



# Village of Black Earth

## Village Board Meeting

### Organizational Meeting

1210 Mills St., Black Earth, WI 53515

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.

## Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: Clerk called roll. Present: Terry Moyer, Scott Patchin, Pam Louis-Reindl, Sarah Morrow, Mitch Hodson, Dylan Helmenstine; Tyler Munson present via phone. Also present: PWD Matt Kahl, Clerk Dani Fields, Vanguard Superintendent Kurt Meier, Library Director Bailey Anderson.
2. Pledge of Allegiance Recited
3. Proof of Posting: *Read aloud.*
4. Public Comment
  - a. Troy Esser of 4804 State Rd 78 present to discuss agenda item regarding 1311 Madison St, would like to comment during that discussion if Board would allow. Board agreed.
5. Discussion/Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2024 and April 9, 2024  
*Morrow/Patchin motion to approve 4/9 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*  
*Hodson/louis-Reindl motion to approve 3/18 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*
6. Discussion/Action: Board/Committee Assignments
  - a. Moyer stated committee assignments are as included in the packets.
  - b. Helmenstine: EMS, Emergency Management, Library Board. Hodson: Emergency Management, Parks, Police. Louis-Reindl: Board of Appeals, EDC, Police, Public Works. Morrow: Board of Review, Emergency Management, Parks, Plan Commission. Munson: Board of Review, Economic Development Committee, Emergency Management, Gateway to the Driftless, Public Works. Patchin: Parks, Plan Commission, Public Works, Vanguard. Moyer: BEFD, Board of Appeals, Board of Review, Dane-Iowa Wastewater, Plan Commission.  
*Hodson/ Louis-Reindl motion to approve committee appointments. Motion carried unanimously.*
  - c. Library Board Community Member: Cathy Wittenwyler  
*Hodson/Helmenstine motion to approve Cathy Wittenwyler for Library Board*
  - d. Police committee community member: Jackie Falch  
*Moyer/Hodson to approve Jackie Falch for Police Committee. Motion carried unanimously.*
7. Discussion/Action: Temporary Alcohol Licenses/Picnic License Applications, Fee Waiver: for American Legion Post 313 and Home Talent Baseball  
*Louis-Reindl/Patchin motion to approve as presented and to waive fees. Motion carried unanimously.*
8. Discussion/Action: Street Use Application: Closure of Webb Street between Mills and Center St. June 29, 2024
  - a. Discussion on application form's completeness and no listing of a responsible party.  
*Louis-Reindl/Hodson motion to approve contingent upon completion of form and to list a responsible party.*
  - b. Discussion on Village ordinance restricting length of time of street closure.  
*Motion rescinded by Louis-Reindl/Hodson.*
  - c. The application was not approved. Applicant should resubmit application for consideration at June board meeting.
9. Discussion/Action: 1311 Madison St, Parcel 107/0806-264-5612-4 and Consideration of Raze Order
  - a. Troy Esser present with Sharon Esser and John Esser. Stated that they are hoping to work out a plan. Stated they have intentions to do more of the property but have been tied up with other businesses at the moment.
  - b. Board decided to discuss at June board meeting. Board told owners that they have 30 days to hire an engineer to assess if building is structurally sound.
10. Discussion/Action: Vierbicher Community Housing Survey, Comprehensive Plan Update
  - a. Timelines presented.
11. Discussion/Action: GO Note Spending

- a. Fields stated committees need to prioritize for GO and ARPA spending in May and June committee meetings. Funds must be spent by July 31.

**12. Discussion/Action: Invoices to be Paid**

*Louis-Reindl/Morrow motion to approve invoices as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

**13. Discussion/Action: Approval of Octagon Towers Purchase Agreement and Easement Agreement**

- a. Louis-Reindl exits meeting room at 6:34 pm

*Hodson/Morrow motion to approve as presented. Motion carried 6-0, Louis-Reindl absent.*

**14. Reports:**

- a. Black Earth Fire District – Next meeting May 9.
- b. Clerk/Treasurer & Financial Reports (Fields) Presented updates.
- c. Dane-Iowa Wastewater Commission - Moyer attended April 18. Approved financials, no violations. Visited by DNR and Town and Country. Next meeting May 16.
- d. Economic Development Committee – May 6 meeting. Kahl stated that it was a presentation for Groundswell showing where property easements exist on Black Earth Creek and potential routes for trail planning.

*Louis-Reindl returns to meeting room at 6:42pm.*

- e. Emergency Management – not met.
- f. EMS Committee – Meeting Thursday 5/9
- g. Gateway to the Driftless – Main summary report – Additional funds found for the construction of the bridge project from Sauk and Dane county. Moving timeline up by about 1 year. Additional funds may be available through grants. Candidate for Dane County Executive Melissa Agard present at Gateway meeting.
- h. Library Board – Deferred to Anderson.
- i. Library Director Report (Anderson) Met April 16. Heard board survey results from FEH Design. 58 attendees for Taylor Swift party. Planning summer library programs. Library survey is open until May 31, encouraging everyone to take survey. May 21 next meeting.
- j. President's Report (Moyer) Attended and spoke at The Grove Grand Opening. Met with the Sweeny Group for survey for Library project.
- k. Public Works Director Report (Kahl) Snow plow equipment washed up and in storage. met with Kurt, Alliant, Clerk Fields about new solar projects with School. Well in Veterans Park is pulled. Mower down for repairs. Busy with meter reads, uptick in final reads, street sweeping.
- l. Public Works Committee Date TBD
- m. Parks Committee Has not met. Kahl stated that one of the houses on the Black Earth Creek Park has been removed, working on the other buildings soon. Also stated that he just received a text that Deputy Watkins just stopped the baseball game in Community Park to have everyone move their cars out of the parking lot at the antique mall.
- n. Police Committee not met.
- o. Electrical Superintendent Report (Meier) Hired a new apprentice. Working on getting him signed up for apprenticeship classes in Green Bay. Classes don't start until August. Still working with ATC; need to have an outage for the entire Village at off-peak hour to have connection for ATC. Earliest would be Fall. Stated he has been told to not do projects in Black Earth. Would like to have a budget and to know how much he can spend in Village, make improvements to plant value of utility.
- p. Vanguard Commission – TBD

**15. Motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(e), Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. (Development, Sale, Planning for Parcel 107/0806-264-2831-5; Dane County Police Services Contract; Housing Development Opportunities) (Roll call vote) Louis-Reindl made a motion and read notice aloud. Morrow seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous. Entered into closed session at 7:00pm. Tyler arrived to closed session in-person at 7:26pm.**

**16. Motion to arise from Closed Session and reconvene in Open Session**

*Hodson/Patchin motion to arise from closed session. arose at 7:27 pm*

**17. Discussion/Action on Closed Session items**

Fields and Kahl to contact real estate agents. Future police committee meetings to be scheduled.

**18. 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/Raises) (Roll call vote) Hodson made a motion and read notice aloud. Patchin seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous. Entered into closed session at 7:32pm. Fields and Kahl exit meeting.

Moyer assumed minute taking duties.

**19.** Motion to arise from Closed Session and reconvene in Open Session

Louis-Reindl/Morrow motion to arise from closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

**20.** Discussion/Action on Closed Session items

*Hodson/Moyer motion to approve actions as discussed in closed session. Motion carried.*

Morrow resigned from her Village Board Trustee seat effective immediately based on her relocation to her new home outside the Village (as of 05/07/24). She would no longer meet the criteria of being a resident of the Village of Black Earth. Moyer reported that she will bring new Board member forward as a first agenda item for the June meeting.

**21.** Any other business that may be brought before the board on future agendas

a. Electric Review

**22.** Setting of the Next Village Board Meeting: June 4, 2024

**23.** Adjournment

*Scott Patchin moved to adjourn the meeting. Pam Louis Reindl seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.*