

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Town Board meeting on April 15, 2026
(this meeting was correctly posted)

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Declaration of quorum followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve minutes from 4/1/26
5. Public input
6. Committee Reports
7. Utility District#1
 - a. Payment of bills
 - b. Treasurer's Report
8. Payment of Town bills
9. Town Treasurer's Report
10. Update from Door County North
11. Town Administrator update on 2026 paving project schedule
12. Town Administrator update on Rowley's Bay Resort clean-up
13. Short Term Rental licenses
14. Correspondence
15. Future meeting(s)
16. Adjourn

Clerk/Treasurer Pamela Donart-Welcome called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisors Janet Johnson, Billy Appel, and Cathy Ward were present. Chairman Nancy Goss and Supervisor Dan Watts were excused. Administrator Buckingham was also in attendance along with nine members of the public.

Johnson moved, Ward seconded to appoint Billy Appel as chairman for this meeting.
Carried 3 – 0

Ward moved, Johnson seconded to approve the Agenda as posted. **Carried 3 – 0**

Johnson moved, Appel seconded to approve the 4/1/26 minutes as amended to correct Jeb Saelens title from EMS Director to Emergency Management Director. **Carried 3 – 0**

Public input: none

Committee Reports: Cathy Ward, Chair of the Plan Commission and Parks & Property Committee reported that the Plan Commission is working on a proposed Site Plan Review Ordinance with a focus on Dark Sky friendly lighting, and the Parks & Property Committee was awarded grant money from the Community Investment Fund to help with the cost of installing a floating pier at the Ellison Bay Marina, and also noted that the Door County Tourism Zone is still looking for a Liberty Grove member to fill a vacancy on their Commission. Billy Appel who sits on the Highway Committee, reported that they are working on ideas/options to address standing water on Cedar Shore Road, as well as a response to the petition brought before the Town Board

requesting allowed use of ATVs/UTVs on all Town Roads. Janet Johnson who sits on Community Development Committee reported that they are working on options for using two Town-owned parcels to provide affordable housing, and also a public discussion program on a PBS's *America at 250* segment focusing on the American Revolution.

Johnson moved, Ward seconded to pay the Liberty Grove Utility District #1 bills totaling \$56,834.08. **Carried 3 – 0**

Treasurer's Report: Donart-Welcome reported the following Utility District #1 account balances as of March 31, 2026:

Checking Account	\$ 76,546.93
Savings Account	\$ 285,809.44
Restricted Savings	\$ 132,570.11
CD	\$ <u>171,189.28</u>
TOTAL	\$ 666,115.76

Appel moved, Ward seconded to approve the Utility District#1 Treasurer's Report as presented. **Carried 3 – 0**

Appel moved, Johnson seconded to pay the Town bills totaling \$190,273.86. **Carried 3 – 0**

Treasurer's Report: Donart-Welcome reported the following Town account balances as of March 31, 2026:

Municipal Checking	\$ 1,971,429.54
Money Market Account	\$ 1,177,631.39
General Checking	\$ 1,041,633.54
Utility District	\$ <u>666,115.76</u>
TOTAL	\$ 4,856,810.23

Appel moved, Johnson seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. **Carried 3 – 0**

Curt Bawden and Sandy Smith of **Door County North** summarized how they have created a new strategic plan for the original organization, changed from being a from a 501c6 to a 501c3, and rebranded themselves to "Door County North Community and Business Association." They now have a new focus on collaboration with the Town to involve the local community in various activities/events instead of only having their focus solely on the promotion of local businesses.

Administrator Buckingham updated the Board on the **2026 paving** schedule that is underway. He then reported that he continues to be in contact with the owners of the former **Rowley's Bay Resort** and the representative for Best Enterprises, and the necessary abatement of hazards has been completed. The next step of erosion control is expected to begin the week of April 27th, if recent flooding conditions allow, followed by actual building demolition beginning in the beginning of May.

Ward moved, Johnson seconded to approve the STR application for property address 1581 Hill Road. **Carried 3 – 0**

Correspondence: Administrator Buckingham shared a “Thank You” card from the Wisconsin Drug Testing Consortium thanking us for counting on them to ensure DOT compliance for our Town Maintenance Crew; a notice from Wisconsin Public Service informing us of their electric rebuild project taking place in the area of South Port Des Mort Drive; a letter from Door County Economic Development Corporation thanking us for our generous annual investment in the Door County Economic Development Corporation in the amount of \$6,895; an email from Jim Peterson, the coach of the Ellison Bay Little League team, notifying us of their practice and game schedule beginning on April 27th; a letter from the Top of the Thumb Snowmobile Club advising us that they had a short season this year, but they were able to use their trail groomer to help during the recent blizzard and assisted with rescues, as it was the only vehicle that could get into some locations.

Future Meetings: The Annual meeting will be on April 21, 2026 at 7:00pm. The first required Board of Review meeting will be May 6, 2026 beginning at 5:45pm, followed by the next regular Town Board meeting beginning at 6:00pm.

Johnson moved, Appel seconded to adjourn at 6:44pm. **Carried 3 - 0**

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Donart-Welcome, Clerk/Treasurer
Approved on 5/6/26