

**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**Town of Silver Cliff**  
**Regular Town Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday January 13th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. located at the Silver Cliff Town Hall, Marinette County WI**

MINUTES

1. Call to order by Chair Dee Farley at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll call: Chair Dee Farley, Supervisor Jim Fencl, Supervisor Scott Volkmann, Treasurer Carol Kitchmaster, Constable Sabin Rosenbaum and Clerk Lisa Weinrich; Verification of Meeting Notice: Agendas were posted at the Red Pine BP, Community Center, Town Hall and Town Website
3. Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve the agenda made by Supervisor Jim Fencl, Supervisor Scott Volkmann seconded, motion carried.
4. Approval of Town Board Monthly Meeting Minutes from 12/09/2025 and Special Meeting Minutes from 01/08/2026 - Supervisor Jim Fencl made the motion to approve the minutes, Supervisor Scott Volkmann second, motion carried.
5. Need a Budget Approval in the amount of \$950,810.00 with a Tax Levy of \$98,360.00; After some discussion this subject was tabled until next meeting
6. Approval of Payroll, Vouchers, and Bills
  - a. Check #10637 to Check #10672 - motion to approve paying bills was made by Supervisor Scott Volkmann, Supervisor Jim Fencl seconded, motion carried

**Consider for discussion, approval, or other actionable items:**

7. Discussion and possible action in finding a new Town Insurance. Al Walesh said he gave Bruce Weber the name of an insurance company out of Wausaukee before he left office. Chair Dee Frley said she would investigate getting insurance quotes for the next meeting, so we don't run out of insurance. (Amended)
8. Discussion and possible action to update Employee Handbook to establish retirement clause and clothing expenses. Due to time limits the board tabled the review of the handbook and determined that they would in fact have a working meeting ahead of next month's meeting to address the Employee Handbook without the time constraints and present it at the next board meeting.
9. Posting of ALL committee and commission agendas and minutes on the website - Clerk informed the all committees and commissions that there have been inquires about posting their agendas and minutes from the meetings on the town website to help reach more residents as to what is going on in our community and with our local government. This would be something that the Clerk can do for our committees; they just have to present it to the Clerk; No Action was taken.
10. Discussion and possible action regarding repairs to the town hall. It was noted that if the repairs are under \$25,000.00 the repairs do not need to be put out for bids. Chair Dee Farley said that she spoke to our agent who told her to have contractors come in and get bids from them but we will have to make sure that we are comparing apples to apples. Chair Dee Farley said she would contact contractors.
11. Present 2 year road plan - Supervisor Jim Fencl stated that when he went to road school he was told that the longer the plan, like the 3-5 year plan would be more prudent. Also, he believes that the board

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as a whole should have taken a ride to review all the roads looking not only looking at the road conditions but also at population and traffic. A longer 3-5 year plan would also help incoming board members so they could use it as a guide for the future. It was unfortunate that the board did not review them together but due to open books law and the fact time was running out it was unfortunately not possible. Old J should be good for 10 years and Eagle River Road was never addressed. Also, Kimball Lane and Tower Road didn't get reviewed prior to this administration, Laura Fencel suggested that it was probably missed due to the tornado. Chair Dee Farley said after speaking with Eric Burgmeister suggested that we could finish Klug Lane in 2026 and the whole of Eagle River Road in 2027 or that we could do the whole thing in 2027 because he believes they would have a bigger program in 2027.

12. Discussion and possible action due to cost/ reliability to switch from Brightspeed and go with Spectrum - Supervisor Scott Volkmann has been working on finding out what kind of service we can get from Spectrum, they have been going throughout our municipality offering phone and internet service without an installation charge, and no contract. They have offered to work with us supplying our government buildings, the ESB, Town Hall, Town Shop and Community Center with internet and phone lines, charging \$60 per building for internet and \$20 per phone line. Currently we have 2 internet services at the ESB and one each for the Town Hall and Town Shop, the Community Center has no service at all. Spectrum also offered to supply us with cell phones but after looking into it Supervisor Scott Volkmann said he did not believe it would pay for us to have them and the added cost. Supervisor Scott Volkmann also stated that if the power goes it won't necessarily take out our internet unless the power is out at the pedestal. Supervisor Jim Fencel asked why we had it set up to pay for 2 internet services at the ESB but no one knew for sure and that was done prior to the election of the current board. As of right now we have Brightspeed that has terrible service and virtually no customer service which we are paying over \$11,000.00/ year where the offer from Spectrum was literally half the cost. Spectrum has been on the phone with Supervisor Scott Volkmann for 2 weeks trying to make this happen. Both Supervisors agreed this was a no brainer and a motion by Supervisor Scott Volkmann to get rid of Brightspeed and replace them with Spectrum, Supervisor Jim Fencel seconded, motion carried.
13. Discussion and possible action regarding installation of phone/ internet at the Community Center?? Supervisor Jim Fencel stated that since nothing is happening at the Community Center we didn't really need to have any service over there. Supervisor Scott Volkmann explained that free installation is available now but if we wait to get it installed then we may end up having to be charged for installation. Both Supervisors agreed this is a great package deal for our municipality and so action should not be delayed which makes sense.
14. Discussion and possible action regarding needs of future office space at the Community Center and costs? Possible Grants - Chair Dee Farley stated that former Chair Bruce Weber said he had an engineer design office and storage space for the Community Center shortly after purchase; however, neither she

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nor Jeff DeBauche were able to find those plans. It was determined that the engineer (Rick Fisher) may have been the same one who did the ESB, JJ Builders gave us a layout of the Community Center and Dan Simmer stated that he had spoken to Jane Meissner the building inspector and she told him all we would have to worry about is an electrical permit. Supervisor Jim Fencl also stated that as long as we do not change the building structurally we should not have to worry about any other permits. Chair Dee Farley stated that she didn't think we had any money for any actions there but will look into grants for any improvements.

15. Discussion and possible action regarding legal storage of Town Records - Chair Dee Farley stated that due to the damage of the Clerk's office that we will now be utilizing the entire basement to hold our records. Currently the American Legion has their guns down there that they use for ceremonies and for burial services, keys are secured with the Clerk and if there is a need to retrieve the guns they only have to contact us.
16. Discussion regarding Iron Snowshoes Trail Groomer and gas tank parking on Town property - Chair Dee Farley was contacted by Iron Shoes and asked to store their gas tank on town property between the Town Hall and the Town Shop, they did have the groomer parked there but then it all disappeared without any explanation. No one knows what happened to the equipment, the old gas tank was there but not the groomer and new gas tank, Chair Dee Farley will follow up with Iron Snowshoes to find out where it is. No action was taken regarding housing their equipment.
17. Possible to monitor electric usage - Chair Dee Farley asked if we allow Iron Snowshoes to keep their equipment on town property how do we monitor the electric usage? It was determined that they would only plug it in if needed and Jim Sommers suggested that we charge them a flat rate to make it easier than trying to monitor their electric usage. No action was taken.
18. Approve Resolution for new/ current road maintenance by town. Planning Commission Chair Sabin Rosenbaum stated that they want us to begin performing maintenance on Upper Roaring Rapids Road however, Chair Sabin Rosenbaum drew up a Resolution to address this issue which needs to be read over and then a vote taken, then published on the town website and in the Peshtigo Times. In brief, the Resolution will assist us in the event this turns into a lawsuit. This resolution will also assist us in the event we have developers approach us regarding roads in our municipality. Chair Dee Farley wants to add to the Resolution stating that we have no intention of adding any roads to our highway system but Chair Sabin Rosenbaum that her concerns were addressed in the 3rd paragraph. Chair Dee Farley asked for any additions or corrections, it was suggested that the Resolution be signed by the board and dated. Supervisor Scott Volkmann asked if the state statute regarding a municipality that does not maintain a road for 3 or more years is no longer considered a town road and even though the state statute does declare that it would be in our best interest to adopt this resolution according to Chair Sabin Rosenbaum. Supervisor Jim Fencl made a motion to adopt the Resolution, Supervisor Scott Volkmann second, motion carried.

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**Reports/ Updates**

19. Chair Report - Chair Dee Farley stated that our agent did confirm that we will be losing our coverage as of March 2026 so we are looking into other insurance, also Eric Buremeister told Chair Dee Farley he had not heard any more about the LRIP program. (Amended)
20. Supervisor 1 Report - Supervisor Jim Fencl stated that there have been some trees down and the road conditions which he referred to Jeff DeBauche's report. Supervisor Jim Fencl suggested that we may need to look into finding someone to do Code Enforcement for building permits to ensure that the permits that have been taken out are true and not being turned into something else like living quarters to be used for short term rentals such as Air BnB's. How can we track these constructions? Sabin Rosenbaum stated that he can look into what it would take and he has talked to our new Assessor Beth Polacek about going on suspected violators properties, so he is forming a plan to address this concern.
21. Supervisor 2 Report - Supervisor Scott Volkmann received several complaints about Spectrum messing up yards and one guy in particular has an issue with the gravel and rocks that he found on his lawn. Scott did state that there was going to be some disruption along the roads but it is evident that Spectrum has also made a good effort trying to follow through with cleaning up any mess left behind.
22. Treasurer's Report - Checking: \$35,898.31; Money Market: \$180,712.55 Business Account: \$4,227.66; Fire Department - Checking: \$4227.66; CD: \$27,467.87; Money Market: \$49,632.71; Outstanding: \$905.79; Net Balance: \$80,422.45
23. Constable's Report - Sabin Rosenbaum stated no dog calls this month. He also stated that they are working on going over the building permits issued from Jane Meissner and Town Clerk's lists, he stated that 90% are in compliance. Supervisor Scott Volkmann asked about the shack off of Bluebird lane between the two roads and Sabin replied that they had issues with that one before and they are aware of it.
24. Planning Commission Committee Report - Planning Commission Chair Sabin Rosenbaum stated that he wants to get the ordinance for the weight limit by the next town board meeting and hopes to have a final draft for the short term registry by then as well.
25. Recycling Committee Report - Laura Fencl stated that they had a meeting on January 7th and they discussed dumpster placement and will contact JnS Enterprises about pricing and options for garbage removal in addition to possibly getting stairs to the 2 dumpsters, they discussed supplies, receipts will be submitted, and Roberta Knier purchased a first aid kit for the recycling center. Marilyn Kowis said they are going to put up signs referencing "After Hours Dumping", Curt Allen is making those signs, Supervisor Jim Fencl stated that he will be able to get telephone polls to hang them on, they are also looking for the steps they had in recycling at one point but not sure where they are. Currently there is no plan for their next meeting.
26. Cemetery Committee Report - Sexton Sue Victoreen was not present and Supervisor Scott Volkmann stated he doesn't know of anything that needed to be presented.

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27. Community Center Committee Report - Community Center Committee Chair Keith Gilbert stated that they will be having a meeting on Monday, February 2nd at 11:00 am. He also stated that the committee would like to sell the remaining pews at the Community Center for about \$100 each (these do not separate/ split) so they may begin raising funds for improvements and other expenses. They are also looking into creating a library to aid in obtaining grants for improvements. If anyone has an interest or would like to know more about the Community Center Committee they should contact Keith Gilbert.
28. Road Status Report - Roadcrew Foreman Jeff DeBauche said they have been spending most of their time on cleaning up snow and he is currently trying to get more sand and salt because our supply is half gone. Jeff also stated that he is glad to be back after his hip replacement. Supervisor Jim Fencil asked if we can get a load of sand and salt which is why Jeff brought it to the board asking for permission to get more. Currently there are issues with the brush tractor again with metal shavings in the hydraulic parts, Kasey Haydenn is working on it. Supervisor Jim Fencil stated that if we needed to get sand and salt we needed to get it.
29. Fire Department Report - Fire Chief Al Walesh stated that there was a fire call for an ice shack, luckily nothing else burned down. They also had training and ice rescue training. Chair Dee Farley stated that she had talked to Mitch about burning the brush from the tornado which he wants to do on his own.
30. Marinette County Supervisor Report - County Supervisor Chris Norton stated that the Public Service Committee meeting was canceled because there was nothing going on. The referendum passed in December to exceed the tax levy and hopes to have a hand out for the public.
31. Chair Dee Farley asked the committees to post their agendas and minutes on the website, the Clerk said she would help anyone wanting to learn how to do that or she could do it for them.
32. **Public Participation at Town Board Meetings - WELCOME!**
- a. **PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND THEN STATE YOUR COMMENT IN REGARDS TO THE AGENDA ONLY!**
  - a. *Please be courteous and respectful to all!*
    - i. *County Supervisor Chris Norton suggested that all of our information posted on the website be posted as a PDF so no one can change any of the information.*
    - ii. *Gwen Schmidt, a poll worker, stated that she did not get a notice of elections in February because she was told that there was an election. The Clerk informed her that there are no elections for our municipality in February which was confirmed by the County Clerk Bobbie Borowski. The Town Clerk is responsible for the poll workers and made a point to inform everyone that if anyone wants information about upcoming elections for our municipality they need to contact our Town Clerk or the County Clerk. Please follow this direction and do not listen to hearsay.*
33. **Motion to Adjourn - Supervisor Jim Fencil made a motion and Supervisor Scott Volkmann seconded, motion carried.**

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