

**TOWN OF BLACK BROOK
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
November 20, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 8:10pm by Chairman, Erik Henningsgard. Supervisor I, Jake Macholl; Supervisor II, Matt Belle Isle; Treasurer, Melissa Pechacek; and Clerk, Janel Belle Isle were also present.

There were 7 additional residents in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Confirmation of meeting notices, pursuant to Wisconsin Stats.19.84 was made by the Chairman.

AGENDA: Erik entertained a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion/second; Matt/Jake. Motion carried.**

MINUTES: Erik entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2025 board meeting. **Motion/second; Jake/Matt. Motion carried.**

VOUCHERS: Erik entertained a motion to approve the vouchers and pay the bills. **Motion/second; Jake/Matt. Motion carried.**

CLERK REPORT: Finished working through the budget and now preparing for year end processes like the quarterly reporting/W2s/1099s/next year's election prep. We received the annual Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) "Draft" Dues Invoice. WTA dues will be \$1340 and beginning in 2026, the Town Advocacy Council (TAC) membership will be required, with dues being \$250; combined invoice coming in March 2026.

In the last few weeks, I've been doing my best to field many emails, calls and visits from residents.

TREASURER REPORT: Our October checking beginning balance was \$119,606.24 and ended the month at \$134,262.67. The business savings ended at \$5.01. Our Business Money Market is at \$247,274.59. Equipment fund is at \$65,850.40 and property tax account remains at \$0.04. The road maintenance checking account is at \$728.04 and the road maintenance savings is at \$5.00, bringing our total financial assets on October 31, 2025 to \$446,684.90.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS:

Matt: Fence dispute between Mr. Carlson and Mr. Stahlheim was settled.

Attended Clear Lake EMS meeting. They needed to hire a new medical director who will receive a \$36,000 annual salary which will be shared cost, so an additional \$4500 will be added to next year's charges. They also voted to order a new ambulance for \$407,589.00. It will take 3 to 4 years to build. They have some money saved and they plan to do fundraising as well as search for grants to apply for. No payment will be due from municipalities until delivered. Their goal is to get two ambulances that have matching boxes on a rotation that is manageable.

Prioritized the remaining changes needed at the shop and would like to put that on the December agenda to discuss.

Jake: Attended Northwest ambulance service meeting last week. Doing a remount on an ambulance, which will be \$335,000.00. The box is good, so just getting a new chassis & engine, cheaper than a brand-new ambulance. The increase of \$4 per capita has all been used to decrease debt. Looking to consolidate loans to be in a good position to get a new ambulance every 2 to 3 years – they have 5, so they would each be on a 10 – 12 year cycle. The equipment inside them is the main cost. Attended the Amery Fire meeting; will talk about later.

Was also elected as the chairman of the Amery Fire Committee.

Working on getting road ratings into the state of Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) program.

ROADS REPORT: Aaron unable to attend. Erik gave his report. He has been working on arm mowing, cutting back brush; putting up new fire numbers; he put the plows, wings and sanders on trucks; put the wing back on the grader; and brought in a load of salt/sand to the pad that was paved for it. Erik registered the new location with the state for salt/sand storage. Fahrner got their crack sealing and flex patching done.

CHIEF REPORT: Nothing exciting in the town. Ran surveillance on 60th for an hour – one stop of a UTV with a warning.

ANIMAL REPORT: Erik called Polk County dispatch to make sure Dale Wood is listed as the person to call first for animal calls, then Clear Lake Police Dept., followed by Darel Hall.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: 547 Hwy 46, town attorney is handling the continuation of the abatement process. Polk County is also working with the owner to ensure compliance with county zoning code and have requested access to the property.

The residence that was in violation of multiple building codes and deemed uninhabitable is now back in compliance.

Attended the Amery Fire Department meeting. They will be selling some old equipment. Lincoln and Alden submitted letters of intent to withdraw from Amery fire service area contract. No decisions, good discussion.

Submitted application for Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) for funding from the Department of Transportation. The project submitted for is to pulverize and pave 30th Ave, west of Hwy CC. Program will fund about \$20,000 of a 300,000 project, nothing in stone.

New shop improvements will be on next month's agenda. The building is good, and improvements will be made as needed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dennis Carson would like to see annual financial statements presented in a more detailed format.

Matt O'Connell suggested the recordings of the town meetings to be posted on the website.

Matt O'Connell suggested that the agenda and minutes be posted on the website further in advance.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Adopt Resolution 2025-01 regarding the 2025 town tax levy, payable in 2026.**
Motion/second; Jake/Matt to adopt resolution 2025-01 regarding the 2025 town tax levy, payable in 2026. Erik read the resolution aloud as well as the results from the electors meeting. **Roll call vote; Matt, aye; Erik, aye; Jake, aye. Motion carried.**
2. **Truck radios:** Aaron priced out 2 radios for the town plow trucks that will be able to communicate with each other as well as with neighboring towns during plow season. The estimate is for \$1664, mounted. **Motion/second; Matt/Jake to purchase two radios per the estimate.** Discussion. **Motion carried.**
3. **Employee wages:** Erik gave justification of a proposed raise for Aaron Kemling, road supervisor, and raise will be effective in January 2026.
Motion/second; Erik/Jake to increase Road Supervisor's wage from \$27.30 to \$28.80 per hour. Discussion. **Motion carried.**
Motion/second; Matt/Jake to increase dumpster attendants wage from \$15.00 to \$16.00 per hour. Discussion. **Motion carried.**
Motion/second; Erik/Matt to increase back-up town workers wage from \$18.00 to \$20.00 per hour. Discussion. **Motion carried.**
4. **Employee holiday gifts: Motion/second; Erik/Matt to give Aaron a \$500 holiday gift and to give Marty and Terry each a \$100 holiday gift. Motion carried.**
5. **Approve the final budget for 2026: Motion/second; Jake/Matt to approve the 2026 proposed budget. Roll call vote; Matt, aye; Erik, aye; Jake, aye. Motion carried.**
6. **Nuisance violations in Deer Park area:** Noted 3 properties in violation.
36 Hwy 46, Deer Park: Tony is here. Has 7 plow trucks – all run and are licensed. A couple cars will be leaving soon. Rubbish is being worked on – admits to falling behind and will continue to work on it. No action, board wants to see progress.
46 111th St, Deer Park: James is not here. Erik spoke with him multiple times and he is aware of what needs to be done on his property and is working toward compliance. No action, board will keep an eye on it for forward progress.
1105 4th St, Deer Park: Jason is here. He recently moved here, and explained building materials are on his property, as he will be re-siding the house soon. The recyclables have been taken care of, and he will maintain that. No action.
7. **Fire service coverage:** Discussion only. Looking at service coverage from all Black Brook's fire service providers and how they figure their charges to the municipalities they serve. Not interested in changing the boundaries of those service areas but thinking of costs and how the different fire departments operate. Town is happy with services received from all fire departments. The struggle with juggling the budgets and the rising costs of emergency resources is getting harder.

8. **Annual or bi-annual audit:** The board has talked about this in the past. The town is not required to have audits due to there being checks and balances and full reconciliation between the clerk and treasurer every month, each running their own set of books. The board agrees that they are confident in the work of both the clerk and the treasurer. Clerk noted that she is also required to file a fully detailed financial report annually with the Department of Revenue. Taylor Larson, Clerk of Amery, was in attendance and explained how a municipal audit is conducted. The board feels that the request for this agenda item is due to opinions of very few and is not interested in hiring a firm to conduct an audit. No action.

9. **Five-person board:** The current board did try to bring this to referendum last April, at the suggestion of a few residents, to ask town electors if the town should move from a 3-person to a 5-person board. At that time, it was found that a law passed in 2023 does not allow nonbinding referenda to be on a ballot and that this decision lies solely with the board. Most towns around this size have 3 person boards. Much discussion from electors present. The board will continue to accept feedback from people in the town on this matter. If there is greater interest in expanding the board for additional representation, further thought on this matter will be considered. No action.

Motion/second; Jake/Matt to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.

Respectfully posted by:

Erik Henningsgard, Chairman

Janel Belle Isle, Clerk