



**Village of Black Earth**  
**Village Board Meeting**  
1210 Mills St., Black Earth, WI 53515  
Tuesday, February 3, 2026, | 6:00 p.m.

**DRAFT Minutes**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – Terry Moyer called to order at 6:00 PM. In attendance: Terry Moyer, Mitch Hodson (by phone), Dylan Helmenstine, Jen Schuetz, Nathan Cavanagh, Tom Marks, Joe Winandy. Also in attendance: Matt Kahl – Public Works Director, Kurt Meier – Vanguard Superintendent, Carla Huston – Library Director, Beth Marty – Clerk Treasurer and Dani Eastman – Deputy Clerk Treasurer.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance.
3. A copy of the agenda notice was delivered to the following By Monday, February 2, 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) – None today.
5. Discussion/Action: on Budgeting and Levy Limits 101, presentation by Ehlers – Brian Roemer and Ariana Schmidt in attendance to give presentation. Discussion held, no action today.
6. Discussion/Action: Electric Rate Case update, presentation by Ehlers – Brian Roemer and Ariana Schmidt in attendance to give presentation. Discussion on Rate of Return (ROR) presented from PSC Electric Rate Case review. Presented current ask of 6.7%ROR vs increasing to 12.9%ROR due to 6.7% possibly being inadequate. Motion by Mitch Hodson to request 12.9% to the PSC, second by Dylan Helmenstine. All ayes, none opposed motion carried.
7. Discussion/Action: Approval of meeting minutes from January 6, 2026. – Motion to approve minutes by Jen Schuetz second by Nathan Cavanagh. All ayes, none opposed motion carried unanimously.
8. Discussion/Action: Kwik Trip – Updated Agent Forms – Motion to approve the updated agent forms by Dylan Helmenstine, second by Nathan Cavanagh. All ayes, none opposed motion carried unanimously.
9. Discussion/Action: Annexation of Substation and Water Tower parcels (Recommendation from Public Works Committee) – Motion to proceed with Vierbicher’s services to help annex the substation and water tower parcels into the Village by Dylan Helmenstine, second by Jen Schuetz. All ayes, none opposed motion carried unanimously.
10. Discussion/Action: Invoices to be Paid – Motion to approve invoices by Jen Schuetz, second by Dylan Helmenstine. All ayes, none opposed motion carried unanimously.
11. Committee Reports
  - a. Clerk/Treasurer & Financial Reports – Beth Marty reported account standings. Office is finishing up tax collection, year end filing, and preparing for the Spring Primary on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Vanguard Commission (Hodson) – Approved purchase of new truck.
  - c. Electrical Superintendent Report (Meier) – Working on tree lines, put on pause to do vehicle/equipment maintenance with the cold weather.
  - d. Black Earth Fire District (Moyer) – Mitch attended for Terry. Some discussion on the BEFD/MZFD consolidation, but waiting on the report prior to more discussion. Next meeting in March.
  - e. Dane-Iowa Wastewater Commission (Moyer) – Approved retirement of Jeff Moyer in May 2026, internal shift in employees and now hiring for an entry level employee.
  - f. Economic Development Committee (Helmenstine) – Met last week, discussed bike grant. Would like to meet with the Gateway to the Driftless and Dane County Planning representative on March 9<sup>th</sup> regarding the trail updates and such.
  - g. Emergency Management (Helmenstine) – Next meeting in March.
  - h. EMS Committee (Helmenstine) – EMS building needs updates and the need to pay full time employees and benefits, municipalities can expect to see an increase in levy ask in the upcoming years.
  - i. Gateway to the Driftless (Schuetz) – Not met.
  - j. Library Board (Cavanagh) – Trivia night was a hit, New Library Expansion Committee to meet soon.
  - k. Library Director Report (Huston) – Trivia night was a success, proceeds go to a scholarship for a WHHS senior, possibly being split to two scholarships this year. A few new programs coming in March and April. The Expansion Committee now has 8 people attending the committee meeting.
  - l. President’s Report (Moyer) – Working on the handbook, office is working hard doing end of year paperwork, finishing up taxes and preparing for the upcoming Spring Primary.

- m. Public Works Committee (Hodson) – Met last week, committee approved ordering and replacing the final two lights on Mills St. PW reported one residential freeze up, and they were able to help replace that. Also, Vanguard helped to get the replacement parts for the Municipal Building clock. Discussion on benches, flowerpots, compost and electric meter reading. Hoping to have more information for the next meeting on electric meter prices. Next meeting in March.
  - n. Parks Committee – Discussion from a group on the mountain bike paths in Tower Park. Also had a group in attendance for support of redoing the infield of the small softball diamond, this is tentatively set to happen in May. Will have to put shelter in Black Earth Creek Park out to bid before we can decide who we'd like to proceed with. Next meeting in March.
  - o. Police Committee (Moyer) – Will try to meet in the first quarter.
- 12.** Any other business that may be brought before the board on future agendas.
- a. Main Street Plan
- 13.** Setting of the Next Village Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 3, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
- 14.** Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Jen Schuetz, second by Tom Marks. Adjourned at 7:27PM.

Minutes taken from meeting 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.