



Village of Black Earth
Village Board Meeting
1210 Mills St., Black Earth, WI 53515
Tuesday January 6, 2026, | 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – Meeting called to order by Terry Moyer at 6:00PM. In attendance: Terry Moyer, Mitch Hodson (by phone), Dylan Helmenstine, Jen Schuetz, Nathan Cavanagh, Tom Marks and Joe Winandy. Also in attendance is Matt Kahl – Public Works Director and Carla Huston – Library Director and Kurt Meier – Vanguard Electrical Superintendent.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance.
3. A copy of the agenda notice was delivered to the following By Monday, January 5, 2026: emailed to the Editor of the Times Tribune - Black Earth; posted at the Black Earth Municipal Building, Black Earth Post Office, and the Black Earth Web Page. – Read aloud by Terry Moyer.
4. Public Comment (Please limit to 3 minutes)
 - a. Scott Patchin: Would like to see the clock on the front of the municipal building fixed.
5. Discussion/Action: Approval of meeting minutes from December 2, 2025. – Motion to approve by Jen Schuetz, second by Nathan Cavanagh. All ayes none opposed, and motion carried unanimously.
6. Discussion/Action: Tax Exemption for 2025 Property Taxes on 1705 Center St. – Called in PJ Rein (Associated Appraisals Appraisal Consultant), explained that the property owner was still charged 2025 Property Taxes due to the IRS not accepting the tax exemption application until June 27, 2025. Motion by Jen Schuetz to prorate 2025 Property Taxes from January 1st – June 26th, 2025, and the property owner would be exempt per the IRS exemption from June 27th – December 31st. Second by Dylan Helmenstine, motion carried on a 6-1-0 vote Winandy opposed.
7. Discussion/Action: Vierbicher 2026 Planning Services – Motion by Jen Schuetz to approve the 2026 Vierbicher Contract, second by Tom Marks. All ayes, none opposed motion carried unanimously.
8. Discussion/Action: Invoices to be Paid - Motion to approve invoices by Dylan Helmenstine, second by Joe Winandy all ayes none opposed motion carried unanimously.
9. Committee Reports
 - a. Clerk/Treasurer & Financial Reports – Account standings provided by Beth Marty.
 - b. Vanguard Commission (Hodson) – Not met yet.
 - c. Electrical Superintendent Report (Meier) – Had an outage down Center Street and out into the rural area over the holidays. Another outage on 12/26 due to a vehicle crash. Took down the holiday lights.
 - d. Black Earth Fire District (Moyer) Met Nov 6, next meeting January 15.
 - e. Dane-Iowa Wastewater Commission (Moyer) – Met December 18th, discussion and presentation with Town and Country Engineering regarding service costs for projected construction.
 - f. Economic Development Committee (Helmenstine) – Will meet on January 28th, will discuss bicycle infrastructure grant.
 - g. Emergency Management (Helmenstine) – Next meeting February 5th.
 - h. EMS Committee (Helmenstine) – Not met since last time.
 - i. Gateway to the Driftless (Schuetz) – Didn't meet in December
 - j. Library Board (Cavanagh) – Met on December 16th, author fair went well, discussion of budgeted amount from last year, if not spent does it roll over? H&R Block may come to discuss tax preparation. Granted SCLS to forgive old fines so the software can be updated. Next meeting January 20th.
 - k. Library Director Report (Huston) – Tech Time on Wednesdays to help people with devices. Having a program on January 24th – Hygge Workshop. Wondering about a community garden location in the Village?
 - l. President's Report (Moyer) – Tax bills went out timely, office is receiving payments. First quarter of the year is going to be focused on Handbook reviews. Hoping to bring it to the board in sections to make things timelier.
 - m. Public Works Director Report (Kahl) – Doing inventory, snow removal – had one mailbox casualty. Meter reading, new meter installs, fall clean-up, etc.
 - n. Public Works Committee (Hodson) – None in December, next one is January 27th at 6:30PM
 - o. Parks Committee – None in December, next one is January 27th at 5:30PM
 - p. Police Committee (Moyer) – Not met since September. Hope to continue meeting quarterly.

10. Motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats 19.85(1)(c), Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. (Compensation/Benefits Package) – Motion by Dylan Helmenstine, second by Jen Schuetz.
11. Motion to arise from closed session – Motion by Jen Schuetz, second by Tom Marks all ayes motion carried.
12. Discussion/Action on items discussed in closed session. – Motion to change the maximum hours of sick leave to 1040 retroacted back three years from January 1, 2026, by Dylan Helmenstine, second by Jen Schuetz. All ayes, none opposed motion carried unanimously.
13. Any other business that may be brought before the board on future agendas.
 - a. Ehlers to do Budget/Levy Workshop in February
14. Setting of the Next Village Board Meeting – Tuesday, February 3, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
15. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Mitch Hodson, second by Dylan Helmenstine. Adjourned at 7:01PM.

Minutes taken from audio by Dani Eastman – Deputy Clerk Treasurer.

Village Board Members

Terry Moyer, Mitch Hodson, Dylan Helmenstine, Jen Schuetz, Nathan Cavanagh, Tom Marks and Joe Winandy

Requests for persons with disabilities who need assistance to participate in this meeting should be made to The Village Office at 608-767-2563.