



**Village of Black Earth**  
**Village Board Meeting**  
1210 Mills St., Black Earth, WI 53515  
Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, | 6:00 p.m.

**Minutes**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 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: Matt Kahl – Public Works Director, Carla Huston – Library Director.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance.
3. Proof of Posting: A copy of the agenda notice was delivered to the following By Monday November 3, 2025: 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) – No public in attendance.
5. Presentation: Barracuda Swim Team – Presentation from the Barracuda Swim Team and the benefits members of our community have shared being members of the swim Team. Five swimmers spoke on their personal experiences and growth as members of the team.
6. Discussion/Action: Approval of meeting minutes from October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. – Motion to approve minutes by Jen Schuetz second by Nathan Cavanagh. All ayes, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.
7. Discussion/Action on Recommendation from Plan Commission:
  - a. Floodplain Zoning Ordinance – Chapter 280
    1. Motion to approve the ordinance by Dylan Helmenstine, second by Jen Schuetz. Motion carried 6-0-1 (Joe Winandy abstained).
8. Discussion/Action – Sewer Rate Increase Resolution – Discussion with Nick Bubolz from Town and Country, on Dane-Iowa upgrades which are influencing the proposed sewer rate case. Motion to approve the sewer rate case increase by Dylan Helmenstine second by Nathan Cavanagh. All ayes, none opposed motion carried unanimously.
9. Discussion/Action – Simplified Rate Case Application – Water: The application was started by the recommendation by Johnson Block as it has been a number of years since we have done so. Motion to approve by Dylan Helmenstine, second by Joe Winandy. All ayes, none opposed motion carried unanimously.
10. Discussion/Action – Black Earth Creek Watershed Support – Dylan Helmenstine drafted a letter of the Village of Black Earth in support of an interactive digital site project, and a 3D model portable table of the watershed. Motion by Mitch Hodson to approve the letter of support and include the \$1,500 of support in our budget, second by Jen Schuetz. All ayes, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.
11. President Terry Moyer to amend the agenda for an informational review on 1111 Mills St Conditional Use Permit as this is being held up on receiving an easement from TDS despite their diligent efforts, and even efforts by Public Works Director – Matt Kahl. All in favor of allowing the business to open, but to please reach out to the Plan Commission if problems arise in the future regarding easement.
12. Discussion: 2026 Budget – Moved to agenda item #13 due to swap of items 12/13. Discussion of items related to 2026 budget. Terry would like to see the \$1,500 included for BECWA support, and also a donation of \$250 to the Barracuda Swim Team support.
13. Discussion/Action: Invoices to be Paid – Moved to agenda item # 12 due to Nick from Town and Country here relating to an invoice approval for R&T Voegeli for work in Black Earth Creek Park. Motion to approve invoices as presented by Dylan Helmenstine, second by Mitch Hodson. All ayes, none opposed motion carried unanimously.
14. Committee Reports
  - a. Clerk/Treasurer & Financial Reports
  - b. Vanguard Commission (Hodson) – Valerie is back!
  - c. Electrical Superintendent Report (Meier) – Given by Matt Kahl from Kurt Meier. Valerie is back, happy to have her. She will be prioritizing monthly billing. Crews have been continuing work on the substation and regular maintenance. Mason had apprentice school.

- d. Black Earth Fire District (Moyer) – Mitch attended on Terry Moyers behalf. Approved the budget. Meet again 11/6.
  - e. Dane-Iowa Wastewater Commission (Moyer) – Met 9/16, routine approvals. Meet again 11/20.
  - f. Economic Development Committee (Helmenstine) – Discussion of Bike Rack Grant at the last meeting. Would like \$5000 from budget to get this grant going in 2026. Next meeting is January 28.
  - g. Emergency Management (Helmenstine) – Continuing to make progress on emergency response update.
  - h. EMS Committee (Helmenstine) – not met.
  - i. Gateway to the Driftless (Schuetz) – Was not able to attend but did get the minutes from the meeting. Discussion was held on the shrinking gaps in land between Cross Plains and Black Earth. Working with the Railroad to get the trail to Sauk. Next meeting in January 2026.
  - j. Library Board (Cavanagh)
  - k. Library Director Report (Huston) – Normal business at the last meeting. Discussed upcoming programs. Looking into new services to offer in 2026. Discussion with FEH of expansion, cost cuts took expansion from 20 million down to 7 million.
  - l. President's Report (Moyer) – Budget. Met today with WH Superintendent Michelle McGrath and Natalie Beil for regular meetings and updates.
  - m. Public Works Director Report (Kahl) – Had some sidewalk work done for trip hazards. There was a water main break by Veterans Park a couple of weeks ago. Parks are winterized now and closed up for the season. Submitted for grants, how much we may be awarded depends on the number of other applicants. Updated that Village of Arena had both of their public works employees quit today, and they reached out for potential help. After discussion with Mitch and Terry, it was decided to pass on the offer as to not stretch our employees thin.
  - n. Public Works Committee (Hodson) – Not met
  - o. Parks Committee – Not met.
  - p. Police Committee (Moyer) – Meet 12/9.
- 15.** 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. (Personnel, Promotion, Compensation or Performance) – Motion to enter into closed session by Dylan Helmenstine, second by Nathan Cavanagh. Roll Call: Terry Moyer, Mitch Hodson, Dylan Helmenstine, Jen Schuetz, Nathan Cavanagh, Tom Marks and Joe Winandy. Will excuse Matt Kahl. Entered closed session at 6:45PM.
- 16.** Motion to arise from closed session. – Motion by Jen Schuetz second by Dylan Helmenstine to arise from closed session at 7:25PM. All ayes, none opposed.
- 17.** Discussion/Action on items discussed in closed session. – None.
- 18.** Any other business that may be brought before the board on future agendas.
- a. Community survey of what residents would like to see on Main St. – January 2026
- 19.** Setting of the Next Village Board Meeting:
- a. Tuesday November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 6:00 PM (Budget Workshop/Special Meeting/Public Hearing)  
**1. Amended to 5:30PM.**
  - b. Tuesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 @ 6:00PM (Regular Board Meeting/Public Hearing)
- 20.** Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Tom Marks, second by Joe Winandy. All ayes, none opposed adjourned at 7:42PM.

Minutes taken from meeting audio and President's notes by Dani Eastman – Village Administrative Assistant.

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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.