

TOWN OF GRANT
Monthly Town Board Meeting
Wednesday June 10th, 2026
6:00 pm

Board Members Present: Sharon Schwab (Chair), Doug Steltenpohl (Supervisor), Scott Provost (Supervisor), Greg Hakala (Treasurer), Stefanie Schlapa (Clerk)

Guests Present: Leo Kruger, Steve Dobeck, Vickie Hintz, Steve Hintz, Jodi Lomma, Kitty Gross, Diana Luecht, James Yetter, Brian Kulmann, Kathleen Rogers, John Mortenson, Heather Grys-Luecht

CHAIR SCHWAB CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00PM

Statement of Public Notice:

Agenda posted on June 8th, 2026, on the Town Website, at the Town Hall and Transfer Station. Clerk Schlapa provided the affidavit.

Chair Schwab asked persons wishing to speak on an agenda item, to register now. The following registered: Vickie – Rooster complaint; Jodi – Committee Meeting report & Town Hall; Diana – HP Printer Program; Steve – Road Materials

Pledge of Allegiance led by Jim Yetter

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- Received a call from Sky who lives on Tower Road. He has expressed that toward County Highway F the road is in very poor shape. He expressed that previous cold patching attempts were poor. He is requesting maintenance of the road, and he believes his neighbors have also expressed similar sentiment.
- Building Inspector Dan Hanson has requested to receive requests and communications via text message
- New Electrical and Plumbing Codes Take Effect September 1
- May 28 Public Hearing on proposed WDNR E-Cycle Wisconsin Administrative Rule
- Survey for 2027 Annual Local Road Certification
- Received Open Record Request information from Portage County Drainage District
- Inquiry from Lead-Safe Homes Program regarding Historic Preservation Districts
- Complaint from Michelle Schill (8611 Lake Rd) - Over the winter the snowplow dug up the end of her driveway and the road. She said that we should be able to tell by how deep the crevice is and the asphalt thrown in the ditch and was hoping would notice it when we did road inspections for potholes, and that could be fixed too.
- Complaint from two residents regarding Assessor Claude Ringleman correspondence. Two individuals expressed unreturned phone calls and emails. Schlapa requests residents to notify her if they are having trouble reaching the assessor.
- The Wisconsin Elections Commission is pleased to announce publication of the new Election Law & Administration in Wisconsin (ELAW) Manual, which updates and combines eleven of our stand-alone manuals. Commission staff worked on the ELAW manual for nearly two years, and the Commission granted final approval on May 28, 2026, for publication on June 10, 2026. To access the ELAW manual, please visit <https://elections.wi.gov/elaw>
- Election Inspector resignation from Ann Walkush June 9th via text (moving out of Portage Co.)

Scott Provost arrived.

Bid Opening – Road Materials

The Town of Grant is accepted sealed bids for road materials:

1. Supply and deliver 3/4" hard rock CABC delivered anywhere in the Town south of County Rd W, priced per ton
2. Supply and deliver 3/4" hard rock CABC delivered anywhere in the Town north of County Rd W, priced per ton
3. Supply and deliver 1 1/4" Screened Red Granite anywhere in the Town south of County Rd W, priced per cubic yard
4. Supply and deliver 1 1/4" Screened Red Granite anywhere in the Town north of County Rd W, priced per cubic yard

Bids received and opened from:

1. Stuczynski Trucking & Excavating Inc.
2. Red Rock Granite Inc.
3. Earth Inc.

Schwab notes there were 4 sections of road identified during road inspections to address. She hopes to finish Evergreen west of CTH F, 100th Street north of Elm, 100th Street (CTH W – Deer), and 87th (Evergreen – Tower).

Discussion & Possible Action On:

1. Meeting Minutes: May 6, May 13, June 1

Schwab notes a change on page 3 from the May 13th board minutes: 25 board member on county board. Close on votes. Remove statement.

MOTION (Provost, Steltenpohl) to approve minutes from May 6th, May 13th, and June 1st with adjustment to May 13th. Unanimous Ayes. Motion carries.

2. Committee Meeting Minutes/Reports:

First Responders: Jerry Reinwand attended pipeline safety training in Wausau

GCAC: No Report

Plan Commission: Plan Commission (PC) met on Wednesday 5/20/26. The PC reviewed complaints against ABC Dog Kennels and their Conditional Use Permit CUP). A recommendation was made to request the owner and any concerned neighbors attend the next PC meeting to discuss a plan to reduce noise from barking dogs. A request was also reviewed for a potential land division/rezoning request from Crystal Kuhn, and the recommendation for rezoning will be reviewed in the Town Board meeting on June 10th. The requirements for a data center moratorium were discussed. State statute 66.1002 has specific requirements that indicate that a moratorium can only be adopted if a written report is obtained from a registered engineer stating that the moratorium is required to prevent a shortage in or the overburdening of public facilities or a written report from registered engineer or public health professional indicating that there is a significant threat to the public health or safety that is presented by a proposed or anticipated activity. Since those requirements will take some time to meet, the PC instead reviewed changes to the Zoning Ordinance to define data centers, list data centers as prohibited in existing districts, and define a new floating/unmapped zone that could be utilized as part of a

rezoning effort if the Town wanted to consider a data center proposal. The next meeting is June 17, 2026.

Zoning: 4 accessory building permits

Ongoing rooster complaint in Mertz Subdivision: Vickie Hintz originally reached out to Schlapa regarding noisy roosters in the neighborhood. Schlapa mailed the violator a copy of the Domestic Fowl Ordinance with violations and fees highlighted. Hintz reported the roosters remain. Supervisor Provost later visited the property and tried explaining the violations, however there was a language barrier. Provost clarified that the residents are aware roosters are not allowed. Hintz reported the roosters remain. Zoning Administrator Andrea Musch sent certified mail to the violator using Chat GPT translation. Hintz has filed a complaint form as the roosters remain. Hintz reports her neighbor is aware the roosters are not desired in the neighborhood. Health and Human services via Portage County offers translation services. Schwab to contact counsel for draft letter and forward to Hakala to coordinate translation.

Al West lack of CUP for business: Sent letter to West regarding concern he is operating a motor vehicle and sales type business. ZA has met with West, still no CUP to date. Previously had communicated that he does not operate a business.

Recommendation to rezone Kuhn and West properties – 018210731-10.3 and 018210731-10.4 from Commercial to Low Density Residential

There has been an inquiry from Crystal Kuhn to subdivide her property. She is looking to split off 2 acres from the north side of her property to be used as residential (family wants to build a house on it). However, the property is zoned commercial, and per the Zoning Ordinance, a residence is not allowed on the property unless attached to the business. Therefore the 2-acre parcel would need to be rezoned to Low Density Residential. However, since the surrounding property is agriculture and commercial, this would result in spot zoning. Currently, both the Kuhn and West properties are grandfathered under the Zoning Ordinance as they are zoned commercial without a business attached to their residence. However, the new residence on 2-acre parcel cannot be grandfathered.

Jodi Lomma spoke to the Portage County P&Z team, they recommended rezoning the Kuhn property before the land division to Low Density Residential, as the property is not being used for commercial purposes (only residential). After the land division, that would result in 2 properties being Low Density Residential and reduce the concern for spot zoning. The Plan Commission reviewed and agreed that would be the best course of action. That still leaves the West property as commercial. The PC discussed the complaints received that Mr. West is running a motor vehicle service/sales business from his property. He has not returned the CUP application, and he has stated in the past that he is not running a business. Therefore, to further avoid spot zoning and to ensure that the property zoning is in alignment with the usage of the property, a motion was made and approved to recommend that the Town rezone both Kuhn and West properties to Low Density Residential based on land usage.

Option 1: Rezone Kuhn property to low density residential

Option 2: Since West claims he is not operating a business, rezone West property to low density residential

After discussion, Lomma hopes to proceed with the Public Hearing and submit the request to the Portage County Planning and Zoning Committee.

Lomma confirms that with a CUP, West would be able to operate a business if desired. Provost iterates that if West pursues a CUP, he will need to show a business license. As part of rezoning to Low Density Residential, a junk and salvage yard would not be eligible under the conditional use of that zone. Small engine sales and repairs is eligible conditional use. Sales are not listed as prohibited. Motor vehicle repair shop, small engine sales or repair. West would not be able to sell vehicles under the CUP in a Low-Density Residential district. .

The area where Kuhn and West properties are located are primarily agriculturally zoned.

Permitted residences on commercially zoned property must be attached to the business. At one point West DID have a business, but his business registration expired. Both Kuhn and West properties are zoned commercial and technically in violation of the Zoning Ordinance because their residences are not attached to businesses.

Provost explains whether West pursues a CUP, or his property is rezoned, West would need a business.

Parcel Finder shows that both Kuhn and West are delinquent with taxes, and Portage County will not proceed with a rezone until taxes are paid.

Schwab notes that in the future, the West property could be a good location for a future business (due to its location of CTH U/STH 73)

If the Board wishes to proceed, Lomma suggests requiring Kuhn to pay her taxes first. This would be the next step.

3. Officers' Reports:

Renewable Energy Cohort (Schwab); WTA – Portage Co. Unit mtg. (Schwab); 60 people throughout the State met virtually to discuss renewable energy related to solar and wind. Community and environmental considerations were discussed. Hoping to add more information to website related to water quality, site management, wildlife impacts, land use, waste streams, catastrophes, and public health and safety.

Schwab attended Wisconsin Towns Association Portage County Unit Meeting – discussed snow and ice storms. ; Bob Weinert, Emergency Management Director talked about the importance of reviewing disaster plans. Jenna Hake – new Zoning Coordinator at Portage County.

Mtg w/T. Plover & Portage Co. Executive re: Portage Solar noncompliance to Joint Development Agreement (Schwab): Met with Eric Olson and Jim Garbe regarding both JDAs with Portage Solar and Vista Sands Solar. Olson is familiarizing himself with agreements. Forming a team to look at least quarterly to confirm compliance. Already identified non-compliance issues with Portage Solar. Issue with escrow account and decommissioning of sites.

Schlappa: Facilitated liquor, beer, cigarette, operator license renewals, Cancelled Co-Pilot Studio (agentic ai) due to cost – perhaps consider for 2027 budget, Waiting on reimbursement for “Snowpocalypse” event – checked EM grants portal and there is an agreement to sign as well as payment preference document to complete; Working on Ice-capade submission; Mailed residents on Evergreen ABC Dog Training information regarding upcoming PC meeting; Complaint form on website displays outdated email for Zoning Administrator – Can I make this a digital form rather than a physical form?; Signage and Forms drafted for Transfer Station; Working on adding additional recycling information to website; Completed Open Records Request for Diana Luecht regarding meeting packet, Background check for bartender Leandra for serv safe certificate – no records found; filed maintenance of effort reports;

Hakala: Local Government Investment Pool is online. Hakala is working with Portage County and State of WI to communicate new account information. Hakala notes property tax is delivered via Automated Clearing House (ACH – electronic transfer) , but everything else is sent via checks. Hakala is working on changing everything to ACH. Laptops will be increasing in costs due to computer chips. Consider future agenda item for new laptop.

4. Financial Report/Requests:

Monthly reconciliations;

<u>CHECK BOOK BALANCE</u>	<u>\$ 62,485.83</u>
PLUS	
OTHER ACCOUNT BALANCES	
PARK FUND-CD	\$13,006.09
EQUIPMENT SAVINGS ACCT.	\$3,074.73
TAX ACCOUNT	\$245,818.65
	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL CASH ON HAND	<u>\$ 324,385.30</u>

Profit/Loss Statement; Completed Budget Amendments; No concerns. Hakala reports we are about 30K over from where we were in 2025, likely due to equipment purchases (chipper, backhoe).

Tire Day results;

2026: \$2,344 from residents 358 Tires received

Schwab notes many agricultural tires were received.

2025: \$455 from residents and 76 tires received.

2024 Paid \$702.03: 146 Tires

2023 Paid \$516.34: 98 Tires Tire Day Recycling

WDNR Recycling Grant check; Received \$2,289.05. Provost notes the portal is not user friendly. Schlapa agrees.

Request for upgraded phone(s); Schlapa presented Noble Mobile and T-Mobile options: Kulmann recommends rapid radio or rocky top for a high-quality two-way radio for public works crew.

Discussion regarding dropped calls and network reliability.

MOTION (Schwab, Steltenpohl) to retain T-Mobile in current plan, with emergency phones. Unanimous Ayes. Motion carries.

Inquiry into local telephone franchise fees; Hakala notes the Town receives franchise fees from Solarus each quarter. Nothing received from Spectrum. Hakala spoke with WTA and Town of Grant was grandfathered to continue receiving franchise fees from Solarus.

Affordable price point for new/used service truck; Hakala iterates that gravel and legal costs need discussion. Steltenpohl notes that a salesman from Marshfield persistently calls with an affordable truck option. The Board agrees there is no funding for a new truck purchase currently.

Legal cost from VanderWaal re: Portage Solar JDA; \$775 from VanderWaal related to Portage Solar JDA violations. Waiting for decommission plan as detailed in JDA. Splitting bill with T. Plover and Grant. Pending meeting with County Attorney for sharing legal costs for JDA violations.

Current cost to T. Grant taxpayers & insurance co. from two lawsuits brought by Heather Grysluecht: No new bills since last board meeting.

5. License Renewals:

Cigarette; Schlapa requests approval of a cigarette license for DJ's Corner Bar. Application and payment received.

MOTION (Schwab, Steltenpohl) to approve cigarette license for DJ's. Unanimous Ayes. Motion carries.

Liquor;

The following have filed application for "Class B" Combination Beer/Liquor Licenses with the Town of Grant, Portage County, WI

1. Bob McDonald, 4231 80th St. S, for the premise known as Mickey's Tip-Up located at 4231 80th St. S, Wis. Rapids, WI.

2. Herbert Brostrom, agent, 7310 Dewberry Lane, for the premise known as Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Rapids located at 3221 80th St. S, Wis. Rapids, WI.
3. Doug Beggs, 6050 CTH D, Plainfield, Kountry Kwencher Corp. for the premise known as DJ's Corner Bar located at 15810 County Road F, Bancroft, WI.
4. Wilbert Indermuehle, 4720 11th Street S, for the premise Ryders Roadhouse & Grill at 9031 County Road WW, Wisconsin Rapids, 54494
5. Jere L. Winters, 6820 Ahles, for the premise known as Kellner Klub, LLC located at 4111 80th St. S, Wis. Rapids, WI.

The following have filed application for Class "B" Beer License with the Town of Grant, Portage County, WI

1. Michael Bohn, agent, 6010 Washington St., Wis. Rapids, WI, for the premise known as Antler Archers located at 8720 Deer Rd. Wisconsin Rapids, WI.
2. Kathi Havitz, 8110 Grove Ave., for the premise known as Chat-R-Box Restaurant located at 3821 80th St. S, Wis. Rapids, WI.
3. David Johnson, agent, 6210 Helke Road, Wis. Rapids, WI for the Wisconsin Rapids Youth Sports Association on the premise at 3631 85th St. S Wis. Rapids, WI.

The following have filed application for "Class C" Wine License with the Town of Grant, Portage County, WI.

1. Kathi Havitz, 8110 Grove Ave., for the premise known as Chat-R-Box Restaurant located at 3821 80th St. S, Wis. Rapids, WI.

Schlappa requests approval of liquor, wine, and beer licenses detailed. Applications and payment received.

MOTION (Schwab, Steltenpohl) to approve licenses as presented. Unanimous Ayes. Motion carries.

Operator Licenses:

Antler Archers: 10 Operators

Brian Schuld, Ben Pies, Michael Bohn, Thomas Bohn, Richard See, Trevor Hoth, Matthew Hanneman, Thomas Hanneman, Nicholas Randrup, Greg Swank

DJ's Corner Bar: 4 Operators

Bobbi Lindsey (New), Eunice Zimbeck, Denise Hilpipre, Connie Beggs

Kellner Klub: 8 Operators

Kaylee Berkholtz, Elaine Geniesse, Carlotta Ashbeck, Stephanie Parbs, Alivia Bretl, Michelle Bretl, Kris Hattery, Kimberly Jonovic

Kiwanis: 2 Operators

Cara Johnson, Jill Steckbauer (new)

Mickey's Tip Up: 8 Operators

Jasmine Pleet, Kimberly Jandrom, Mary Lou Benson, Laurie Price, Cole Sorenson, Jada Anderson-Piltz, Michelle McDonald, Tracy Van Asten

Ryders Roadhouse: 6 Operators Ready, 1 pending

Renewals: Ella Berg, Nora Lassa, Kami Indermuehle, Danielle Keuntjes,

Michelle Hizer (new), Megan Berg (new)

New (Pending Serv Safe): Corey Olson

Schlapa requests approval of operator licenses detailed. Applications and payment received.

MOTION (Steltenpohl, Schwab) to approve operator licenses as presented. Unanimous Ayes. Motion carries.

6. Ordinances:

- Deputy Zoning Administrator

Schwab explains that an ordinance is required to create a Deputy Zoning Administrator position.

MOTION (Schwab, Steltenpohl) to approve Ordinance 2026-04. Andrea Musch is looking to have a Deputy ZA in the summer months. Darin Meyer is interested in the position.

Unanimous Ayes. Motion carries.

- Fire Inspection Responsibilities – T. Grand Rapids & V. Plainfield Volunteer Fire

Departments: postponed

Leo Kruger notes fire extinguishers need to be reloaded by First Choice. Fire Inspection completed by Jim from Grand Rapids VFD. Schlapa to request a copy of the inspection.

7. Public Works/Roads:

- Road Materials!

The general cost for gravel or granite is \$27,000 – \$29,000 per mile. Dobeck notes that gravel will be cheaper in the future for maintenance once this round of maintenance is completed. Provost asks if money is available. Dobeck notes Evergreen makes sense to prioritize. At \$2,374 per mile, it will cost approximately \$14,150 to finish Evergreen. Hakala notes that loans are not granted for operating costs, however loans are available for legal costs. Hakala is fine with \$14,000 now and recommends voting later for a second area after legal costs are determined.

Earth Inc. – Hardrock

Red Rock – Crushed Red

Dobeck notes \$14,150 will likely complete Evergreen. DATCAP should be notified regarding farmers irrigating across road which is non-compliant.

MOTION (Schwab, Steltenpohl) to award Earth Inc bid for hard rock to complete

Evergreen. Dobeck notes we can sometimes receive a discount on deliveries. **Unanimous Ayes. Motion carries.**

- Mill Road – driveway culverts and ditch fill removal (completed)

Prohibited from going wider due to fiber optics line. Unvegetated soil from snow events caused erosion. In the process of rectifying the problem. Provost notes an erosion mat is something the Town should consider for these areas. Point charges 15% mark-up. Doesn't make sense to go to the County. Provost recommends getting 3 rolls needed. Should cost

about \$90 for mats and additional small cost for seeds such as rye. Provost explains that on Elm Street, previous administrations did not properly vegetate that area. This causes culverts to fill. Provost believes that 2 hours and 3 workers will complete the job.

- Griffith Avenue (portion 110th – CTH F) – option in lieu of Plat of Survey and related costs; According to Kevin from Badgerland, it would not exceed \$1600 to complete a map with descriptions for those 2 forty's if the Town would like but by resolution the road reverts ½ to north (they never gave up the right of way) and ½ goes to the south owner.

MOTION (Schwab, Provost) to hire Badgerland to complete map with descriptions for an amount not to exceed \$1600 to vacate portion of road. Provost notes the total cost of the project is getting expensive. He iterates the Town did not request this. Schwab notes the cost of fixing and mucking out the road would be more expensive. **Unanimous Ayes. Motion carries.**

- Beaver dam removal & need for exclusion device (pending).
response to PCDD correspondence). Schwab reviewed Portage County Drainage District Board's Open Records response. Asked Board to review contents and what response, if any, needs to be made.

John – below is a list of requested items (from ORR record)

There is a concern about “double dipping” – The Portage County Drainage District receives tax dollars from Town of Grant residents. Discussion regarding responsible unit to fund future culvert repairs in PCDD zones. Provost asks about recent receipts. Schlapa to procure historic 2024-2025 Emergency Culvert Repair documents.

- Request for quad load of cold mix (< \$2000.00)
MOTION (Schwab, Steltenpohl) to approve cost for quad of cold pack for an amount not to exceed \$2000. Unanimous Ayes.
- Replacement tires for John Deere tractor (<\$4500.00)
Tires on back of tractor are cracked. New tires would cost \$4500 tires.

MOTION (Steltenpohl, Schwab) to replace all four tires on John Deere tractor for an amount not to exceed \$4500. Unanimous Ayes. Motion carries.

- Request for used/donated 4x drive pick-up: Funding not available
- Wisconsin Rapids School District SRTS Plan re: Mertz Subdivision:

Mertz residents had communicated sidewalks are not desired in their subdivision. Looked at potential for TAP grant in Town of Grant. Schwab communicated that the residents were not interested to the WRPS committee. Schwab requests permission to delete sidewalks portion. Schwab requests to retain off-road asphalt waiting area on the southeast corner of CTH WW & 85th St S, as suggested by the Portage County Highway Commissioner Nathan Check.

8. Transfer Station:

- Proposed new informational signage (drafts): postponed until TS employee meeting

- E-cycling Log: postponed until employee meeting
- Open July 4, 2026 (Y/N)?
Discussion regarding the request. Always open in the past. Difficult to communicate change to residents. The Board agrees the Transfer Station should remain open.

9. Town Hall:

- Fence repair on abutting property (Ryder's Roadhouse)
Shane, owner of Ryders Roadhouse, has expressed he would be happy with our crew attempting to straighten the fence as opposed to proceeding with the insurance claim. Board agrees fence should not be repaired by town employees. Shane to proceed with repair on his own or complete insurance claim.
- Request to replace lock on front door
 - i. Schlapa would like to replace the front door lock on the town hall to ensure security. Keys will not be distributed, and all town officials should use the back door with their fobs.
 - ii. Draft Sign (to prevent damage from residents attempting to enter):
<https://canva.link/y55k5pf4htalvgw>
 - iii. Lock Vendor? – no preferred vendor. Schlapa to call and find someone.
- Option to remove HP Ink program (\$40/month)

Diana notes that Jodi Lomma might appreciate a printer. Diana is paying \$9/mo for her printer via HP Ink. Gets to print 100 sheets per month. Provost notes it's difficult to get ink in a hurry in that program. Schlapa to review lower tier printing options.

10. Public Participation:

John Mortenson inquires regarding Griffith Ave discontinuation, an abutting landowner. Discussion regarding right-of way. Discussion regarding DNR requirements. Schwab notes a hearing will be required. Landowners have separate access to their homes. Provost notes Mortensen would have access to both east and west fields, which Mortenson finds agreeable. John owns land to the south. Provost requests weight limit signs on Mill Ave. 2 ply between dump trucks from Moody's marsh and Wisocki. Heavy equipment on roadways. New section is rated for weight. Mill Ave should not be used as a connector to County Trunk U. Schwab notes heavy equipment can legally traverse 80th, correct? Schwab to confirm with Wendels.

11. Spring/Summer Newsletter (draft):

12. Utility Solar Project Updates: Postponed

13. Safety Report:

Cases with days away from work: 0

Cases with job transfer or restriction: 0

14. Review/Pay Bills

The Board reviewed and paid bills.

15. Future Meetings/Events:

- Ambulance Board, June 11 7:00 PM Town of Grand Rapids Municipal Building
- TS Employee Mtg June 17 9:30 AM T. Grant Hall
- Board of Review, June 18 -1:00 – 3:00 PM T. Grant Hall
- Service Award for James Yetter, August 12 Board Meeting
- TBA – Local Disaster Plan update (currently on file with Portage Co. Emergency Management)

16. Adjourn

MOTION (Schwab, Steltenpohl) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:31PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Clerk Stefanie Schlapa

Stefanie Schlapa

Approved: July 8th, 2026