

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Town Board meeting on February 18, 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 2/4/26
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. Update on BEAD funding for Townwide Broadband Project - Jessica Hatch
10. BOR Certification at WTA District Meeting
11. ATV use on Town roads
12. Status of site clean-up at 1041 County Highway ZZ
 - a. Update on current status of site clean-up.
 - b. Adjournment to Closed Session per Wi. Stat. 19.85 (1) (g): Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved and/or pursuant to 19.85 (1) (e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session—specifically the discussion of potential enforcement actions or litigation options related to site clean-up at 1041 County Hwy ZZ. (Roll call vote).
 - c. Reconvene in Open Session. (Roll Call Vote.)
 - d. Announcements or actions on items discussed in Closed Session regarding 1041 County Highway ZZ
13. Short-Term Rental License(s)
14. Correspondence
15. Future meeting(s)
16. Adjourn

Chairman Goss called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. 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 7 members of the public.

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

Ward moved, Goss seconded to approve the 2/4/26 minutes as written. **Carried 5 – 0**

Public input: none

Johnson moved, Goss seconded to pay the Liberty Grove Utility District #1 bills for a total of \$197.90. **Carried 5 – 0**

Treasurer's Report: Donart-Welcome reported the following Utility District #1 account balances as of January 31, 2026:

Checking Account	\$ 90,009.13
Savings Account	\$ 319,881.24
Restricted Savings	\$ 132,526.54
CD	\$ <u>169,505.92</u>
TOTAL	\$ 711,922.83

Goss moved, Ward seconded to approve the Utility District#1 Treasurer's Report as presented. **Carried 5 – 0**

Johnson moved, Ward seconded to pay the Town bills totaling \$133,516.46. **Carried 5 – 0**

Treasurer's Report: Donart-Welcome reported the following Town account balances as of January 31, 2026:

Municipal Checking	\$ 5,058,355.96
Money Market Account	\$ 1,173,056.86
General Checking	\$ 1,304,907.79
Utility District	\$ <u>711,922.83</u>
TOTAL	\$ 8,248,243.44

Ward moved, Goss seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. **Carried 5 – 0**

Jessica Hatch, the Door County Broadband Coordinator gave a presentation on the process and status of the Townwide Broadband Project, and summarized how the process was stalled due to changes in BEAD Grant funding at the Federal level, but noted that now the funds are at the State level and Frontier (now a Verizon Company) is beginning the permitting process needed to roll out the Fiber option to the 1818 Liberty Grove property locations that qualify under the grant funding.

Board Supervisors, Watts, Ward, Johnson and Administrator Buckingham will attend this year's Board of Review training offered by the Wisconsin Towns Association.

After reviewing the submitted petition to allow the use of ATVs on all Town roads the supervisors expressed the need for more research on safety, costs, implementation, and regulation before making a final decision on the request.

Appel moved, Watts seconded moved to submit the ATV/UTV Use on Town roads to the Highway Committee for discussion there. **Carried 5 – 0**

Administrator Buckingham gave a brief update on conversations he's had with the Ouradniks regarding their progress toward eventual clean-up of the remaining debris at the former Rowley's Bay Resort. **Goss moved, Johnson seconded** to move into Closed Session at 6:52pm per Wi. Stat. 19.85 (1) (g): Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering

oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved and/or pursuant to 19.85 (1) (e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session—specifically the discussion of potential enforcement actions or litigation options related to site clean-up at 1041 County Hwy ZZ. **Roll Call:** Appel, Watts, Johnson, Goss, and Ward voted aye. There were no nays. **Motion Carried.**

Goss moved, Appel seconded to reconvene into open session at 7:52pm. **Roll Call:** Johnson, Watts, Goss, Ward, and Appel voted aye. There were no nays. **Motion Carried.**

There were no actions taken on Closed Session items, however Chairman Goss announced that the Town Administrator and Board will continue to communicate with the property owners, monitor the situation and analyze it to be able make the best decisions regarding any actions going forward. She added that they remain on top of the situation.

Goss moved, Appel seconded to approve the STR applications for 12727 W Wisconsin Bay Rd, 10908 S Sand Bay Ln, and 1068 Wagon Trail as presented tonight, February 18, 2026.
Carried 5 – 0

Correspondence: Administrator Buckingham shared a letter from the Liberty Grove Historical Society advising us of their upcoming Annual Meeting, Fish Boil Fundraiser, and other 2026 events; a letter from the Door County Community Foundation advising they are pleased to announce that our recent application had undergone thorough review by all relevant granting programs of the Door County Community Foundation, resulting in a Community Investment Fund grant awarding the amount of \$11,942.00 to the Town to help pay for half of the installation of a floating pier at The Ellison Bay Marina; a letter from WPS advising what steps to take if we have road improvement projects that are going to call for utility relocations; an e-mail communication from Jim Surges on German Rd wanting to express his strenuous opposition to the proposed emergency radio communication tower installation across the road from his property; a communication from Frontier representative Todd Kruse including a letter memorializing Frontier’s commitment to deploy Fiber Broadband in Liberty Grove as outlined in the terms that were set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreed upon last February 14th of 2025; a email communication from Cathy Ward announcing a vacancy on the Door County Tourism Zone Commission.

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

Appel moved, Goss seconded to adjourn at 8:01pm. **Carried 5 - 0**

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Donart-Welcome, Clerk/Treasurer
Approved on 3/4/26