TOWN OF UTICA
Town Board Meeting ~ Minutes

Monday, October 12, 2026

Following Special Towns Meeting & Budget Hearing

Notice is hereby given that a Town Board meeting in the Town of Utica, Winnebago County, and State of Wisconsin for the transaction of business as is by law required or permitted to be transacted at such a meeting will be held at the Utica Town Hall, 1730 County Road FF in said Town. Discussion and Action may occur on the following items, except for Public Forum.

The Town Board meets regularly the SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:00PM (unless otherwise noted). All meetings are open to the public, this is a public meeting. Any person wishing to attend who, because of a disability, requires special accommodation, should contact Chairman Len Schmick at 920-850-0758 at least twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled meeting time so appropriate arrangements can be made. As such, all members, or a majority of the members, of the Town Board may be in attendance. While a majority of the Town Board members or the majority of any given Town Board Committee may be present, only the Town Board will take official action based on the agenda. Posted at: townofuticawi.gov, Town Hall, and Pickett Country Market.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order**
   Chairman Schmick called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
   PRESENT: Chairman Leonard Schmick, Supervisor #1 Ben Sawall, Supervisor #2 Chuck Kuhrt
   Treasurer Trisha Hunter, and Clerk Jenny Sonnleitner; 14 present

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
   - **A) Approve Town Board Meeting Minutes: October 12, 2026**
   - **B) Affidavit of Posting/Publication**
   - **C) Approve Payment of Bills**

   Chairman Schmick motions that we accept the Consent Agenda which is approving Town Board Meeting Minutes from September 14, 2026, Affidavit of Posting/Publication, and approve payments of bills; seconded by Supervisor Sawall; Carried 3-0

4. **Treasurer's Report: September 2026**
   Treasurer Hunter mentioned the accounts that are less than 75% since most are more than 75% as we get closer to the end of the year. Election is at 54%, Assessor is at 44%, Rush Lake Committee is at 43%, Board of Review is at 0%, Fire Protection is at 65%, Ambulance is at 60%. At the beginning of the month, we had $140,000, took in $750, and we are right now at $67,000 for our accounts. The account includes checking and money market is separate.

5. **Public Forum:** *2-Minutes to comment on an Agenda item or new business; state your name & address. (No action taken by the Board)*

   Tom Thiel mentioned Sportsman Road, around one corner, should get potholes fixed before winter, the potholes are getting deep.

   Ray Yearwood mentioned Liberty Prairie Cemetery finances are good for next year.

   Mike Lardy explained the Conditional Use at 487 County Road FF. Have been training dogs here for the last 35 years. We enjoy working our dogs out there over the years. Due to some complaints, we adjusted the use to make less noise, only use blank pistols (no live ammunition), and restricted hours. To solidify this, we need a Conditional Use Permit. This would be good for him and any subsequent owner of the property. This will go before the County since most of it is in the wetland, shoreland. The County is looking for some advice from the Town. Encourages the Town to pass this. People using their property in a very unoffensive way, very little impact on anything, no traffic, little bit of noise when firing a blank pistol and a little bit of dog barking, sometimes when they are driving in and out. It's people enjoying the private use of their land, as we should be ought to continue. Chairman Schmick stated this isn't a business. No one is charging anyone to use this. It's people who love dogs, enjoying their dogs. Mike stated there are places all over the state to go and train dogs.

   Kevin Fritz stated he was looking through old papers from the 1980s. They used to get the Firemen's Treasurer's Report at every meeting. We haven't gotten that in quite a while, why not anymore? Also, commending Treasurer Hunter. Of all the other meetings he goes to, our Treasurer is the most transparent he has ever seen. Chairman Schmick said the firemen share their report once a year and asked if they are supposed to share that monthly? Treasurer Hunter said they are supposed to. Clerk Sonnleitner said they provide what is in their checkbook monthly, and that is on our Treasurer's report. It's not detailed as to their month revenues and expenses; that they provide at the end of the year. Treasurer Hunter stated she would love to have that because it helps us with our numbers, to make sure we have accurate numbers with them. We have been asking for that. Chairman Schmick stated the firemen do talk about that at their meeting.

   Walt Whiting asked what is going on with the Agenda item for private wells? Chairman Schmick said it's Winnebago County. We can monitor it on our own. Walt also asked about an update on the solar project, but sees it on the Agenda.

   Kevin Fritz stated all high-capacity wells have meters through DNR. The ethanol plant may have one. Chairman Schmick said certain places need to have their water tested. Supervisor Kuhrt asked out of curiosity, how many high-capacity wells are in the Town?

   Eric Whiting commented on the solar project from the previous meeting. The Utilities Board in Madison was brought up and what an awful thing it is and blaming the people in charge of it. It was started in 1988, the Governor at that time was Tommy Thompson. Felt there was a partisan lean that evening. On discussion was the Green Energy deal that was spoken about in a less than positive manner. Personally, he is not opposed to solar energy and understands why they want it on farmland, it's the easiest place to do it. We are not, as a society, using less energy on a daily basis, it's going to come from somewhere. To disparage the idea of green/alternative energies to oil and gas, that is part of what got us here. Not in favor of taking farmland out of production, but to say not to go this way at all is foolish.

   Public Session closed.

6. **BUDGET:**
   A) **Any 2026 Amendment Resolutions**
   Chairman Schmick read Resolution 2026-09: the sum of $234.35 from General Buildings & Plant account goes to Other General Government account; moving it from one place where it was budgeted, to another; seconded by Supervisor Kuhrt. Carried 3-0
   B) **REMINDER: Budget Hearing / Meeting of the Electors on Monday, November 9, 2026 at 6:00pm**

7. **Solar Project Updates**
Chairman Schmick read a letter received from David Aguayo from Alliance. (To summarize, we are taking time to evaluate our community engagement approach, to provide accurate and relevant information, with meaningful opportunities for dialogues. Development activities for the project continue. Alliant Energies has contracted with Stantech to provide engineering consulting services. Their representative may contact the Town regarding road conditions around the potential project area. This helps to understand local infrastructure as we continue project planning. Supervisor Kuhrt stated Rachael Cabral-Guevera previously introduced a bill to put solar on bigger buildings and there was no interest in that bill. Chances of that coming back are low. Chairman Schmick stated solar panels could be placed along highways, that would be a good place. There has to be ways to leave farmland alone. It's best to just deal with them, can work with them to make sure they are not visible; planting shrubs, bushes, berms, etc. Is not aware of a timeline.

8. **KerberRose CPA 2026 Year-End Services in 2027**
Chairman Schmick motioned that we accept the KerberRose estimate for doing our tax services for the Town; seconded by Supervisor Sawall. Carried 3-0

9. **WINNEBAGO COUNTY:**
   A) **Text Amendment to Chapter 16 - POWTS**
   Supervisor Sawall feels we should do something similar as the Town of Winneconne. Supervisor Sawall motions that we get a letter to the County stating that we do not wish to have the wells monitored in the Town of Utica; seconded by Supervisor Kuhrt. Carried 3-0

   B) **Joinder to County/Municipal Recycling Agreement & Local Government Support of Winnebago County Solid Waste Management System - Agreement**
   Clerk Sonnleitner stated she had worked with the County when we originally contracted with GFL for their discounted rates. The County provided a Credit Application and thought that was getting us the discounted rates. Has reached out to the County 5-6 times asking what we need to do. Finally received this agreement and this will help to get us further discounts. Once the Town Board approves, the County's committee needs to approve, and then the County Board.

   Chairman Schmick motions to accept this agreement as written; seconded by Supervisor Kuhrt. Carried 3-0

10. **Resolution Monitoring Private Wells, in response to Winnebago County's Amendments to County Code Chapter 16**
See 9A comments and motion.

11. **ROADS:**
   A) **K&R Custom Ag Services – 2027 Ditch Mowing Quote**
   Chairman Schmick said we will compare the hours we get from the County to this quote. Feels the County does a good job cutting back the ditches. Clerk Sonnleitner stated this is the best ditch mowing job ever, for the roads she drives on. Chairman Schmick stated along one road, they cut into a farmer's field and cut down small trees on Job Road.
   B) **Maintenance Updates**
   Chairman Schmick stated a few things to do yet are minor, some signs that are down, nothing major.
   C) **2027 Maintenance Agreement**
   Chairman Schmick motions that we accept their agreement; seconded by Supervisor Sawall. Carried 3-0

12. **RUSH LAKE COMMITTEE: September 22, 2026 Meeting Updates**
Supervisor Kuhrt stated we are having issues with Stantec Co., the same company that the solar companies are using. They are far from the best, the service given has been very poor. They did want to agree to being wrong, but they paid $4 million saying they were trying to make it right, but did nothing wrong. We have others that more familiar with Rush Lake, DNR rep and Ted from Ducks Unlimited. Trying to find out the best way to go about this in the future; use Stantec or cut ties. Meeting in November to get more info then.

13. **PLAN COMMISSION: Conditional Use Application at 487 County Road FF Pickett, WI 54964 (024-0766-01, 024-0766, 024-0765)**
Chairman Schmick stated about 95% of this property is in the County's jurisdiction, we gave the shoreland jurisdiction to the County. The County will have a Conditional Use Permit meeting. The neighbor did not want a kennel due to noise; he was reassured that there won't be a kennel. The neighbor didn't like the use of shotguns. They agreed to use cap pistols and whistles. They came up with a time schedule, there is no charge. The only difference is that they may have small groups training on Saturday. Mike Lardy stated the County doesn't regulate small groups, only if 4 or more; the dog group size is 1-3, same agreement as all along. Chairman Schmick stated this has been talked about, had meetings, and the County is in charge. Mention we would accept this Conditional Use Permit Application, as far as the Town is concerned, that we approve it; seconded by Supervisor Kuhrt. Supervisor Kuhrt asked if the land owner is okay with this, and the next-door neighbor? Mike Lardy stated they haven't communicated much. Feels the switch in gun fire has helped a lot. He has been very friendly since using blank ammunition. Supervisor Kuhrt just wanted to verify that he (the neighbor) is aware. Carried 3-0. Chairman Schmick stated that we will send a letter to Winnebago County that the Town is in agreement with whatever they decide on this, as long as they stick with the range of these parameters.

14. FIRE / EMS DEPARTMENTS:

A) Fire Chief's Report
Table until next month. Fire Chief Roberts and Assistant Fire Chief Keator were not present.

B) Fire Department & Town Ordinance / Bylaws – Any Updates
Chairman Schmick said he attended their meeting and they did come up with a resolution in regard to how they will elect a Chief and how they are going to elect people for different officers. They have to run it through their bylaw system. It may take 1-2 meetings to get accomplished, then they will bring it to the Board.

C) Volunteer Firemen's Picnic Update
Fire Department Treasurer, Kevin Butt, stated the picnic brought in about $22-23,000 and around $11,000 from the golf outing. About $33,000 raised in total.

D) September 2026: (5 Fire Calls / 10 EMS Calls)

15. AMBULANCE SERVICE / S.W.E.M.S.
Next meeting: October 29, 2026 at 6:00pm at Town of Omro Town Hall

16. Data Center Ordinance and Information
Chairman Schmick stated we are waiting to see what Winnebago County does.

17. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE PICKETT COMMUNITY CENTER'S NEWSLETTER:

A) PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING / MEETING OF THE ELECTORS: Monday, November 9, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Utica Town Hall, 1730 County Road FF in Fisk

B) TOWN BOARD MEETING: Monday, November 9, 2026 after the Budget Hearing/Meeting of the Electors at the Utica Town Hall, 1730 County Rd FF in Fisk

C) 2026 ELECTION DATE: November 3 – Utica Town Hall, 1730 County Rd FF in Fisk; 7:00am-8:00pm

18. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

A) WI Towns Assoc Monthly Newsletter; Land Transfers; Wildcard Corp Cybersecurity/Web Development/IT Solutions; New address: 1921 Cottontail Dr.; Final Population Estimate as of 1/1/2026: 1371

19. Adjournment
6:38pm

Jenny Sonnleitner, Clerk

Chairman Leonard Schmick	Leonard Schmick	**Treasurer** Trisha Hunter	Trisha Hunter
Supervisor #1 Ben Sawall	Ben Sawall	**Clerk** Jenny Sonnleitner	Jenny Sonnleitner
Supervisor #2 Chuck Kuhrt	Chuck Kuhrt		

Minutes to be Reviewed / Approved at the November 9, 2026 Town Board Meeting.