

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Town of Silver Cliff
Regular Town Board Meeting
Wednesday October 15th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. located at the Silver Cliff Town Hall, Marinette County WI

Minutes

1. Call to order at 7:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll call: Chair Dee Farley, Supervisor Jim Fencil, Supervisor Scott Volkmann, Treasurer Carol Kitchmaster, Constable Sabin Rosenbaum, and Clerk Lisa Weinrich; Verification of Meeting Notice was posted at the Town Website, Town Hall, Red Pine BP, and The Rustic
3. Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Scott Volkmann made a motion to approve the agenda, Supervisor Jim Fencil seconded, motion carried.
4. Approval of Town Board Meeting Minutes; August 15th special meeting; September 9th regular meeting; Supervisor Scott Volkmann made a motion to approve the minutes, Supervisor Jim Fencil seconded, motion carried.
5. Approval of Payroll, Vouchers, and Bills
 - a. Check #10492 to Check #10537; Supervisor Scott Volkmann made a motion to approve the vouchers and bills, Supervisor Jim Fencil seconded, motion carried

Consider for discussion, approval, or other actionable items:

6. Bob Collins to present donations: Charlie Collins was a long time resident that moved here from Milwaukee and fell in love with Silver Cliff, after he passed his brother Bob took on the responsibility of taking care of his estate which included selling of Charlie's residence, Bob was impressed with all the help he received during this process and was happy to fulfill his brother's wishes to give back to our community Bob was especially appreciative to Don Schmidt and Jeff DeBauche for all they did to help. Bob Collins present donations in his brother's name, there are five donations at \$10,000 each, beginning with Suzanne Bell with the Presbyterian Church in appreciation for all the local work that you do, next is Joanne Sisler of the Silver Cliff Rescue Squad in appreciation for stopping over a two week period before he had to go into medical facility and the care they provided, next is the Fire Department and Dan Simmers had spoken to Bob about raising funds for a new Rescue UTV Jim Sommers accepted the check for Dan, next was Dee Farley to accept the donation to help clean up the Park from the remnants of the tornado, lastly was the Silver Cliff Fire Rescue Auxiliary Ann Wender to use the donation for the children's christmas party and education because he loved working with children.
7. Approve expenditure of County Tax Collection fees; Supervisor Jim Fencil made a motion to have Marinette County collect our taxes, Supervisor Scott Volkmann seconded, motion carried
8. Approve of expenditure of LRIP contract funding; Supervisor Jim Fencil made a motion to approve the LRIP number 17783 contract, Supervisor Scott Volkmann seconded, motion carried
9. Approve possible hiring of new assessor, Elizabeth Polacek; Chair Dee Farley spoke with her and she is willing to work with our municipality and her hire date would be January 1, 2026 however she will contact Peter Liptack prior to begin the process before that with approval of her contract. Elizabeth Polacek also stated that she hopes to have Silver Cliff re-evaluated by August, further discussion regarding the process of re-evaluation, Elizabeth Polacek plans to attend the November meeting and introduce herself, we are currently not in compliance with state mandate, she has a 5 year contract

Respectfully Submitted by Lisa K. Weinrich, Silver Cliff Town Clerk

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with \$38,000 for the first year, Supervisor Jim Fencil made a motion to hire Assessor Elizabeth Polacek, Supervisor Scott Volkmann seconded, motion carried

10. Set date for Electors Public Hearing regarding the 2026 Budget; after lengthy discussion it was set to have the Electors Public Hearing on November 18th, 2025 at 6:00 pm
11. Set date for Special Board Meeting to vote on the 2026 Budget is now set for November 18th, 2025 immediately following the Electors Public Hearing
12. Approval to pay bills between board meetings so we stop paying late fees for WPS, Brightspeed, Great Trust, US Bank Finance (copier rental), state/federal taxes, and quarterly taxes; Supervisor Scott Volkmann made a motion to use ACH to pay bills between board meetings so stop paying late fees, Supervisor Jim Fencil seconded, motion carried
13. Roaring Rapids Development Update; Planning Commission Chair Sabin Rosenbaum stated that he was having issues finding a lawyer to give us legal advice without having to pay a retaining fee, there was work that had started again on the road in question, Supervisor Scott Volkmann asked about going through WTA for legal advice and Sabin Rosenbaum stated that was the first place made inquiries to and they told him that we had no recourse, Chair Dee Farley stated that we will wait to see what happens and will not hire a lawyer unless we have to, she also stated we will not accept responsibility for a road especially in such bad shape and poorly constructed and does not meet our standards. Sabin also stated that he would like to pursue trying to find legal advice without spending more than a few hundred dollars and is waiting to hear back from another lawyer

Reports/ Updates

14. Supervisor 1 Report; a few complaints about Old J Road's shoulder which should be done soon and a few inquiries regarding recycling.
15. Supervisor 2 Report; "Welcome Don Schmidt back into the fold", he also stated that the road work that is being done is Spectrum and he said that they hope to have fiber optic in by Christmas and will start hooking it up. He also stated that after one month of no service they finally came to hook up his line and his service was worse than before it went down, so he suggested T Mobile as an alternative
16. Treasurer's Report: Checking \$18,766.15, Money Market \$119,260.45, Tax Account \$148,500.89, Scott Construction Bill was \$96,900 but was not the total amount according to Supervisor Jim Fencil for the chip sealing it would be about \$30,000 or a little more. Chair Dee Farley wanted to know where that money was coming from? Treasurer Carol Kitchmaster stated that she was going to take our money out of the tax account and put into the money market to pay for the bill and Supervisor Jim Fencil asked if we got the \$54,000 and Treasurer Carol Kitchmaster confirmed it is currently in the Money Market, we also took some money out for Klug Lane and we have one CD that is \$198,000

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17. Constable's Report: Constable Sabin Rosenbaum in October he has been checking building permits and we do have a dog in doggie jail waiting for the owners to come forward but doesn't think that will happen since the dog has apparently been running loose for some time and Roberta Knier stated that there is a cat running around loose in the recycling area and has been for some time
18. Planning Commission Report: Planning Commission Chair was unable to post the agenda so they were not able to have a meeting but they have been working on the short term rental ordinance
19. Recycling Committee Report: Supervisor Jim Fencil gave the report due to Chair Sue Victoreen was not in attendance, the new signs are up and look really great thank you Curt Allen for making them. Roberta Knier stated that the bins were full on Sunday and that a guy had 2 air conditioners and a freezer but when she told him how much it would be he said he would just drop off the freezer and dump the air conditioners at the dump. Supervisor Jim Fencil stated that if anything happens like that again where the resident isn't happy about the prices to take a picture of the license plate in the event we find 2 air conditioners in the ditch we have a good idea of where they came from. Roberta also stated that there were 2 mattresses left at the recycle center on Wednesday that were not there on Sunday. Supervisor Fencil also stated that they plan on putting pallets in the blue building to store mattresses so they don't get soaked adding to the weight and we can either have Jeff DeBauche put the mattresses in the dumpster or have JnS come and compact them. Chair Dee Farley asked about the cost of having a compactor her and they clarified that it was not a compactor but a regular garbage truck they use for compacting. Chair Dee Farley asked how soon can we start using that building and it was stated that it could be used now. Supervisor Scott Volkmann asked if the building is locked because he has someone from Milwaukee to come in and look into repairing the roof, which it is and Roberta stated that she has the code to get in. Chair Dee Farley stated that she would like to attend the next meeting as soon as they schedule it.
20. Cemetery Committee Report: Marily Kowis stated that they have had one burial and sold some more lots. Chair Dee Farley asked how many plots were sold and Marily stated that they sold one
21. Community Center Committee Report: Chair Dee Farley asked when the next meeting is and Lisa Weinrich stated that there is none set up right now. We also talked to Jeff DeBauche about when he can start pulling out vegetation from around the building but has not gotten the go ahead to do it so he is waiting for the go ahead. We also have the blueprints that Supervisor Jim Fencil was asking about to see about conducting repairs to the roof and other areas. We are also looking into getting signage out in the front of the building and getting estimates for that. Supervisor Jim Fencil inquired what we are using the community center for right now? Lisa Weinrich stated that there are meetings held there for the Silver Cliff Fire Rescue Auxiliary and their functions. Supervisor Fencil asked if we could shut down the building after the Children's Christmas party to try to save money when it is not in use. Chair Dee

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Farley asked who was on the committee which is Sherry and Keith Gilbert, Kate and Scott Volkmann, she also asked to be invited to the next meeting.

22. Road Status Report - Road Crew Foreman: Supervisor Fencel stated that they are close to putting the shouldering on the roads and Sabin Rosenbaum stated that he had gotten complaints about the shouldering and drop off. Supervisor Fencel also stated that they will be coming in tomorrow and work on the shouldering in addition he stated that they got the tractor fixed
23. Fire Department Report: Jim Sommers stated that they had an accident on County Roads C and F on October 6th, they did water relay movement for training. They are also talking about the UTV raising money through meat raffles at Jungle Jims to be used for rescue and fire. Ann Wender stated that they are not doing meat raffles at Jungle Jims at this time. Supervisor Fencel also asked if they are looking for a new UTV? Jim Sommers stated that through his research he found there are special requirements needed to have a UTV as a rescue unit
24. Marinette County Supervisor Report: No Report
25. **Public Participation at Town Board Meetings - Welcome**
 - a. **Guidelines for Public Comments** – Time limit of 5 minutes maximum per person; Maximum time allowed for this session is 30 minutes total
 - b. This is a listening session for the community to address the Town Board
 - c. This is a listening session **ONLY!** The purpose of this session is for the Town Board to listen to the views of the community;
 - d. **PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND THEN STATE YOUR COMMENT**
 - e. **NO Actions will be taken, Please be courteous and respectful to all**
 - f. Chair Dee Farley stated that we have received a notice from Wallace Law in regards to our settlement in the lawsuit against Rural Mutual for \$355,000, she explained that \$100,000 goes to our attorneys. She also stated that she wanted someone else to read through the documents before signing the agreement to ensure it is clear and correct, Supervisor Scott Volkmann agreed to stay after the meeting to review the document. Chair Dee Farley also indicated that Rural Mutual will be dropping our coverage 60 days after the judgement
 - g. Laura Fencel asked if the time frame for finding coverage was 60 days after it was signed or after receiving the document? Chair Dee Farley stated that it was 60 days after signing the document. Supervisor Fencel asked how we were going to find an insurance company, run an ad or what? Chair Dee Farley stated that it should not be an issue finding insurance.

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- h. Kurt Gajeski on Hardwood Lane was under the impression that the variance was going to be on the agenda tonight it was not recommended by the planning commission, but would like to let the planning committee know that we appreciate them working with us, He feels they have done a great job and appreciate that they are working on some things for short term rentals. What he has an issue with is the County Supervisor and his wife who are not here and who started all this, talking about garbage pick up, roads, and all these other things only to find out that these people have been operating their business for years without a state license and they feel that is okay, they know every law and ordinance that has to do with everything but they have been operating without a state license and they don't think that is an issue so he thinks their credibility with this board should not be much. He doesn't understand how that can happen and he understands that the planning commission has been working diligently to ensure that everybody has those. If that was somebody else they would be making a big stink with a big group of people and he doesn't understand why, he doesn't understand why they think they are above that? It isn't the boards fault or the planning commissions fault he just wants the planning commission and the board to be aware. Also the planning commission worked with him and asked him to work with his neighbors on the road which they are on but those people are not working with them and he doesn't understand why. He just wants the board to be aware of the situation. Chair Dee Farley apologized but noted that there was no reason for the board to apologize. Kurt also stated he would be willing to put together a road agreement but these folks don't want to do that. Supervisor Volkmann stated that it seems very spiteful. Kurt stated that he doesn't understand why they are doing these things. Supervisor Fencel stated that this is really not our discussion and Kurt agreed. Sabin Rosenbaum asked if he was still working with the county and Kurt stated that they are working with the surveyor and work through the problem that they have and they will make it right. Sabin did wish them the best of luck.

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- i. Joanne Sisler asked about the Roaring Rapids Development and that we are fighting against them saying that it is a town road is that right? Sabin Rosenbaum said the county has filed a deed for that first section of road although it was never approved by the town board and now they are putting it on GIS as the whole road being a town road as of January 1st. Joanne asked if we could put a sign up stating that it is not a Town of Silver Cliff road? Sabin explained that the realtors involved have told buyers that it is a town road and some have been told it is not a town road, they are basically being told whatever they want to hear. Chair Dee Farley stated that just because it says it is on that map does not mean it is true. Sabin agreed but also stated that he spoke to the lady at the county and asked how to get it off the GIS and she said you can't. The county wants access to their land locked property which is why they want us to take the road on. The town board in the end is supposed to have the last word. It is a substandard road according to our standards and they never checked with the town or worked with the town.
- j. Discussion about why there is such a high electric use at the community center. It was suggested that there are two hot water heaters and why is it so expensive. Sabin Rosenbaum asked if there was something that we could do to advertise it as a usable space. It was brought up that the community center needs to be used.
- k. **Motion to Adjourn:** Supervisor Scott Volkmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Supervisor Jim Fencil seconded motion carried

NOTE: THE AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS ALLOWED BY WISCONSIN STATE LAW

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