

Township of Bloom
Regular monthly meeting minutes
Tuesday March 11th 2025 at 7:00 PM
Bloom Town Hall at 13775 County Highway H

Chairman Wayne Morse stated: please be aware that this meeting may or may not be video audio recorded

1. Call to order and pledge of allegiance
2. Proof of posting (Verification of meeting notices with open meetings law)
 - a. Posted at Town Hall and on the township website
 - b. Notice at other locations to see Township website and web address posted
3. Roll call, Chairman Wayne Morse, Supervisor 1 Stuart Miller, Supervisor 2 Jerry Crotsenberg, Treasurer Lora Hynek, Clerk Shelly Schweiger, all present
 - a. Others present: Lyle Morris, Kathy Fanta, Diane Tydrich, Shawn Murphy-Lopez, Bradford McCauley, Dave Nelson, Amy and Maurice Condon, Zeke Spangler, Earl Wallace, Derek Schweiger, Mr. and Mrs. Mike White, Daren Matthes, and Paul Schweiger (10:30)
4. Approval and adoption of agenda Motion by Jerry second by Stuart motion carried
5. Approve minutes – February 11th 2025 Regular monthly meeting Motion by Stuart second by Jerry motion carried
6. Treasures report
 - a. Cash on hand \$10,908.53
 - b. Savings account \$44,036.65
 - c. Municipal interest checking \$148,363.02
 - d. CD's \$200,000.00
 - e. Money management – Tax \$81,865.52
 - i. Board members acknowledge receipt and explanation with some Q and A
7. County board report representative Mary Miller not present – No report available.
8. Patrolman's report – Weight limit signs were posted, Recycling building work done, Wash trucks, Henry Stanek wants a sign for children playing (Township has signs that say "slow children" but apparently someone was offended by this and so we need to order new signs and once the new signs are received then the patrolman can put signs up by Henry Stanek's place. Stuart made a motion to order two "watch for children" signs from Lange, seconded by Jerry and motion carried.

9. Roads and bridges report

- a. Cherry Valley – Richland County Got back to Wayne that wings would need put on Bridge wall Extension pricing discussion, Doug Wood said that we could get by with putting in rock - Stuart advised to revisit this issue at road inspection when road limits would already be removed
- b. Roads Posted
- c. Damage done on Silver Road shoulders – Wayne said that some damage had been done on Cherry Valley, Happy Valley and Spangler Ridge Road Stated that he would need to see how it heals and then Township Patrolman would repair the road shoulders and then pass the cost on to the landowner. Clerk Shelly asked if more roads needed listed than the three stated. Wayne said that this was all that he needed reported so far. Currently Wayne has not spoken with the land owner and it is a hazard.
- d. Farm driveway permit – Zeke Spangler / Spangler Farms and Amy Condon were present at the meeting wanting a driveway permit where an existing gravel farm field road currently exists. Wayne said that the board could give him the authority to issue the permit. Jerry made a motion to have Wayne view and issue the driveway permit to Zeke Spangler / Spangler Farms. Stuart added that Wayne would need to give them a driveway sheet so that they knew how wide and all the township specs that were required for a legal driveway. Wayne said he had a sheet and would give it to them. Jerry made a motion; Stuart seconded the motion and motion carried.

10. Delegations and Citizens to address the board – future agenda items

Lyle Morris wanted to know about the road by “his” driveway? Wayne had printed pictures that he then started to show Jerry and Stuart and explain what was in the pictures

- a. Wayne stated that the patrolman did not call Diggers hotline and he also added that he noticed that on Spangler Ridge there was another spot and asked the two patrolmen if they called Diggers hotline when they dug in the ditch by the old Pliner farm. Zeke said they did not do much digging and Earl said all they did was push grass out of the ditch. Earl said that by Lyle Morris’s (Resac Lane) they really did not dig anything all they did was about two or three inches to divert water and ice build up from coming on to the road and freezing so that it would run down the road right of way and ditch line and over to the road tube. However, due to the ground being somewhat soft the front end of the backhoe did sink in a bit where the frost was out. This this spring they would call diggers hotline and dig deeper so that the water could drain better to the road tube. Wayne then said a shovel wouldn’t

have worked? To which both Earl and Zeke said no. Lyle then said the backhoe wouldn't do it? Earl then replied they did not sue the backhoe they used the end bucket to which Lyle said Why? To which Zeke said more area and they were not going that deep. Lyle then interrupted and said it did not make any difference it would not have made any ruts in the ditch if you would have used the backhoe. Zeke then stated that if we used the backhoe we would have had a bigger chance of hitting a fiber optics line and then we would have been screwed. Lyle then said no you would not have. I mean then you would have been better back dragging and moving forward with the backhoe and less chance of hitting anything. Wayne also said that a shovel would have been better than anything but I don't know. Shelly stated that this is in the road right of way – this will be looked at during road inspection. Dave Nelson wanted to know if they were driving in the road with one wheel or in the shoulder or how this was happening. Wayne said somewhat in that they left deep ruts and if someone went off the road it would be quite a hazard.

- b. Brad McCauley said that the town of Marshall received grants to double seal almost all the roads in the Township and wanted to know if Wayne had applied for any grants for the town of Bloom. Wayne said he did not know about any grants and that he sat on the LRIP committee and they only got it for Merry Hill Road west end to reconstruct it.

11. Set date and time for the April regular board meeting – April 8th 2025 at 7:00 PM

12. Equipment

- a. Plow truck – Discuss purchasing Used plow from C and H Excavating for \$800. Current plow needs repaired with an estimate to repair at \$4000. Bolts were taken off because they were coming loose all the time and it had worn through the bull holes. Bolts do not have lock nuts
 - i. Jerry made a motion to purchase the plow from C and H Excavating for \$800. We will possibly look at repairing the current plow later to have it as a backup. Wayne seconded the motion and motion carried.
- b. John Deere 410L Backhoe – Discuss and possible action on purchase of new rear tires
 - i. Motion made by Jerry to go with Don's Tire with the harvest king tires, seconded by Stuart, Motion carried

13. Recycling and garbage – Nothing new

14. Fire department and EMS

- a. Yuba – Jerry reported that they were meeting Monday March 17th 2025 and the first responders have completed the new bylaws and they will be voting on

this Monday night. Wayne wanted to know if they would be having a smelt feed or anything like that. Jerry replied that there always is and that this has always been on Mother's Day weekend.

- b. Richland Center – Wayne reported that the meeting was last night. Keller was there and they went through the fire station and were looking at the need for space (Can't hardly walk between the wall and the equipment). They are needing to do an assessment as they are outgrowing the building with equipment and only have one shower (Firemen are required to have a shower within one hour of coming back from a fire call). If they redo the current building they could spend up to \$9 million and this would take up the area that they currently use for parking. Leaving them no area for parking. If they build a new building the cost without the land is estimated at \$12 million. They are looking for someone to donate five acres for future expansion to build on and then they would put four dorms in it so that if someone came back from a fire call and was too tired and exhausted to drive, they could have a place to sleep and rest. They would like to research more if there's a possibility of any grants that would be available at some point like Viroqua received years ago – more discussion will be forthcoming.
- c. LaFarge – Annual Banquet is this Saturday at 6:00 PM
- d. Kickapoo Rescue Squad – Viewing of the new rescue squad outside. Steve Bass and Daren Matthis went over all the safety features, 7.3 gas engine, 4 wheel drive, new equipment that was added. They will also be adding auto chains and more reflective Chevron for visibility, Computer screens will be the same for the driver and the two in the back, they have an automatic CPR machine and they would like to get a second one, total setup for the new ambulance and equipment was over \$500,000. Also purchased was a chair assist for this ambulance that helps bring people downstairs where boards cannot be used to carry them down. The chair assist is narrower and runs on rubber tracks with brakes and will help with the EMT not having to lift extremely heavy people and narrow and or steep difficult situation. Video cameras are also on this new rescue squad.

15. Old business

- a. Discuss website with possible action – Contract with Woodward Community Media – Lora has not received anything from Matthew. She sent something to him stating that we needed to update... we know also some Tim and email and he said he would get back to Lora. Tabled until next meeting.

- b. Discuss any website changes with possible action. Shelly made recent updated to the home tab adding roadway weight restrictions, elections tab with my vote Wisconsin and the link recycling tab added the hours.
 - i. Property Fraud Alert – Shelly showed everyone the county website and what could be attached to the town of Blooms website – motion was made by Stuart to add this to the town of Blooms website, seconded by Jerry and motion carried.
- c. Private property plowing discussion and possible action – Wayne read the league of Wisconsin municipalities powers of municipalities FAQ 12
 - i. The only one that we are going to be doing is an easement on Coy Lane – Stuart Miller’s and McCoy Lane to where the patrolman turn around this will also be discussed during road inspection
- d. Job description – Discussion and possible action – Jerry said that he knew at last month’s meeting the patrolman had asked Wayne to sit down with them. Wayne said he gave the patrolman Jerry’s phone number to sit down with Jerry. Jerry said that he had not heard from anybody so with that and not hearing any complaints or concerns or any contact being made he puts into motion for it to be accepted “as is”. Stuart said so you never met with them? Wayne said he did not have time he was too busy with his dad having a broken leg. Wayne told them to meet with Jerry and he put it on them to call. Earl stated that the two times that he called/saw Jerry he was not available and that they were wanting to meet during work hours and not on weekends or personal time. Jerry stated that he had no record of any attempted calls. Earl said that he and Zeke would like to see the following changes:
 - i. Number 20 – Provide proof of federal medical card to the board on or about January 1st of every year
 - ii. Number 19 maintain detailed written records of all work performed and time devoted to each task provide said records to the town board at the monthly board meeting
 - iii. Number 10 keep records of work performed

During this discussion Wayne said that years ago the patrolman used to keep a notebook and they listed the work that they did for each day. Earl said that that was fine but in this job description it specifically states “time and work performed” so if you are plowing on road A and then change to road B you would need to stop and document the time you ended on road A and started on road B. Two minutes later you could be changing roads again and must stop and document time and road again. Jerry said the intent is not a play by play but more of a task description.

Wayne said that keeping a specific lot of time spent on a road would be for documenting if road would be better off seal coated or kept as gravel. Earl said that they could keep a notebook. Jerry noticed a typo that would be fixed. Board members discussed changes in wording along with patrolmen. Wayne made a motion to accept the job description with changes and it was seconded by Jerry and motion carried. Once changes are made and updated the job description will be reviewed for a final approval

- e. Nelson Agri Center – Discussion with possible action – Wayne gave out a wish list of Milwaukee tools with prices
 - i. Jerry motions that he thinks we should order everything except the blower tool only for a \$129 seconded by Wayne motion carried
 - 1. Discuss other items on the shopping list – motion by Stuart and second by Jerry, motion carried
- f. Board of Review Training – Test and discussion – Shelly printed out the handbook test and answer sheet. Handbook and test and the 2023 CD were given to Wayne, Stuart and Jerry. Shelly kept the answer key once each one is done with the handbook and test, they will get the test back to Shelly and pass the CD on to the next person when the last person reviews the CD it is to be returned to the clerk.

16. New business

- a. Discuss and possible action on who approves parts purchases for town equipment if needed immediately. Wayne wanted to know if they could go and get it or do we need a special meeting. Jerry and Stuart said that if it was small items that the patrolman could just go and get it or in an emergency they could just go and get it. Wayne said that they went and cot a cutter bar without the chairman's knowledge. Lyle wanted to know who specifically did this and authorized it and asked multiple times. It was stated that this is a confidential matter of the board and if names were needed, we would go into closed meeting. Stuart said it's a wear item. Wayne tried to explain to Dave Nelson the difference in the sections and it was decided that for larger items verbal communication with the chairman and/or supervisor is how this could be handled.
- b. Discuss and possible action on purchase of additional safety cones and or caution signs. Purchase six 28" cones from Lange. Motion made by Jerry and seconded by Wayne and motion carried.
- c. Town hall mowing – Bid versus purchasing a lawn mower and or having patrolmen do the mowing. Discussion with possible action – In 2023 Lora

mowed the town hall and donated it all at no cost to the township, in 2024 the town board decided to hire Richard Merry and it cost the township \$1000. The West Lima Cemetery is mowed by Stuart Miller's Boys. Lora will put an add in the paper for bidding the town hall and/or the West Lima Cemetery.

- d. Set a date and time for the financial audit – March 18th 2025 at 5:00 PM
 - e. Election update – Clerk Schweiger gave a report of the February election. We received a 100% on our reporting from the county. Chris and Shaun worked on the recycling building entryway. Chris tried to replace the lights inside the town hall. February election turnout was low.
 - f. Discuss and possible action – Persons to fill in when patrolmen are on vacation or sick et cetera – Way will have these three added to the Workman's comp insurance policy. Wage will be set as the same as the full-time patrolmen.
 - i. Derek Schweiger has a CDL license, Fed Med Card and was also approved by the town board back in 2015-2016
 - ii. Marcus Hamann has a CDL license
 - iii. Bill Kawlewski has a CDL license
- 1. Motion by Jerry to have Derek, Marcus and Bill as the part time fill in patrolmen at a wage of \$22.00 per hour the same as the patrolman without benefits. Seconded by Wayne, motion carried

17. Upcoming in future items

- a. County cleanup and spring cleanup dates
- b. Gravel bids April meeting agenda Lora will put in paper
- c. Seal coat bids April meeting agenda Lora will put in paper
- d. Diesel fuel contract & LP contract
- e. Open Book from 4 to 6 PM and Board of Review April 30th from 6-8 PM
- f. Driftless music license renewals
- g. Road Inspection – set date/time
- h. Insurance – May

18. Approve and pay bills

- a. Motion by Jerry
 - i. Second by Stuart
 - ii. Motion carried

19. Adjournment at 10:49 PM

Town of Bloom, Clerk

- a. Road inspection – set date/time
- b.