



# Village of Black Earth

## Village Board Meeting

1210 Mills St., Black Earth, WI 53515

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – Meeting called to order by President Moyer. Roll Call – Scott Patchin, Pam Louis-Reindl, Tyler Munson (by phone), Mitch Hodson, Dylan Helmenstine, Tom Marks, and Terry Moyer. Quorum confirmed. Also in attendance, Craig Abegglen – Clerk Treasurer, Matt Kahl – Public Works Director and Kurt Meier – Vanguard Electrical Superintendent.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all
3. Proof of Posting: A copy of the notice was delivered to the following By **Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**: emailed to the Editor of the Times-Tribune and Lake Ridge Bank in 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 present.
5. Discussion/Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes from: 3/4/2025 -Motion to approve by Scott Patchin, seconded by Mitch Hodson. All ayes, none opposed. Motion carried.
6. Discussion/Action: Approval of Chicken Keeping Application – Thomas Wiza 1910 Mills St. – Motion by Dylan Helmenstine, seconded by Mitch Hodson to approve the application. Discussion on setbacks and location of the coop on the map provided in the application. All ayes, none opposed. Motion carried to approve the application.
7. Discussion/Action: Approval of Per Mar Door Access Proposals – Quotes for security locks on the door in case of an emergency. The board requested comparison bids and also an “action plan”. The board would also like to see the bids include the entire building with the library as if there is an issue, the library and the police department office would be at risk as well. No action taken today.
8. Discussion/Action: Approval of Simple Solutions IT Proposal – No action taken today, requesting additional bids.
  - a. Security System – Discussion of quotes for the security system and potential to add on cameras as we have discussed in the past for security the parks. – Board would like to see additional quotes for this security system.
  - b. PW Upgrade – Board would also like to see additional bids for this upgrade as well.
9. Discussion/Action: Interim Appointment for Scott Patchin to Vanguard Committee. – Motion by Pam Louis-Reindl and seconded by Mitch Hodson. All ayes, none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Discussion/Action: Grant Proposals by Katie Morrow – Discussed all grant opportunities presented. Dylan Helmenstine moves to have the grant writer move forward with this as recommended at the discretion of the President. Seconded by Scott Patchin. All ayes, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.
11. Discussion/Action: Invoices to be Paid – Pam Louis-Reindl moves to approve invoices as presented, seconded by Scott Patchin. Discussion of Govoffice invoice – unsure if this is a yearly/quarterly/one time fee, will check and report back to the board. Invoice is for website maintenance/upgrade. Will, at some point, be required for municipality websites to be ADA compliant and this will help get us there. All ayes to approve invoices, none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.
12. Committee Reports
  - a. Clerk/Treasurer & Financial Reports (Abegglen) – 2023 audit not complete yet, Wipfli hoping to be done in about a week. Discussed financial standings. The Spring Election went well yesterday. Johnson Block will be doing our Form C this year, last year was turned in late and we lost funds. It is unsure who will be completing our 2024 audit, Johnson Block is too busy, Wipfli not sure that they want to work with us any further. Will be compiling bids for 2024 audit. Discussion on Municipal Courts funds account amount and if we can transfer some into a money market?
  - b. Vanguard Commission – Next meeting is 4/15.
  - c. Electrical Superintendent Report (Meier) – Finishing up with tree trimming, started digging services for customers. Some of the new streetlights have arrived and will start working on

those. Office manager will be out on leave for 12 weeks this fall, asked Lydia Caminiti, previous office manager, if she would be interested in helping during this time. They will be setting up a time to discuss with her. Substation is moving along. The new employee is great, very happy with him.

- d. Black Earth Fire District – Met March 6<sup>th</sup>, had a regular/routine audit which was expected. The boat is in for graphics, the old boat went to Wisconsin Surplus. Meet again on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Had a joint meeting with Mazo Fire and EMS. Black Earth and Mazomanie Fire Departments are going to be training once a month together. Will be adding Mazomanie Fire Department to most if not all of their calls. If the merger works out, we would be one district, with two stations. Will be another merger meeting on June 12.
- e. Dane-Iowa Wastewater Commission - Met on March 20<sup>th</sup>, no violations. Will be a bit of change as Arena has a new President so the board will be reorganizing at next meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- f. Economic Development Committee - No update.
- g. Emergency Management – No update, working on a meeting. Hoping that by next February we will have a new Emergency Management Plan that can be updated annually.
- h. EMS Committee – Next meeting is 4/3. The board will be having a changeover due to the election. Dan Behringer is stepping down as President, not leaving committee though. Discussion of hiring an EMS Director vs. consolidation.
- i. Gateway to the Driftless - Next meeting is tomorrow morning at 7AM.
- j. Library Board – See Director Report.
- k. Library Director Report (Hustad) – Welcome Carla – Note, last name is Huston, not Hustad for future agendas. Friends of the Library book sale is happening in April. Did just get a notification that the South Central Library System - Institute of Library and Museum Services has been shut down due to federal funding cuts. This institute gave grants to libraries and museums. SCLS grant was supposed to be awarded to BEPL today, have not heard if that went through or not. This will impact the Black Earth Public Library in the future as there is some funding received from them.
- l. President's Report (Moyer) – Extended thanks to our outgoing trustees – Tom Marks and Scott Patchin, both have been valuable assets to our board. We will welcome Tyler Munson back for an additional term. We also will be welcoming Jen Schuetz and Nathan Cavanagh to our team. Please stop by to sign oath in the office and will take office effective 4/16. On March 18<sup>th</sup> the Wisconsin Heights Coalition met, this coalition keeps lines of communication between villages – Mazomanie and Black Earth, and the school district open. Met with Lake Ridge Bank 3/26, reviewed accounts, Beth is working on follow up items there. Reminded trustees to start thinking about committee preferences as that will be discussed at the next meeting. Tom Marks thanked board members for welcoming him in, it was a pleasure working with them. Reminded Terry that she wanted to say something about a property. Terry Moyer updated that we have an accepted cash offer, no contingencies, on 1130 Mills St. and this property will be closed at the end of the month. The buyers know that there is no driveway access to Mills St.
- m. Public Works Director Report (Kahl) – The crew has been working on the Black Earth Creek Project. If the weather dries up will be working on stormwater projects. Have bids coming in for crack filling and chip sealing. We have someone coming out on Friday for a demonstration on the new sound system at Jerry Barsness Field. Working on opening up parks, thatching, weed and feed, etc. Ice rink is down, tennis net back up. Have started working on brush chipping again. Clarified, Black Earth Creek Project is the Black Earth Creek Park.
- n. Public Works Committee – Not met, will meet in May.
- o. Parks Committee – Not met, will meet in May.
- p. Police Committee – Did not meet first quarter, will meet second quarter and continue meeting quarterly. Will work with Natalie to set up a time so both villages can be present if they wish as there are some details to discuss.

**13.** 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. (Employee Reviews) – Scott Patchin

moves to enter closed session – read aloud as above. Second by Pam Louis-Reindl at 6:50PM. Roll Call: Terry Moyer, Scott Patchin, Pam Louis-Reindl, Tyler Munson, Mitch Hodson, Dylan Helmenstine and Tom Marks.

14. Motion to arise from Closed Session and reconvene in Open Session – Scott Patchin moved to arise from seconded, by Tom Marks. – Roll Call – Terry Moyer, Scott Patchin, Pam Louis-Reindl, Tyler Munson, Mitch Hodson, Dylan Helmenstine and Tom Marks.
15. Discussion/Action: Closed Session items – Scott Patchin moved to approve the actions as discussed in closed session seconded by Mitch Hodson – motion carried unanimously.
16. Any other business that may be brought before the board on future agendas. – None at this time.
17. Setting of the Next Village Board Meeting: May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025
18. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Scott Patchin, seconded by Tom Marks. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

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Village Board Members

Terry Moyer, Scott Patchin, Pam Louis-Reindl, Tyler Munson, Mitch Hodson, Dylan Helmenstine, Tom Marks

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

Minutes taken from audio by Dani Eastman – Village Administrative Assistant