

**Town of Liberty Grove**  
**Minutes of the Town Board meeting on January 21, 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 1/7/26
5. Public input
6. Utility District#1
  - a. Payment of bills
  - b. Treasurer's Report
7. Payment of Town bills
8. Town Treasurer's Report
9. DC Trails Presentation on their Strategic Master Plan Project
10. Approval of 45 min detour on Hwy 42 for Ellison Day Parade June 27, 2026
11. Consider awarding a contract for the demolition of the buildings in Mariner Park
12. Approve purchase of used Toyota pneumatic forklift and accessories for Highway/Parks Crew
13. Short-Term Rental License(s)
14. Correspondence
15. Future meeting(s)
16. Adjourn

Chairman Goss called the meeting to order at 6:06pm. Supervisors Janet Johnson, Billy Appel, Cathy Ward, and Dan Watts were present. Administrator Buckingham was also in attendance along with Clerk/Treasurer Pamela Donart-Welcome, Bud Kalms, and 8 members of the public.

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

**Goss moved, Ward seconded** to approve the 1/7/26 minutes. **Carried 5 – 0**

**Public input:** Supervisor Billy Appel asked for a moment of silence for Chief Chris Hecht who passed away on the morning of January 19, 2026; Clerk Donart-Welcome shared a call from LaVonne Callsen asking for a plowed-out area for parking for folks who want to use Grand View as sled hill.

**Johnson moved, Ward seconded** to pay the Liberty Grove Utility District #1 bills for a total of \$67,519.95. **Carried 5 – 0**

**Treasurer's Report:** Donart-Welcome reported the following Utility District #1 account balances as of December 31, 2025:

Checking Account	\$ 54,521.21
Savings Account	\$ 319,411.31
Restricted Savings	\$ 132,504.76
CD	\$ <u>169,505.92</u>
TOTAL	\$ 675,943.20

**Ward moved, Goss seconded** to approve the Utility District Treasurer's Report totaling \$675,943.20. **Carried 5 – 0**

**Ward moved, Johnson seconded** to pay the Town bills totaling \$73,939.19. **Carried 5 – 0**

**Treasurer's Report:** Donart-Welcome reported the following Town account balances as of December 31, 2025:

Municipal Checking	\$ 2,259,903.47
Money Market Account	\$ 1,170,776.25
General Checking	\$ 1,504,793.91
Utility District	\$ <u>675,943.20</u>
TOTAL	\$ 5,611,416.83

**Watts moved, Johnson seconded** to approve the Treasurer's report as of December 31<sup>st</sup> for \$5,611,416.83. **Carried 5 – 0**

Amanda Accardi, Community Engagement Manager for Destination Door County presented the Door County Trails portion of their Strategic Master Plan project. She summarized the proposed project, and shared a link to a public survey to gather community interest in having a Countywide trail network that would run along the length of the Peninsula, approximately eighty miles on either side.

**Appel moved, Watts seconded** to approve the application for a detour for the Ellison Bay Day parade, including the use of town roads for the Detour. **Carried 5 - 0**

Ahead of the discussion on awarding a contract for the **demolition of the buildings in Mariner Park**, Supervisor Cathy Ward, who was involved with the Mariner Park Project from the beginning, stated *for the record* that for 18 months (nearly all of 2020 through June of 2021), the Mariner Park Ad Hoc Committee held public meetings, and the recommendation that came out of that committee to the Parks & Property Committee, and then to the Town Board was for the removal of, or disposal of those buildings. We then put it on the April 20, 2021 Annual Town meeting Agenda because the Town electors have to approve not only the acquisition of property, but the disposal of property. At that meeting, the motion to allow the Town to dispose of those buildings passed 29 to 0. So, we've been up front with all of this going on. After that meeting and unanimous elector vote to remove the buildings, there was a member of the community that put out a petition to save the buildings on "MoveOn.org." The petition was turned into the Town. After going through the 375 names on the petition, it was discovered that 7% of them were actual Liberty Grove property owners, and about 12% lived in Door County & owned property in Liberty Grove, but were not residents. So, only 19% of the people who signed that petition actually had taxpayer money at stake. We also placed an Ad that offered if somebody wanted to buy it for "a dollar" and move it, all they needed to do was put down a \$1,000.00 bid, (fully refundable on complete removal of the buildings), and no one interested in that. There was also a suggestion at one of the meetings that the people who felt strongly about preserving the buildings could help the Town by raising some money or starting a foundation. No one did. The Town did get in touch with "Board & Beam," the company in Green Bay that does restoration work and they did come up to look at those buildings. While they admitted that there were some things that were tempting, they decided it was not worth their time and effort to come and salvage/remove anything out of there. Finally, the Town did offer to donate items from the buildings to whoever wanted them. A number of items were picked up by and donated to the Liberty Grove Historical Society, and to the Door County Maritime Museum.

**Ward moved, Appel seconded** to approve the estimate from JF Construction, Inc. for the demo of the buildings, as was discussed with them and the removal as discussed with them, for a total amount not to exceed \$24,475 dollars. **Carried 5 - 0**

**Appel moved, Ward seconded** to approve purchasing the used Toyota forklift for the shop with the accessories for a total dollar amount not to exceed \$28,000. **Roll Call:** Ward, Watts, Johnson, Goss, and Appel voted aye. There were no nays. **Motion carried.**

**Appel moved, Ward seconded** to approve the STR applications for 803 Europe Bay Rd, 11428 Beach Road, 11838 Lakeview road, and 10072 Kinsey Bay Lane. **Carried 5 – 0**

**Correspondence:** Administrator Buckingham shared a notice of the WTA district meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> at the MARC in De Pere; a notice from the Sister Bay Plan Commission of their public hearing on January 27<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of considering amendments to their adopted Future Land Use map, adopting a revised zoning map, and to consider text amendments to Chapter 66 of the Village of Sister Bay municipal code pertaining to zoning; a notice from the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation regarding a construction notification for an electric rebuild project at 983 N Bay Rd in anticipation of rebuilding the underground electric facilities in that area.

**Future Meetings:** The next regular Town Board meeting will be on February 4, 2026 at 6:00pm.

**Appel moved, Johnson seconded** to adjourn at 6:55pm. **Carried 5 - 0**

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Donart-Welcome, Clerk/Treasurer  
Approved 2/4/26