rates adopted by Sister Bay; the State of Wisconsin BEAD grant funding was approved by the Federal Government for town-wide broadband installation, and we are now awaiting next steps.

Todd Kruse, representative from Frontier gave a report on the status of potential BEAD grant funding in relation to the proposed **Town-wide Broadband Project**. The next step is to pass through the National Institute of Sciences and Technologies (NIST) to finalize how the funds will be distributed in the State, and then the public-private partnership paperwork will be signed before the project can move forward.

After a recent conversation with the owners of **the former Rowley's Bay property**, Administrator Buckingham gave an update on the site clean-up: Asbestos inspection was completed, salvageable items are being removed from the buildings, the Town's building inspector has completed his inspection, and the Ouradniks indicated they are working with a developer on a possible plan to build on the site.

Johnson moved, Goss seconded to move excess room tax dollar funds: \$100,000.00 to fire equipment capital reserve, and \$60,145.63 to communications reserve. **Roll call:** Appel, Watts, Ward, Goss, and Johnson voted aye. There were no nays. **Motion carried 5 – 0**

Appel moved, Goss seconded to move to on-site DOT testing system. **Carried 5 – 0**

Goss moved, Ward seconded to accept the recommendation from the Personnel Committee to follow the guidelines that were agreed upon in their Closed Session. **Carried 5 – 0**

Goss moved, Johnson seconded to approve all the STR applications that were presented this evening on January 7, 2026. **Carried 5 – 0**

Correspondence: Buckingham shared a notice from the Wisconsin Department Natural Resources advising that a grant from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program has been tentatively awarded to support the acquisition of 40 acres of land located in the Town of Liberty Grove by The Nature Conservancy.

Future Meeting: The next Town Board meeting was scheduled for January 21, 2026 at 6:00pm

Johnson moved, Goss seconded to adjourn at 7:32pm. **Carried 5 – 0**

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Donart-Welcome, Clerk/Treasurer
Approved 1/21/26