

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Town of Silver Cliff

Regular Town Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 12th, at 7:00 p.m. located at N11929 County Rd I

Silver Cliff Town Hall, Marinette County WI

## Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order at 7:06 PM - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll call- Present were Chairman Dee Farley, Supervisor Scott Volkmann, Supervisor Jim Fencl, Treasurer Carol Kitchmaster and Clerk Margaret Lewis. Notice was posted on the website at 11:30 AM on Sunday May 10th. Physical notice was posted at the Red Pine BP and outside the Town Hall at 3PM on the 10<sup>th</sup> also.
3. Approval of Agenda. Move to approve by Volkmann. Seconded by Fencl. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Approve the following: Meeting Minutes from 4/14/26 Working Meeting. Meeting Minutes from 4/14/26 Regular Town Board Meeting. Meeting Minutes from 4/20/26 Working Meeting. Amended Minutes from December 12<sup>th</sup> 2023. Move to accept the 4 sets of meeting minutes made individually by Volkmann and seconded individually by Fencl. Each passed unanimously.
5. Approve all Checks, Vouchers, Receipts and Electronic Payments from 4/14/26 to 5/12/26.
  - (a.) Clerk Lewis noted that a full reconciliation had not been performed by herself and Treasurer Kitchmaster due to the Spectrum internet being down. Clerk Lewis provided documentation of all checks, voucher, receipts, electronics payments and the MARGE transaction history as well as the bank statement summaries.
  - (b.) Motion made to approve the financial transactions from 4/14-5/12 by Volkmann and seconded by Fencl. Unanimously approved.
6. Ryan Bourassa Marinette County Forestry Administrator: Presentation on Marinette County Reforestation Method.
  - (a.) Mr. Bourassa explained the process of reforestation that the county uses. Providing detail on the preparation of the soil, the spraying and trenching of the ground. Also the physical aspect of planting seedlings.

(b.) Supervisor Volkman asked about the percentage of loss in the seedlings planted.

(c.) Mr. Bourassa explained that about 25% of seedlings will die. However, he takes that into account for the plan and adds about 25% more seedlings to be planted. Accounting for the natural loss.

(d.) A few audience members asked about the price for the reforestation. Also questions to why plant red pine and not another tree type? Would the acreage in question regrow on its own? What type of trees would be planted around the park? Did we have enough land to plant? How much land do we have to be replanted?

(e.) Mr. Bourassa explained that the cost is around \$100.00 per acre. That red pine was the most profitable tree type for harvesting and had a short regenerative period. That from the counties perspective growing red pine is very lucrative and yields great revenue potential compared with letting scrub oak or soft maple saplings take over. That some of the acreage we have would regrow on its own. The small area in the swamp would regrow naturally as Mr. Bourassa didn't think that red pine would do well in the lowland area. There was indeed enough land to be replanted. Ryan estimated that there were about 40 acres total to be replanted around the park, EMS building and town hall. The Town of Silver Cliff will submit a bid at the same time as the other towns in November time frame. Then in spring the seedlings will be planted once the ground is prepped in the fashion he previously described. This communal bidding process allows for the best pricing for all who submit bids by buying trees together at a discounted price.

(f.) Some discussion was had from Sabin Rosenbaum Planning Commission on the original forestry plan. Christopher Norton provided some details from his time on the planning commission when helping to solidify plans with Stu Borman the towns forester. Urged the board to revisit the plan that was already adopted and stick with what had already been decided on at previous annual electors meetings.

(g.) Mitch Piontek local logger brought some insight into the state also supplying some run off or left over trees at little to no cost that could be planted at the same time as the county project.

(h.) Mr. Bourassa answered a few more questions from the audience about the tree planting process. That stumpage present would not affect the planting process and all the debris left was already several years old and would be trenched in and act as cover and fertilizer for the growing seedlings.

7. Discussion and Possible Adoption of a Reforestation Project.

(a.) Small amount of discussion was had between Farley and Fencl about who had the documentation from Bourassa. Clerk Lewis asked that the board have a discussion about what they just heard and let the audience know their thoughts.

(b.) Mitch Piontek further clarified that the town buildings sit on 36.5 acres.

(c.) Fencl, Volkmann, Rosenbaum and County Supervisor Norton all talked about the previous plan that had been adopted prior to the tornado in 2021-2022. Norton advised the board they should pick up where it left off as those plans had already been approved by electors.

#### 8. Discussion and Possible Actions on sale of the property at W13397 County Road C, The Community Center or formerly the St. Mary's Church.

(a.) Chairman Dee Farley stated the sale of the Church was authorized by the electors at the annual meeting. Ultimately the decision is up to the board. That as chair person she feels there should be another electors meeting to let the people decide what is done with the building.

(b.) Clerk Lewis clarified with Chair Farley that at the annual meeting those in attendance had voted to direct the board to sell the property. So Chair Farley wanted to have another special electors meeting for a vote of electors? She reminded Chair Farley the board will then have to vote again at a separate meeting. It is ok if the board pushes their decision until a later date if the board wants time to seek more information about the property for themselves and their constituents.

(c.) Supervisor Volkmann stated he asked the question of and circumstances to the vote at the annual meeting to the WTA and they confirmed that the annual meeting authorized the board to sell the property but ultimately it would be up to the board.

(d.) Chair Farley stated she felt another electors vote would be best and the proper way.

(e.) Clerk Lewis reminded the board that they and the electors did not have all the information. What will it cost for a remodel, repairs and what can be done with a building like that? In regards to commercial building codes if upgrades or a change of its use happens. Research needed to be done. Advised the board to not be lackadaisical. Electors were confused by what happened in 2023 and at the electors meeting. Clerk Lewis urged the board to post pone and seek more information so electors could make an informed decision based on the budget and current needs of the town.

(f.) Supervisor Fencl concurred with the Clerk more research should have been done. Nothing had been done. Nothing has been done with the building and it isn't being used. The towns people asked for it to be sold. He knows there is limited money to do

renovations, He doesn't feel we can afford to fix it, maintain it and have money for the other things the town needs. Lets do what the people asked us to do and sell it.

(g.) Chair Farley stated that another special meeting should be called for electors to vote on if the church should be sold or not.

(h.) Supervisor Volkmann stated that a special electors meeting had been called to buy the church in the first place so he doesn't see a problem to have another one.

(i.) Clerk Lewis reminded the board that the meeting minutes from December 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 showed the special electors meeting held on December 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 to buy the property should not have happened. That it was stated by former Chairman Bruce Weber on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 that the emergency services building bids came in much higher. That purchase of the property was not possible and the meeting was posted so it had to happen, That it would immediately be adjourned. That she herself was absent from voting because of what she was told. She made mention of documents she sent the board informing them of what voter suppression was. Do not confuse electors anymore. This is your decision to make. Do the research and make the best decision on behalf of electors. You can vote today or you can table this.

(j.) (cross talk between Volkmann and Farley) Volkmann asked so you want to have another electors meeting for a vote anyway?

(k.) Farley stated she thinks it is more fair to have another election to vote if the church is kept or not. She felt uncomfortable making a decision and instead wanted the people to vote again if the property was kept or not.

(l.) Volkmann made a motion to have another special meeting to have the electors vote on the property.

(m.) Fencl stated he would not second the motion.

(n.) Farley seconded the motion to have another special meeting for a vote on the property. Farley stated the motion had been made and seconded to have a special meeting for the sale of the church or community center. All in favor say Aye. All opposed say Naye. Motion has been made and seconded to have another special electors meeting for the sale of the church. The meeting will be on whether or not we vote to sell the church or not.

(o.) Audience member stated "oh Jesus so when is the date going to be this time the 4<sup>th</sup> of July?"

(p.) Supervisor Fencl stated to Farley and Volkmann if they were going to go through with this then a date well into July should be considered. The last time this happened it was on

short notice and a lot of people went on holiday vacation before Christmas. The whole problem is that the town was not suppose to buy this property in the first place. Here we are 2 years later and no one can decide.

(q.) (cross talk in the audience) Question as to if the church could be sold as there was a document stating that the town could not resell. Another audience member stated that the document said it couldn't be sold for a certain amount of time.

(r.) Clerk Lewis asked Farley to control the meeting. (cross talk continued) Audience member stated the church could not be sold. Another audience member asked the board to pick a date already. Another member said there was a contract the church cannot be resold so no vote is needed.

(s.) Clerk Lewis asked Farley to get the meeting in order (cross talk for several minutes on a contract that was signed about the church never being able to be re-sold) Clerk Lewis then explained that there is a document that will follow the deed in perpetuity. The document outlines that the Diocese will not allow future owners to do anything lewd, lascivious or pornographic on the premises. This also included no other religious services could be held there that did not correspond to the Dioceses beliefs. So no one can run a satanic church in Silver Cliff or a sex shop! (laughter) That the deed language does not restrict its sale only its future use. She offered to print the document for anyone that wanted to see it.

(t.) Chair Farley stated the special meeting would happen an hour before the next regular board meeting. (cross talk from audience and the board for several minutes)

(u.) Clerk Lewis announced that on June 9<sup>th</sup> there was already scheduled an Adjournment to the BOR meeting at 6:45pm. If a meeting were to happen at 6:00pm to vote on the church would that be enough time for electors to talk about the decision that they had limited information for?

(v.) Volkmann stated that was plenty of time.

(w.) Fencl elaborated that when the church was purchased there had been posters and flyers posted around town and at local establishments by the previous board members and that sort of activity was not allowed and was to be condoned. Volkmann stated private citizens could post what they wanted. Fencl said yes they could but previous board members had posted flyers and that was not advised this time around. Didn't feel June 9<sup>th</sup> was enough time for anyone to do research on the building.

(x.) Chair Farley asked if they had to vote on the date? Clerk responded yes. Farley said the meeting to vote again on the keeping of the church property be held on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Motion made by Volkmann. Opposed by Fencl. Seconded by Farley. Motion carried.

9. Discussion and Possible action to move Public Comment to beginning; future Board Meeting to mirror other municipalities Meeting Format per directive from electors meeting.

(a) Farley stated she does not want this to happen because the public would rip the agenda apart and that it was the chairman's agenda. Should not be changed by the people. It's not fair to expect the board to change their agenda. A lot of research goes into meetings and it isn't the audience's place to mess it all up. (cross talk in the audience)

(b.) Lewis told Farley to get the meeting in order. (cross talk) Lewis told Farley the agenda doesn't change. (cross talk for several minutes) Audience member stated it would be nice to address the board about things they may vote on that night so the board might hear an opinion before it's voted on.

(c.) Fencl agreed. He was enthusiastic about hearing ideas and input from electors. He had attended meetings in Stephenson and really liked that public comment was in the beginning.

(d.) Farley stated she did not want people changing things on the agenda and remained opposed. Volkmann chimed in that he was in support of the change as he had also admired the meetings in Stephenson and Marinette.

(e.) Fencl made motion to move public comment to the beginning of the meeting. Seconded by Volkmann. Farley opposed. Motion carried.

(f.) Farley stated that they can always go back to having it at the end. (cross talk in the audience) Audience member stated this is why we had to vote on this at an annual meeting because you just make up your own rules regardless of what the people want.

10. Discussion and Possible Action of an Ordinance related to Data Center Moratorium.

(a.) Chair Farley asked if anyone had signed the petition. Volkmann stated that the Ordinance was well written and made mention to the clerk.

(b.) Clerk Lewis stated that she did have in possession a copy of the Moratorium Ordinance with the spelling correction for the board to sign when they had finished with discussion. Fencl asked when she found time to do this?

(c.) Clerk Lewis stated that the previous Tuesday she had been contacted by an acquisition firm from Louisiana. The language they used was similar as described to her by Constable Rosenbaum. That in her time cleaning a small data processing center years before that it frightened her the possibility that anyone from the community be stuck living next to one. From her experience they were very noisy. She used Manitowoc County and Mishicot Wisconsin ordinances for examples then changed the statutes to reflect what could be

controlled by the town. She had stayed up a few late nights to do so. The moratorium gave them 12-18 months to do research and come up with a document legally binding and definitive. Urged electors present to also sign the petition and to circulate it. At least 25% of electors from the town would really add validity to the moratorium if a firm tried to press their way into the community by legal means.

(d.) Motion made to accept the Moratorium by Volkmann. Seconded by Fencl. Passed unanimously.

11. Discussion on Cease-and-Desist Letter, Legal Fees and what budget funds will be drawn from.

(a.) Chair Farley stated that the town would not be charged anything for legal fees. There was no discussion that needed to happen.

(b.) Lewis informed Farley she had received a letter from their attorney requesting that payment be made to the former insurance lawyers for the amount of \$3900. She asked this topic be placed on the agenda so the board discussed where the money would be taken from the budget. The allotted amount for judicial spending would exceed the budgeted amount. She needed to know where to take funds.

(c.) Farley stated again that she would call the towns attorney and speak with him and that he would not be charging us and that the town would not owe anything. That everyone could take her words to the bank.

(d.) Fencl and Volkmann were not sure on where to pull from budget. Advised to take from the general fund and it could be sorted out later.

12. Discussion of adding policy to a volunteer section of handbook "Allowing elected officials to volunteer without pay and within their capacity, with permission or request from the Department Head and approval of Insurance."

(a.) Farley stated not done with the handbook. It could be added at that time.

(b.) Volkmann made a motion that we add the policy as stated to the handbook when a meeting is had to finalize the corrections to the handbook. Seconded by Fencl. Motion carried.

13. Discussion of Volunteerism description for employee handbook and Liability Waiver

(a.) Fencl asked about the nature of the liability waiver and gave an example: if someone is volunteering and they fell down while working would that be covered?

(b.) Lewis said she had done some research with other municipalities and what is standard practice. That having a liability waiver is common along with having a tracking process for volunteers. So the town can keep track of what work is being performed, who is helping and the volunteer may use that information if they are applying for a scholarship or other program where showing their involvement is important. That liability waivers are just an added layer to protect the town and the tax payers. Volunteers should not replace employees. Volunteers should be under direct supervision of a town representative and volunteers should only work in a capacity they are comfortable and have the experience to do so. Someone shouldn't be operating a truck if they don't have a CDL. Someone shouldn't be operating a large zero turn lawn mower if they haven't used it before. A 85 year old person should not be on a ladder performing roof work.

(c.) Fencil and Volkmann told the Clerk she should stop discriminating! (laughter from the audience). Lewis stated she was not an ageist! (cross talk from audience more laughter)

(d.) Farley asked if this was aimed at covering more than just people helping with the road crew? She knows there are a lot of people that already help out with the park.

(e.) Lewis stated this has been common practice for many years. We do have new insurance and it is advised that town needs to keep track of volunteers. Who they are, where they are and what work they are performing. Youth or college volunteers can get credit for their time. Each volunteer should have a file just like an employee, pass a background check and have what they are doing monitored by representatives.

(f.) Farley asked if we really need to have everyone sign something? We probably have over 100 people that volunteer at the park.

(g.) Volkmann corrected Farley. The volunteers at the park are there on the behalf of the Auxiliary, Fire Dept or the Legion. Those groups rent out the park so they are covered under the towns insurance. This is just for volunteers that would be on town property helping with projects not related to a group who is renting the space.

(h.) Discussion between board members and (cross talk with the audience). Audience member asked if this was all necessary and what process would be for an elected person.

(i.) Lewis clarified again that to stay within the parameters of insurance that a person volunteering who would be operating a truck. Would need to provide proof of their CDL and adhere to the random drug screening process that a regular employee would.

(j.) Several minutes of cross talk between board and audience.

14. Discussion on research for Clerk and treasurer salaries. Appointed vs Elected.  
Combined Clerk/Treasurer and associated future costs.

(a.) Chair Farley stated that the salary increases that were voted on at electors meeting should be looked at if the town has enough money to cover those. That will get looked at in the fall to see if there is even enough to pay that. Appointed vs elected? I am not sure what that means?

(b.) Lewis asked the board if they had read through the packet that she had sent them about the differences between elected and appointed positions along with all the salary information she had collected? Median salaries for elected and appointed clerk/treasurer. Job description from WTA. Statements from the former clerks on their job responsibilities and the challenges. Additional costs and legality associated with having an appointed position. Making the clerk a fulltime position and providing some benefits. It was a short email about 2 weeks ago that had 4 attachments.

(c.) All 3 board members concluded they had not read fully or understood what was sent. Chair Farley stated that this conversation could be tabled until the fall.

(d.) Lewis reminded the board if they don't have multiple discussions in front of electors then the public will remain uninformed on future needs. Nomination papers must be in by December and she will not be seeking election. Please do research and talk about this issue now and leading up to Fall budget meetings or come April 2027 you will not have anyone to be legal custodian of the town again.

(e.) Fencl stated he did read it and had thoughts on perhaps going to an appointed clerk/treasurer. Having to have an audit would be pricey. Given that Lisa was the only person who ran for clerk last time he feels there is just not qualified candidates who want to sign up for an elected job like this and all the responsibilities with little pay. We can't keep going down this path. That we do need to look at hiring someone with the qualifications like accounting and budget writing. That he doesn't feel \$32,000 a year is going to be enough to attract a qualified candidate. At the budget meetings the town might think of adding a referendum or levy to help cover the expense of having a fulltime well compensated individual to run the town. Hard to budget when you don't know what the future will hold. Made motion to Lewis that he had hoped she would stay around forever?

(f.) Clerk Lewis said that she was committed to stay on as a deputy clerk long term. That she would support a new clerk. She would be getting as much training as possible in the coming months. Lewis further elaborated she had extended her leave of absence from work an additional 3 months to accommodate the town workload. She has two new deputies coming on board. She has lived in Silver Cliff for 14 years. She plans to die here. That she is committed to seeing the town be successful. She wants to see the job as a career for someone. She already has a career in healthcare. Business management is something she does for herself personally but does not desire it as a fulltime career. Stated again she would stay on board until a replacement is found. The town needs to pay more, provide a decent office space and make this position a secure and supported one to attract a professional candidate. Urged the board to keep having discussions about this ahead of the fall. \$32,000 a year should be their starting point but look at it in comparison to the \$20-\$23 an hour the road crew makes hourly and how much education is involved beyond having a CDL and basic vehicle maintenance skills.

(g.) Supervisor Volkmann agreed that the amount of \$32,000 was too low for the fulltime work that was required to keep up with the towns day to day operations.

(h.) Farley stated that the town might not be able to support the increase so decisions could be made in the fall.

(i.) Fencl asked the clerk if she felt the position had gotten any easier with all the hours she had been putting in?

(j.) Clerk Lewis stated that after 46 days she had accepted that everything was going to be a mess for sometime. That advice from the former Clerk stating that everything was an emergency, haphazard and last minute had been a recurring trend. She feels that with the current board in place that this pattern will continue. Told the board members they are the most disorganized group of people that she has worked with in her professional career.

(k.) (cross talk and laughter from the audience) Chair Farley stated with that they were going to move on.

15. Discussion on estimates for new town dump truck from quotes supplied by Jeff DeBauche.

(a.) Chair Farley called for Jeff but he was not present. (cross talk in the audience for several minutes)

(b.) Clerk Lewis asked if the board members had the quotes that she and Jeff had sent them?

(c.) Farley and Volkmann did not. Fencl stated he had read the quotes and that a few were last years quotes. The newest quote was not something the town was going to be able to afford. That new quotes should be sought and maybe look at buying a used truck on GSA auction or state auction might be feasible.

(d.) Farley stated I think what Jeff wants us to do is go ahead and have him put the order in because it takes two years to get that truck.

(e.) Volkmann asked so we are going to buy a new one? (cross talk in the audience with the board for several minutes)

(f.) Clerk Lewis reminded the board the new quote for the Kriete Company would be for a 2027 truck. She was advised and it was in her report to them that new emissions mandates would roll into effect. This would increase the cost of a new truck according to the sales representative by \$30,000 plus dollars. The issues with the trucks age, rust and maintenance was costing the town thousands each year. That according to service records, the budget and road crew reports this vehicle has reached the end of its service life and a replacement of some kind needs to be sought.

(g.) Chair Farley stated well then we should just go ahead and have Jeff put that order in. Maybe we can vote on a grant. We don't have to wait for a grant to come in (cross talk in the audience) Former Clerk Amy Vann stated when did we decide we are buying a truck?

(h.) Chair Farley stated our truck is old and broken so it was best to order a new one. Its costing to much to fix the old one. Its time. (cross talk with the audience) Audience member stated you can't just order a truck for nothing you have to have money down to order. Chair Farley asked Supervisor Fencl when was the last time the town had a new truck?

(i.) Fencl said it was probably 8 years since Burkel was in office.

(j.) Clerk Lewis asked the board members before they talk ordering a truck. What was in the budget for a truck?

(k.) Fencl stated there wasn't any money. He figured that if a sale of the church happened that money could be used for a new truck or to pay down the shop loan.

(l.) Lewis asked what was the lowest bid for the trucks she had sent them? (cross talk amongst the board) Clerk then stated that Mack was the lowest bid at roughly \$281,000.

(m.) Fencl said that with a few additions that realistically that number would be about \$300,000. Fencl hoped that with the current administration the amount may come down. The clerk responded that R&D had already been done for new engines and transmissions.

Federal rollbacks were not going to happen as the companies had a large amount of money developing those new engine and transmission parts for the coming emissions changes. Expect the price increases that were stated by the representative from Kriete.

(n.) Chair Farley stated so do we want Jeff to go ahead and order a truck?

(o.) Fencil said that is not something that we can do. We still have to have earnest money down to order a truck. You can't just order one without having a percentage down. This is not that simple of a procedure. We must have the majority of the money upfront before we order something.

(p.) Chair Farley stated we can get a grant. We can get another one (cross talk with the audience)

(q.) Lewis asked Farley to stay on track. (cross talk with Farley and audience.) Clerk Lewis asked when was a grant written last and was it successful? Asked board to research grants available. How much earnest money would be needed to purchase the truck? Who would be doing the grant writing for the town? That this needed to be discussed at future board meetings that this was not a one time conversation. That if the board was aware that a new truck was needed. What had been done for the last several years to write for a grant to procure a truck?

(r.) Farley stated she was thinking about getting Art Barre to do the grant writing. Fencil stated that was a possibility but it cost \$8,000 last time for him to write for a grant. (cross talk with the audience.)

(s.) Clerk Lewis asked if the grant writing had been successful? She knew that several board members had taken grant writing classes. That the grant writing should happen in house. Working meetings could be had so they could work together as a group. That part of the clerk's responsibilities is to do grant writing.

(t.) Farley told Lewis that the chairman writes for grants and that is not the clerks responsibility. She said the clerk is too busy to do grant writing.

(u.) Lewis asked Farley if she has ever written for a grant herself? Farley said yes. Lewis asked if she had been successful? Farley replied no. Lewis asked why were you not successful? Farley said she wasn't sure. Lewis stated that in the grant process if a denial happens it is standard process that the grantor lets you know why they did not find them eligible.

(v.) Chair Farley asked so Margaret you are going to try and do this?

(w.) Clerk Lewis responded yes I would love to work with you as a group to write a grant. I have been successful in the 3 grants that I have written for in the past. I have also been successful in writing for scholarships for myself and for other people in the past.

(x.) Supervisor Volkmann asked were you successful for that scholarship that you wrote for the clerk education? Lewis stated yes I was successful for the scholarship. I will receive \$300 towards the \$500 cost of the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association UW Green Bay training course.

(y.) Chair Farley stated we are going to put this off until next month. The board will research how much we need to have for down payment and what grants are out there. It will be on the agenda for next month.

(z.) Fencl asked how much money was in the budget for a new truck? Treasurer Kitchmaster responded that there was about \$35,000 in the future equipment fund.

16. Chairmans Report- We need 2 new members for Planning Commission. Sabin Rosenbaum stated that there were two people that may be interested but nobody had given a formal letter of intent urged the audience to ask around if anyone would be interested to formally be nominated to be on the Planning Commission. Farley asked who does the letter of intent go to? Lewis responded that all letters of intent should come to her and then she will distribute them to the board. Farley stated a new full time member of the road crew had been hired Ronald Kramer. Ron stood up and the audience gave applause. Farley stated that the short term rental ordinance that had been brought up before that the board was going to look at neighboring facilities and what they were charging. Fencl said this issue had been tabled and did not need to be discussed. Farley asked Sabin if he knew anything about the Rolling Rapids issues. Sabin responded that the town had washed their hands of the issue he didn't think that the town was going to have any issues as long as town vehicles were not taken on the road that he didn't know how much property was being sold in the subdivision. That he didn't know much beyond that. Farley stated that she didn't think that there was access to the 80 acre county land that the subdivision was not public. Sabin stated that the road could not be considered public but if someone wanted to put a toll booth out front and charge people that maybe that would be a good way for them to get money to maintain their road. Farley asked Sabin about the issues with the constable truck some discussion was had between Farley and Sabin about the cost and what it was taking to get the truck fixed. Sabin further elaborated that the recent fix of the water pump and steering had made it much better. At this time he felt he could continue to drive the vehicle. Supervisor Fencl asked about the frame repair. It was decided between Sabin and Fencl that the new employee Ron Kramer having an extensive background in welding would weld the frame instead of Lexows repair shop. Fencl stated that the welding on frame is legal just

no modifications could be made to the steering or suspension. Further extensive talk of the vehicle issues was had between Sabin, Volkmann, Fencil and Farley. Clerk urged the board and Sabin that at the 4/14 meeting it was stated that a newer vehicle for the constable should be a topic of discussion. Clerk read quotes from meeting minutes.

17. Supervisor 1 Report- Weight limits are off. Some of our new pavement on eagle river road shows some damage from weight. Cracks should be sealed. Rental equipment for crack sealing was going to be investigated to keep up with some of the maintenance issues. This will help keep moisture out. The old non-working town truck and the front end loader were evaluated. The truck has a blown head gasket. The back hoe may not be fixable and we should look at auctioning it or selling it off for parts. That would be a feasible way to get a little money back and get those off the property. Chair Farley stated she forgot something in her report. That a little money would be coming in from the Snow Storm and that the ARIP was due in June.

18. Supervisor 2 Report- Spectrum is fixing ruts in the roads. They are re-seeding areas disturbed in winter. There was an outage yesterday for a long period. Going to talk with some interested parties on the planning commission appointments. Fencil asked about the outage. Volkmann elaborated on the grid system and how the disruption happens.

19. Treasurers Report- Balance in checking is \$21,898.04. Money Market account is \$155,369.76. The tax account is \$179,701.42. The Garbage and Recycling is at \$109,266.00. The assessor account is at \$100,830.18. Kitchmaster explained she is not happy about ACH payments she prefers paper checks. That there were approximately 20 ACH payments last month. Clerk told her it is the way most companies do business and prefer to be paid electronically. Fire Dept CD's are at \$27,739.68 and \$10,660.79.

20. Clerks Report- My official duties started March 24th when I began training for the elections. I did 25 hours of election training in three days. The absentee ballots were to be sent out March 15th they were not sent out. I sent the absentee ballots out on March 27th when I completed my training and gained access to WisVote. On Monday March 30th there was an issue where our domain name for silvercliffwi.com was expiring. I had to contact a former clerk from several years ago to get personal information to be able to log in to the account to pay the bill so we did not lose access to our domain. April 3rd I was contacted by several individuals about part time road crew worker Kasey Hayden driving a town truck without a CDL. I group messaged the board to get Kasey off the road as Marinette County Sheriff's Department was mentioned. When I spoke with Farley on the phone she informed me that with an ice storm perhaps coming and with Jeff the fulltime CDL driver being at a doctor's appointment that day she felt that she could "declare an emergency" and authorize Kasey to drive on the road without a CDL. (interrupted by Chair Farley)

On Sunday April 5th I received a group e-mail that I don't believe I was to be part of and in it: Jim Sommers, Dan Zimmer of planning commission talked about putting trail cameras on a private property off Limberg Lane because they saw some debris on the side of the road. I sent an e-mail reply back and informed them that it was myself who had removed a couple of items out of the road that day on my way to the town hall. That the items had been lost out of the property owner's truck. I did not feel that it was right that town officials were to be spying on individuals privately or putting cameras anywhere. Considering that we did not have cameras to watch our own town facilities. I thought this was inappropriate and forwarded the emails and my response to the Town Board and Sabin Rosenbaum head of Planning Commission. On April 7th the day of the election I was notified by a couple of individuals about Mitch Piontek doing work next to the town hall. I was asked if there was a contract for this work. I spoke to Mitch that day and informed him that I did not have any record of a contract for his company Thunder Creek Logging. Mitch told me that Chairman Farley told him he did not need a contract for work under \$10,000. (Interrupted by Chair Farley to ask if I was done with my report and that I was out of time. I told her I was not)

I informed Mitch there is still a formal process for contractors and that I would need a valid contract or an invoice for the work along with his insurance. I apologized to him and wanted to make sure he was paid correctly for work he was performing. On Friday April 10th I sent out an e-mail asking for information on the Agenda for the 4/14 meeting. I asked if there was an invoice from the new insurance company. I also had questions about the cease and desist letter that we had received from our former insurance company. (Chair Farley interrupted and told me that I needed to be done. I told her I was not)

I had informed the board we were assigned to do an audit from our former insurance company. Volkmann had offered to help, Fencl wanted added to agenda town hall repairs, Farley wanted to add to the public comment section "The board reserves the right to address any public comment immediately that is viewed as damaging hurtful or otherwise demeaning." I then sent the board back a draft agenda and the 5 page Roberts Rules of Order Handout. The board did not provide any additional information and I prepared a finalized agenda along with invoices and payroll. On 4/14 an invoice for the new insurance policy was provided to me by chairman Farley at 6:45 PM. The invoice was for \$29,798.85 but the invoice was misdated for 4/9 of 2023. I spoke with Farley after the 7:00 PM scheduled board meeting. She informed me that she had just gotten the invoice and that a check was needed immediately as she was meeting Colleen the new insurance agent in the morning. I should make her out a check then and there. I explained to her on 4/14 the process of how bank transfer and checks need to be made out according to the law. That a payment at 9:00 PM was not possible. That I would need to create a payment once a valid invoice was presented and that Town Hall Software does a scheduled maintenance shut

down on Tuesday nights because clerks using the software have made all necessary payments leading up to a board meeting. Farey informed me that she would be reaching out to our new insurance agent to get a valid invoice. On Wednesday April 15th I had an appointment in Green Bay at 8AM. From 8-10AM I had 22 missed phone calls. When I came out of the appointment I was informed by treasurer Kitchmaster that if I did not come back to Silver Cliff immediately to make payment on the \$ 29,798.85 invoice. The town would again lose insurance. (Interrupted by Farley)

I then contacted the Wisconsin Michigan Insurance agency in Marinette. I did not have any contact information for the new insurance agent. Wisconsin Michigan Insurance agency informed me that they would have the insurance agent call me directly as they did not give out numbers. I spoke with our new insurance agent Colleen at 10:37AM. She informed me that payment had not been made on this insurance policy and that effective on the 16th we would not be covered by them due to non-payment. I told Colleen that the invoice that she had given to Farley was incorrect. That it was misdated for 2023 instead of 2026. Colleen apologized and told me that she would send me a new invoice but that I did need to return to Silver Cliff and make payment. She asked for my contact information. The clerks contact information was withheld from her by Chair Farley. Farley told Colleen that she was only to speak with her on the towns insurance.

The payment needed to be received in person at the Wisconsin Michigan Insurance agency either that day or by 8:30 the following morning or we would lose insurance due to non-payment. I immediately drove to Silver Cliff. I worked with treasurer Kitchmaster to transfer the \$29,000 to our general checking. I entered the correct invoice into our accounting software. Made out a paper check which was signed by myself and Kitchmaster. Treasurer then brought check for Farley to sign. Farley then had to bring that check to the Wisconsin Michigan Insurance agency in Marinette by 8:30 the following morning. On 4/17 I was informed that miss Farley was blaming me for almost missing a payment to the insurance company and that I didn't know what I was doing. Farley claimed no responsibility for the incident. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, I received a FOIA request for utility expenses for the town. In the process of responding to the individual who submitted the Freedom of Information Act request chair Farley and supervisor Volkmann made statements to the FOIA requestee which were badgering, rude and out of line with what the Justice Department guidelines are for responding to FOIA requests as legal representatives of the municipality.

On April 27th I sent out an e-mail to the board and to a few other representatives of the town letting them know what my work schedule and availability was for the following two weeks. It is my belief that Volkmann and Farley used that information to have two illegal meetings at the town hall on April 29th and April 30th. The meeting was witnessed by

several individuals who filed complaints with me. It is my knowledge that paperwork was taken out of my office spread out on tables and gone through. (Chair Farley interrupted and claimed it was not a meeting. I asked her what 2 out of 3 board members at a Town Hall going through papers was?")

I know this is an open meetings violation. The former clerk now deputy clerk Weinrich was present one of the days and knew that it was wrong and that Volkmann and Farley had been warned about this activity before. A meeting is described as the convening of the members of a government body for the purpose of exercising the responsibilities authority power or duties delegated. If 1/2 or more of the members of a government body are present the meeting is presumed to be for the purpose of exercising its responsibilities delegated or vested to that body. Every meeting is supposed to be publicly noticed as provided in section 19.84 of Wisconsin Statutes. Violating this goes against an oath that each government official takes and each government official found guilty can be held liable in civil court for those violations.

On May 8th I was contacted by our attorney Wallace and was notified that payment would need to be made soon for fees incurred from the cease and desist letter from the violation of an NDA contract that was signed by Farley October 20th of 2025. Also on that day I was contacted by the Department of Revenue and was informed that nothing had been done since February to fix the tax levy issues and that they would be issuing a \$7,575 penalty for going over our allowable tax levy limit. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, I received another FOIA request for copies of the cease and desist letter and also copies of the settlement agreement from October 20th 2025. Again, chairman Farley responded inappropriately to a FOIA requestee. She responded to the person using a different e-mail. Farley provided unredacted information that contained names of our former insurance and our former insurance agent within the documents. At this time, I felt it necessary to remove chairman Farley and the supervisors ability to see and respond to FOIA requests in our group mailbox. I did this in an effort to protect the town as I do not feel the town's representatives are doing their due diligence to understand what the laws are or how to protect the town from foreseeable harm. I have informed the board that I will include them only in my responses to any FOIA requests going forward.

Also, on May 12th I received correspondence from DNR about a recycling grant that had been completed on April 30th. I had no knowledge of the recycling grant. I logged into a DNR account and found that I was locked out of it. I had to reach out to the DNR's IT department. I was informed that the recycling grant was turned in on April 30th by chair Farley and that on the date of submission she had changed the contact information to her private e-mail and her private phone number instead of the clerk's information. The DNR

informed me they had questions about some of the amounts that were provided to them. I reached out to the former clerk Weinrich about the issue. Her response was that the DNR recycling grant should come from the clerk's office. She had done it the year prior. That she had missed something in the documentation but the DNR still accepted the grant. Due to her mistake the town only received about 75% of the funding. Weinrich felt that chairman Farley had no business doing the recycling grant. She felt Chair Farley would have no idea what is connected and lacked access to receipts and payments that go into the recycling program. It was her opinion that Farley should not have done the recycling grant. I then asked Chair Farley where she had gotten the information? Chair Farley responded that she had copied the prior years totals. I asked her where she found the 58 ton total for weight? Chair Farley responded that she saw the garbage slips. I informed her that recycling and garbage are two different things. That in the previous year there had been 37 tons reported. Wasn't sure where it was copied from? That I had a potential DNR audit to look forward to.

21. Constables Report- Sabin Rosenbaum said it had been quiet.

22. Planning Commission Report- Sabin Rosenbaum said they had 2 building Permits. One incomplete. One needs review for setbacks on Hazel Lane.

23. Cemetery Report- Sue Victoreen said one plot marked for headstone.

24. Road Foreman Report- Jeff DeBauche not present. Fencl said they had been working on filling pot holes, grading roads, work on Klug Lane, work on Benson Lake.

25. Fire Dept Report- Al Walesh said it been pretty quiet. Couple weeks prior during swift water training they had a call for a motorcycle accident. The weather has been very dry and we have skated through without any wildland fires.

26. County Board Supervisor Report- Christopher Norton said things have been quiet. On the county board level some things had changed out of the election. County board chair remained the same. New vice chair Connie Siefeldt. New committee was created for the UW campus. Members had yet to be announced. DA informed the board there has been 137 felony charges filed this year. There is still a vacancy in her office for an additional lawyer and legal assistant. Jailer reports 130 average inmates. 4 vacancies in the jail. Corner reported 5 suicides and 2 fire deaths but overall numbers are down.

27. Motion to adjourn made by Fencl. Seconded by Volkmann. Motion carried

28. Public Comment-

Steve Phenicie Silver Cliff- Wants to know what this towns credit score is? Chairman Farley responded that she did not know. Phenicie asked her why she didn't know she was the

towns chairman. Farley stated it was not information she had seen before. Phenicie said we should know what the score is if we need to get loans for a new truck.

Mitch Piontek Silver Cliff- Offered to get details from a personal friend who works for Western Star trucking. Clerk asked that Mitch share those quotes and information with her and she will make sure the board gets them. Mitch said they are located in the Wausau area. Takes about a year to get the truck.

Jim Fencl-elaborated on the totals for the 3 quotes from Jeff and what was the best price for the capabilities.

(cross talk between Fencl, Piontek)

Dave Douglas Silver Cliff- Questions on the forestry presentation. Are you guys planning to raise red pine to sell?

Chris Norton Silver Cliff- elaborated on the forestry plan. That our reforestation plan does include red pine as it's the most profitable. We have a forester already named Stu Bormen. We had a forestry plan established but the tornado cut the trees for us and left this mess. We have now lost 3-4 growing years. I am urging you the board and the electors. Lets stick with the original forestry plan from 2022. Instead of natural regeneration in this 40 acres around the town buildings since it is clear the best option for us is red pine.

(cross talk Fencl, Norton, Douglas, Piontek, Farley, Volkmann) Clerk asked that people come to the podium. Notes get crazy when everyone wants to just talk. No more public comment was noted.