

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Town of Silver Cliff
Emergency Town Board Meeting with Closed Session
Monday, March 9th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. located at the Silver Cliff Town Hall, Marinette County WI

Minutes

1. Call to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Dee Farley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll call - Chair Dee Farley, Supervisor Jim Fencl, Supervisor Scott Volkmann (via phone), Treasurer Carol Kitchmaster, Constable Sabin Rosenbaum, Clerk Lisa Weinrich - Verification of Meeting Notice posted on the Town Hall, Red Pine BP, and Town Website
3. Approval of Agenda Supervisor Jim Fencl requested to amend the agenda to include garbage pick up due to the situation. Supervisor Scott Volkmann made a motion to approve the amended agenda, Supervisor Jim Fencl second, motion carried.
4. Approval of Town Board Monthly Meeting Minutes - Chair Dee Farley tabled approval of the meeting minutes.

Consider for discussion, approval, or other actionable items:

5. Go into closed session to discuss salaries - Meeting adjourned into closed session. Chair Dee Farley reviewed the people affected by loss of insurance which would be the Roadcrew: Jeff DeBauche, Kasey Hayden, and Recycling Attendants: Curt Allen, Roberta Knier, and Sue Victoreen. A discussion ensued reviewing viable options such as having them all file for unemployment, using banked hours to supplement any shortfalls, not paying them at all. Discussion of past experiences from other employers and how that would affect our employees was also discussed at length. Due to the amount of time that would lapse if we did have our employees file unemployment was a determining factor especially if we get insurance tomorrow. Supervisor Jim Fencl expressed the concern of not having anyone available to open the Recycle Center and how that would impact our grounds and what liability would we have if someone ignored the notices of being shut down and they got hurt. Supervisor Scott Volkmann suggested that since we are going to have to shut down until we get insurance that we send all affected by the shut down a letter of notification of the situation and our final course of action. Chair Dee Farley said she felt that this would be a short term and agreed with Supervisor Scott Volkmann to give them paid leave until we get insurance, she also agreed with Supervisor Jim Fencl who feels having them investigate unemployment during the interim. Supervisor Scott Volkmann made the motion to give our employees a paid furlough until the end of the month and if at that time we were still without insurance the employees would then have to file for unemployment, Supervisor Jim Fencl second, motion carried. The closed session was ended and returned to the meeting.
6. Emergency planning - Meeting was called back to order by Chair Dee Farley. Chair Dee Farley stated that the town was in an emergency and that we really had no plan for this emergency. She explained that if we did have a disaster that would require a warming shelter we would not have one available to the town residents while we are without

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

Request from individuals with disabilities who will need special accommodations to participate in this meeting or hearing should be made to the Town Clerk at 715-757-3163 advance notice is recommended.

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insurance, in addition no one will be allowed to enter into any town owned building due to no insurance. No one will be allowed to drive any of our vehicles which include the Emergency Services vehicles and town trucks/ plows/ and other equipment. Cancellation of all activities that would have normally been held in our public buildings. At this time this is our short term plan, Chair Dee Farley asked for any comments on a long term plan? Supervisor Jim Fencil suggested that we start to document the events as they unfold so we can then put something together for the future. Laura Fencil explained that for those not present at the earlier meeting that our emergency services will be most affected by this situation. The Rescue Squad will not be able to be housed at the Emergency Services Building and our Fire Fighters will not be able to respond to an incident with our vehicles however, the fire fighters will be able to respond with Athelstane and the Rescue Squad will be housed in Athelstane. Athelstane has also offered to help us with snow plowing if necessary but only after they do their roads first and we will be expected to pay the overtime needed to plow our roads at time and a half. Chair Dee Farley asked if our fire fighters had approval to respond with Athelstane's Fire Department? Fire Chief Al Walesh stated that we have approval. Chair Dee Farley asked Supervisor Jim Fencil to relay the plan for recycling, he stated that he would address that at the end of the meeting. Chair Dee Farley went on to state that all of our buildings have notices posted

7. How to notify the public in an emergency - Chair Dee Farley asked Supervisor Jim Fencil to comment. Supervisor Jim Fencil stated that we have put notices on all public buildings and it is listed on the website but is stressing that we do not want to state it is because of insurance reasons rather to state that it is due to unforeseen circumstances and put it on the website. Chair Dee Farley stated that it is probably known about throughout the town already. Sam Greenberg suggested that we reach out to a church to use as a warming shelter in the event we would need one.
8. Short and long term contingency plan - Chair Dee Farley stated that this was our short term plan but we do not have a long term plan in place at this time. Supervisor Jim Fencil suggested we make notes and put one together. Planning Commission Chair Sabin Rosenbaum stated that our emergency plan ordinance does recognize other residents and locations. Chair Dee Farley stated that she does not have an emergency plan. Chair Sabin Rosenbaum stated that it does not cover lack of insurance, unfortunately. Supervisor Scott Volkmann stated that in fact we did not have warming centers until this last year however, several folks stated that we did have warming centers in the past. Laura Fencil expressed that in the past they had a fire and had many neighbors come to their aid in helping them get through that difficult time and suggests that our town does the same thing, check on our neighbors, friends and relatives should we experience bad weather. Chair Dee Farley stated that she would call the church on Hwy A and C to find out if they would have the capability to be used as a warming shelter if it comes to that.

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9. Garbage Pickup - Supervisor Jim Fencl stated that he contacted JnS Enterprises who does our garbage collections and asked them to bump up garbage pick up weekly now which they agreed to do since our Recycling Center will be closed and we don't want to have anyone on the property. So they will start pickup weekly on March 25th, Supervisor Jim Fencl made a motion to start the garbage pickup one week earlier this year due to these circumstances, Supervisor Scott Volkmann second, no vote. Laura Fencl said that she called GFL regarding the recycling and they will stop pick up until we get back to them. Dan Simmers suggested that we contact Northwoods LP regarding our LP delivery, Chair Dee Farley asked Jeff DeBauche if that needed to be done, he stated that they automatically fill the tanks and have their own schedule so for the time being we can let that go. Supervisor Scott Volkmann stated that we have a motion on the floor that was seconded but was not voted on. Chair Dee Farley said completed the vote at this time, which passed.
 - a. Chair Dee Farley recognized Jay Van Frachen stated that the fact we do not have insurance was already stated on the website. It is also on all the signs on all the buildings. Chair Dee Farley stated that it was fine to do that and it will be left as is.
 - b. Chair Dee Farley recognized Laura Fencl said there was a question about the cemetery? Chair Sabin Rosenbaum suggested that we post something out there as well regarding the town shut down. Sexton Sue Victoreen stated that they do have a burial scheduled for this spring, not now so she really isn't too concerned about the amount of traffic they would be experiencing at this time. Jeff DeBauche stated that he did see someone out there in the cemetery so we probably put something out there to notify anyone coming onto the property. Jeff DeBauche offered to section off the cemetery and put up signage.
 - c. Chair Dee Farley recognized Fire Chief Al Walesh suggested that we designate someone to check the buildings once a week to ensure that they are up and running, not that we have lost electricity or the furnace quotes and we end up with burst pipes, or worse. Supervisor Jim Fencl asked if the security cameras they have in place would better serve this need? According to Chief Al Walesh the security cameras go to a disk not to the phones so that would not be feasible, Jeff DeBauche offered to check on all the buildings during their shut down on a voluntary basis.
 - d. Chair Dee Farley recognized Vicki Farrell asked if the town workers were going to be paid during this shut down? Chair Dee Farley stated that yes, that was the discussion in the closed session and they will be compensated.
 - e. Chair Dee Farley recognized Laura Fencl asked if we were in open session at this time and Chair Dee Farley stated that it is not open session and she just wants to take care of these odds and ends and will let Laura know when we get to it.

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- f. Chair Dee Farley asked if Supervisor Jim Fencl was going to contact garbage pickup which he replied that he was texting them right now.
- g. Chair Dee Farley also stated that she was surprised as to how long it was taking to get insurance, she estimated it must be between 12 to 15 insurance companies that had turned us down. Chair Dee Farley also stated that the reason for losing insurance was due to the claim history which does not include the suit. Supervisor Scott Volkmann noted that our previous insurance does insure 80% of the municipal insurances.
- h. Chair Dee Farley noticed Vicki Farrell whom asked if we had contacted WTA regarding any emergency insurance that we could get until we find a carrier? Chair Dee Farley pointed out that neither WTA or the State of Wisconsin have any emergency insurance available.

Public Participation at Town Board Meetings - Welcome public comment

- 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**
 - i. Laura Fencl said that she reached out to Risk Strategies Community Line Insurance who stated that they can provide insurance but it would take about a couple weeks to get everything set up and that we will probably pay a little bit higher premium than what we had been paying but that will probably be for every insurance company. The paperwork was passed on to Chair Dee Farley and the Clerk Lisa Weinrich. Chair Dee Farley stated that she had already provided Horton Insurance the same information a week ago which is who she is working with, Laura Fencl asked if Dee had gotten any response yet which she replied no to. Laura Fencl also stressed not to wait until we get a rejection and keep looking which Dee agreed with. At this point Dee acknowledged that there are two other insurance companies that would split the coverage, one for the properties and one the liability but Dee stated that she didn't know if we would want to do that.

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- ii. Sam Greenberg asked if he should contact the insurance broker, Colleen Mattison so we can get the insurance which Chair Dee Farley recognized as the Horton group, we are working with Colleen Mattison which is a part of the Horton group and Chair Dee Farley stated that Christie was not a part of the Horton group, she is with Rhinelander. Chair Dee Farley said we will act as quickly as we can to get everything covered as quickly as we can.
- iii. Treasurer Carol Kitchmaster stressed that we need to have the same coverage as we had before, Supervisor Scott Volkmann said that this coverage will be even more defined because we were alerted to several errors in the policy from our last insurer, that has all been rectified. Chair Dee Farley said she believes that what we are applying for right now is as current as it can get.
- iv. Joanne Sisler said that we need to have a contact person in the event the American Legion has to come in and get their equipment for a funeral and Chair Dee Farley said that she is the contact for the Legion.
- v. Mike Smith asked that if we have two different insurance companies we are working with have we gotten a quote from them? Chair Dee Farley stated that there was no quote at this time. Sam Greenberg said that we should work one against the other to get the better deal. Chair Dee Farley said that we will take the better one if they both come in at the same time. Dan also stated that we need to keep in mind that we need to keep the deductibles the same. Bob stated that he would be surprised if we didn't have to pay quadruple what we had been paying for insurance. Supervisor Jim Fencil asked for clarification about the insurance, one being liability and the other being property. Bob said that if we split the policy up as suggested then there is a possibility that if we go with another insurer to combine the coverage there might be a cancellation fee and strongly suggested that we aware of all the policy provisions. Bob also offered to work with the town to go over the policies.

Motion to Adjourn - Supervisor Scott Volkmann made the motion, Supervisor Jim Fencil second, motion carried

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

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