

Town Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 7, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7pm by Chairman O'Connell and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were supervisors Devens and McNamee, Clerk/Treasurer Brazee, Deputy C/T Starr, and 9 others

Review/Comment:

Fire Department minutes of 7/1: No comments or questions. Accepted as submitted.

First Responder minutes of 6/10: No comments or questions. Accepted as submitted.

Approval of Town Board Minutes: Board Meeting Minutes of 6/9/25: Minutes approved by Devens/seconded by O'Connell.

County Supervisors Report: Supervisor Farrey was not in attendance.

Public Input: Dave Tovar approached the board to give an update on the book about the Town of Vinland that he has been working on. He explained that the Winchester Area Historical Society (WAHS) wanted to do a history book on the town in 2021 and they reached out to Tovar to assist which he agreed to. He stated on June 2024 he received an email from Stacy Frakes clarifying the status on the book for the Town of Vinland. In her email she states that as of June 2024 there will be no book written on the town. The WAHS has passed the project onto Dave Tovar in May per a phone conversation between Frakes and the WAHS. Tovar took on the project from that date forward. He has contacted over 100 people in the town and has received numerous documents, pictures, interviews from willing town residents and they understand the intended use. Currently the book is 80% completed and should be done by the end of the year. He is lacking information on the fire dept. The other aspect lacking is in regards to the cemeteries which are on hold permanently as the only way to receive information is through the town hall office. He stated that he and his wife have attempted a few times to come to the hall to scan documents but because they have to share the space it is cumbersome and consuming. O'Connell asked if the documents he is looking for are open records. Brazee asked what documents he is looking for from the office that he didn't get when he was in the office working. Tovar stated that he and his wife came into the office multiple times to scan cemetery docs but wanted to take all of the docs home and use on five scanners. O'Connell said that is where the problem lies. For security reasons no records will leave the office. Brazee agreed that she as clerk is the keeper of the records and will not let them leave the office; copies made in the office or scanned are fine. O'Connell said we are in the process of digitizing the cemetery documents but it will take some time to do so. Tovar's intent was to wash all of the stones, photograph all of the stones, mapping all of the stones and then putting them into software that they have and attaching docs, pictures and put out so the public can click on the grave marker and the docs will appear.

Building and Zoning: No questions or comments.

Financial Report for June 2025: **Motion to approve the financial report was made by Devens/seconded by McNamee. Motion carried.**

Discussion/Take Action:

1. Invoices & payroll: **Motion made by Devens to approve invoices & payroll/seconded by McNamee. Motion carried.**

2. CSM for Jeff Porath/0260528 & 026052801: The Plan Commission approved the new survey map as submitted. ZA mentioned that both parcels are zoned R2 and will remain that way. The one Porath intends to build on will be made a little larger. His driveway will come off of Nelson Ct. O'Connell asked about the building that are near the property line; the one is 6' off of the property line. ZA mentioned that the smaller buildings are ice shanties but the larger is a shed and within **the 5/10' side yard setbacks**. **Motion made by Devens to approve the CSM for 0260528 & 026052801/seconded by McNamee. Motion carried.**

3. 2nd driveway application for Daniel McCullough/02608960: The property is zoned R2. He has the 100' of frontage for 2nd driveway which he has. The second driveway will serve to allow the property owner to pull through his garage. O'Connell mentioned a culvert permit will be required. McCullough was in the audience and stated that he has signatures from his neighbors in support of what he is trying to do. O'Connell mentioned a culvert permit will be required. **Motion made by Devens to the 2nd driveway/seconded by McNamee. Motion carried.**

4. Winnebago County petition for Shoreland Zoning/Chapter 27 changes: ZA attended the public hearing and is a little shy on what this means for the town. He thought it seemed that the co wants to put in their regular zoning into that chapter plus shoreline and seems like they wanted to take over all of the zoning for the townships but nobody wanted it. The towns in attendance didn't speak for it. The board voted to remove section 23 of chapter 27 co ordinance. O'Connell referred to a letter that the Town of Winchester atty wrote and is in support of what he said. Section 23 didn't belong in the ordinance because it defines land use districts most of which have nothing to do with shoreland zoning. O'Connell said his interpretation was there would be little change for our town and the rest of the ordinance will still give the county jurisdiction in shoreland zoning. Devens said he ran into County Supervisor Farrey and asked him about it. Farrey explained that the county still has jurisdiction over the shoreland but that the town's general zoning covers everything else. O'Connell would like the town's atty to look over the zoning and how it will impact the town or if there are any cautions before the board decides one way or another on signing the resolution. The topic is tabled until response from Attorney Koehler.

5. Schedule of deposits/ordinance violations: Brazee explained that the municipal judge said in the ordinance it has several references that citations will be issued according to the schedule of deposits and he could not find in the ordinance that actual schedule of deposits. O'Connell said he likes the schedule that Brazee presented. He would like to have Atty Koehler to review. O'Connell will draft a letter. Topic is tabled until Atty Koehler responds.

6. FD Tanker repair estimate: Chief Anderson explained that Tanker 27 is need of repair. Four years ago the stainless wrap ripped and leaked, it was repaired, but it has opened up again. Inspection revealed the side supports missing on the passenger side and the back of the truck is starting to leak. The only way to diagnosis the back of the truck is to have it empty. The repair estimate depends on what is found. The estimate is for \$15,000-20,000. O'Connell asked for a timeframe. Anderson said they are 4-6 weeks out and then it will be in the shop roughly a week. O'Connell asked if it is still usable. Anderson said that it is and it is more cost effective to repair it and maintain it rather than to buy brand new. It is a truck that is used minimally, but is necessary. **A motion by McNamee to approve the repairs of Tanker 27/Devens seconded. Motion carried.**

Sharing of Correspondence:

Devens picked up 7 tires out of the ditch by Rhyner and Breezewood. He noticed that there is grass growing between 2 frost boils on Rhyner. He asked if the county hwy dept should make their cut larger and fix the whole thing. O'Connell and McNamee agreed. Brooks Rd had trees that blew down in a recent storm.

Regarding high grass in the ditches, the county is down a tractor and is mowing county road ditches first and will eventually mow the town road ditches. Brazee sent a message to Riesterer & Schnell about leasing a mower deck for next year. She knows someone who has a tractor that might be interested in doing the town ditches.

O'Connell mentioned that the survey came back from the comp plan. McNamee stated that 80% of the people who filled out the survey were 50 years old or older, the residents don't want to see much change, and only 8.8% of the residents completed the survey. O'Connell was hoping for more participation. He said if the people in the town don't want to see change and that is why getting the comp plan in place can assist in defending against outside influences working against that.

O'Connell attended the ECWRPC in Appleton. One of the topics of discussion is transportation. There could be grant money available for roads, especially high traffic roads with accidents. There is a push to include some rural roads. He will keep going to the meetings and providing updates.

Motion to adjourn made by Devens/seconded by McNamee. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Maggie Starr
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Don O'Connell
Chairman