

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Town Board meeting on July 15, 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 7/1/26
5. Public input
6. Committee Reports
7. Utility District#1
 - a. Payment of bills
 - b. Treasurer's Report
8. Payment of Town bills
9. Town Treasurer's Report
10. Discuss Recommendation from Highway Committee Re: ATV/UTV Use on Town Roads
11. Operator Licenses
12. Short Term Rental licenses
13. Correspondence
14. Future meeting(s)
15. Adjourn

Chairman Nancy Goss called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisors Sylvann Welcome, Janet Johnson, Cathy Ward and Dan Watts were present along with Administrator Buckingham, Clerk/Treasurer Pamela Donart-Welcome, and 20 members of the public.

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

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

Public input: Melvin Grace of 11503 Hy-Land Court in Ellison Bay asked that the Town maintenance crew fix the chipped off edges of the driveway pavement in Mariner Park after his wife tripped on it during the July Fourth celebrations. Mike Kahr of 5039 CTH-P in Sturgeon Bay spoke on his history of the pound boat Joy now located in Mariner Park and asked that the Town keep the boat in the park for historical purpose. Russell Forkert of 10947 Birchwood Lane also spoke in support of the Joy remaining in Mariner Park. Additional public input on ATV/UTV use is noted during discussion agenda item# 10 below.

Committee Reports: Ward reported that the Parks & Property Committee have begun their 2027 budget discussion at their last meeting, and Welcome updated the Board on how the Community Development Committee continues their work on potential uses for the former Val-A parcel in Ellison Bay.

Goss moved, Welcome seconded to pay the Liberty Grove Utility District #1 bills totaling \$1,892.66. **Carried 5 – 0**

Treasurer's Report: Donart-Welcome reported the following Utility District #1 account balances as of June 30, 2026:

Checking Account	\$ 64,772.46
Savings Account	\$ 211,883.15
Restricted Savings	\$ 132,636.22
CD	\$ <u>172,833.92</u>
TOTAL	\$ 582,235.75

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

Ward moved, Watts seconded to pay the Town bills totaling \$22,249.38. **Carried 5 – 0**

Treasurer's Report: Donart-Welcome reported the following Town account balances as of June 30, 2026:

Municipal Checking	\$ 1,879,173.31
Money Market Account	\$ 1,184,603.45
General Checking	\$ 304,822.85
Utility District	\$ <u>582,235.75</u>
TOTAL	\$ 3,950,835.36

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

Public Input regarding allowing ATV/UTV use on all Town Roads:

Jay Olson of 11504 Mink River Rd in Ellison Bay, and the Town Maintenance Crew Chief spoke in favor of allowing the use of ATVs and UTVs on all Town roads and said he doesn't think they would be a hazard or an obstruction. Dale Stewart of 12677 Sawmill Ln in Gills Rock, and Chairman of the Highway Committee summarized how their discussion on the issue came to the conclusion that the ATVs and UTVs are already being used in the area and having an ordinance that defines acceptable use would be in the best interest of the Town. Billy Appel of 2398 Old Stage Rd, and member of the Highway Committee summarized his research on the State Statutes that govern ATV & UTV use, input from the Wisconsin DNR and regulations that some of the surrounding communities have in place. He shared his willingness to do more work on the draft ordinance at the committee level to clarify anything the Board would need in order to consider officially adopting a final ordinance. Griffin Olson of 11895 Lakeview Rd in Ellison Bay concurred with previous public input and added his desire to use it for hunting and fishing. Addison McMillan of 2104 Wildwood Rd in Sister Bay spoke in support of being allowed to take his UTV or ATV to work. Carson Orrick of 11741 Humbug Rd in Ellison Bay and Larry Kabe of 2620 German Rd in Baileys Harbor both concurred with previous public input on the subject. Goss expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Highway Committee, pointed out the need for some additions and clarifications to the draft ordinance, and stated the Town Board would want to have the final draft reviewed by the Town's attorney prior to official adoption. Ward tasked the Committee with getting clarification on the referenced State Statute 23.33(11)(am)4 regarding

speed limits and expressed concern on the safety of having such vehicles operating on Old Stage Road. Welcome expressed concern over having this ordinance be adopted without input from more of the Town's residents. Johnson noted there may be an increase in concerned residents alerting the Town office of increased ATV/UTV traffic but agreed that an ordinance can be rescinded if necessary. Administrator Buckingham pointed out that if the proposed ordinance is adopted, it could not go into effect until all the necessary posted signage is installed marking the Town roads for allowed ATV/UTV traffic and the County and State roads where they would be prohibited.

Goss moved, Ward seconded to approve the Operator Permit applications presented on July 15, 2026. **Carried 5 – 0**

Goss moved, Ward seconded to approve the STR applications for the following property addresses: 2050 Seaquist Rd, 12699 S Porte Des Morts Dr, 11553 STH-42, and 11940 Lakeview Rd **Carried 5 – 0**

Correspondence: Administrator Buckingham shared: a letter from the Door County Invasive Species Team advising they will be working with the WI DNR on a project focused on Starry Stone Wort education, outreach, and early detection in Door County, including the Ellison Bay Marina; an email from Maureen Mercier thanking the Town for installing Wi-Fi at the Ellison Bay Community Center, and informing us of how it worked well for the vendors at the Ellison Bay Day event; an email from Jeff McDonald asking for the Town to impose a ban on wakeboarding on Europe Lake; a letter from Frontier informing the Town they will be discontinuing copper & time-division multiplexing services in several states including Wisconsin, which will impact any of their existing customers in the Town of Liberty Grove; emails from Darrin Daubner and Dave Tesnow expressing support for allowing ATV/UTV use on Town roads; emails from Charlie & Bonnie Voight and Deb & Stiles Meredith asking the Town to keep the pound boat "Joy" on Mariner Park property.

Future Meeting: The next regular Town Board meeting was scheduled for August 5, 2026 beginning at 6:00pm.

Johnson moved, Goss seconded to adjourn at 7:31pm. **Carried 5 - 0**

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Donart-Welcome, Clerk/Treasurer
Approved on 8/5/26