Town of Rome
Nekoosa, WI 54457
www.romewi.gov

TOWN OF ROME BOARD MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026 5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

   Chairman Carl Hasdal called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

   Present: Chairman Carl Hasdal; Supervisors Cyndee Lewis, Vito Giardino and Mark Samelstad; also present: Clerk Wendy Newsom and Finance Director/Treasurer/Interim Administrator Robbie Schaub-Ruemler; Excused: Supervisor Tim Reppen

3. Certify Posting of Meeting

   Wendy Newsom certified that on, Monday, September 28, 2026, the Agenda for the Town of Rome Board meeting for Thursday, October 1, 2026 was posted at:

Posted at the Rome Town Hall	*12:08 p.m.*
Posted at Kwik Trip, LLC	*12:13 p.m.*
Posted at Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank	*12:17 p.m.*
Emailed to the Wisconsin Rapids Tribune	*12:21 p.m.*

4. Approve the Agenda

   Motion by Giardino/Lewis to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

5. Pledge of Allegiance

6. Citizen Comments – During the Citizen Comment period of the agenda the Town Board welcomes comments from any town resident, not a member of the Town Board, on any item not on the agenda. Please know that pursuant to State law the Board cannot engage in conversation with you but may ask questions. The Board may refer the item to staff, a standing committee or a future board agenda for discussion and action. Each person wishing to speak will have up to 3 minutes to speak. Speakers are asked to submit a card to the Clerk providing their name, address and topic for discussion

   The board will also take comment from the public on agenda items as called by the Chair, but not during Citizen Comment. Please note that once the board begins discussion on an agenda item no further comment will be allowed from the public on that issue

   No citizen comments.

NO ACTION CONTEMPLATED EXCEPT POSSIBLE REFERRAL TO FUTURE AGENDA:

7. Information Updates, Meeting Recaps, Recent Correspondence, Current Events, Announcements

   Giardino: Spoke regarding the epi pens that the Town has received and announced that 7 lives have been saved by epi pens State wide.

   Hasdal: The Chairman provided an update on the Solar Farm.

DISCUSS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

8. Discussion and possible action – Approval of the September 17, 2026 meeting minutes

   Motion by Samelstad/Lewis to approve the September 17, 2026 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

9. Discussion and possible action – Transfer Site Contractor Permits, discussion of costs associated with brush and stumps and suggestions to resolve current issues

   Director of Public Works Cody Knoblock spoke regarding the situation at the Transfer Site and the fact that the site has been filling up with brush and stumps because of contractors clearing properties and bringing it all to the Transfer Site.

   Mark Lewis, 991 Wellington Ct, asked if the stumps are the main concern. Suggested that the Town make the contractors put down the property owners name and phone number to help police that the brush is from a Town of Rome property.

   Director of Public Works Knoblock recommended that the hours be limited and not allow stumps. Also, increasing the rate charged for the contractors.

   Chairman Hasdal stated to contact Ehlers to see if they can give a cost analysis and check with the attorney to see if the permit can be changed before April.

   Motion by Lewis/Giardino to have the Director of Public Works look into a cost analysis and check with the attorney to see if the permit can be changed before April. Motion carried with Samelstad voting no.

10. Discussion and possible action – Approval of request to change the budgeted purchase of a Plow Truck to a Loader with snow pusher

    Pubic Works Director Cody Knoblock explained the reason for the change of purchasing a Loader with snow pusher.

    Motion by Giardino/Samelstad to approve the request to change the purchase of a plow truck to a loader with snow pusher with a premium warranty. Motion carried.

11. Discussion and possible action – Approval of the 2025 to 2026 carryovers

    Finance Director/Treasurer/Interim Administrator Robbie Schaub-Ruemler explained the carryovers from 2025 to 2026 are based on the audit recommendations.

Motion by Samelstad/Lewis to approve the 2025 to 2026 carryovers. Motion carried.

12. Discussion and possible action – Approval of Resolution No. 26 – 07; A Resolution Exempting the Town of Rome From Paying Adams County Library Tax – 2027

    Motion by Lewis/Giardino to approve Resolution No. 26 – 07; A Resolution Exempting the Town of Rome from paying Adams County Library Tax – 2027. Motion carried.

13. Discussion and possible action – Newsletter in the Adams newspaper

    Chairman Hasdal stated that he has worked with the Adams newspaper and he would like to do a Chairman's Corner article monthly.

    Motion by Lewis/Giardino to have a monthly Chairman's Corner newsletter in the Adams newspaper. Motion carried.

14. Discussion and possible action – Changing the official Town Newspaper for legal notices

    Clerk Wendy Newsom stated that the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune has 153 subscribers in the Town of Rome.

    Discussion was had regarding whether the Town should change the official paper.

    Motion by Lewis/Giardino to table to the next meeting. Motion carried.

15. Discussion and possible action – Parking in the Rome Town Center

    Police Chief Jason Lauby sent a memo regarding the parking, which is in the packet and gave suggestions on what the Town could do to make it safer.

    Supervisor Giardino spoke regarding the letter from the Police Chief and the parking area that the Public Works Director suggested.

    Chairman Hasdal submitted an area where he feels a parking lot could be placed.

    Supervisor Lewis spoke regarding the green space that was proposed and agrees that it is not a good space to put a parking area.

    Motion by Lewis/Samelstad to table to a future agenda. Motion carried.

16. Discussion and possible action – Approval of Connect Communities contract

    Zoning Administrator Emily Arndt explained the contract.

    Motion by Lewis/Giardino to approve the Connect Communities contract. Motion carried.

17. Discussion and possible action – Consideration of the Developers Agreement for Scenic Valley Properties, LLC including the option to re-purchase the property due to not meeting the condition "to commence business operations within twenty-four (24) months of the date of the agreement" which was October 11, 2024

Amy Lorenz, the owner of the property stated that she has provided the information that she has.

Supervisor Giardino asked her questions regarding the information that she has previously been asked for and stated that she has not provided the information which caused the delays in the project.

Zoning Administrator Emily Arndt explained that Scenic Valley Properties, LLC had a developer's agreement with the Town to commence business operations with 24 months of the date of the agreement. As of this date, no permits have ever been pulled to start the project.

Discussion was had regarding the Developer and the Developer's Agreement and the time it has taken to get this project moving.

Mark Lewis, 991 Wellington Ct, spoke regarding the project and the fact that the contractor should have known about the timetables, the permits, etc. and all he has heard from Amy is excuses and he feels that this relationship should be severed now.

Supervisor Samelstad agrees with Mr. Lewis and doesn't understand why two years later nothing has been done.

Motion by Lewis/Samelstad to pursue the option to repurchase the property for not meeting the deadline for the Developer's agreement .

Motion withdrawn.

Motion by Giardino/Lewis to bring this back to the next meeting. Motion carried.

18. Discussion and possible action – Speed limit on Alpine Dr

Police Chief Jason Lauby updated the Board on the speed limit on Alpine and the reasons why the speed limit is set on roads. He recommended that lighted signs and/or rumble strips be installed on Alpine.

Motion by Samelstad/Hasdal to leave the speed limit as is and to include the lighted signs as recommended by the Police Chief. Motion carried.

19. Discussion and possible action – Update on handicap parking at businesses in the Town

Police Chief Lauby updated that letters were hand delivered to business owners who do not currently have signage for handicap parking in their parking lots.

20. Discussion and possible action – Explore possible par 3, 9-hole golf course in the Rome Town Center

Chairman Hasdal spoke that this is just exploratory at this point and why he would like to see this happen.

Discussion was had regarding the cost of a golf course and whether the Town should explore it.

Motion by Samelstad/Lewis to refer this to the Parks and Recreation Committee to explore a possible par 3, 9-hole golf course in the Rome Town Center. Motion carried.

21. Discussion and possible action – The Board may go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, to review Town Administrator candidates resumes and applications

    Motion at 6:43 p.m. by Lewis/Giardino to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, to review Town Administrator candidates resumes and applications. Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

    The Board exited closed session at 7:02 p.m.

22. Discussion and possible action – The Board reserves the right to come out of closed session and go into open session authorized by Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(2) to possibly take action from the closed session and continue with the agenda

    Motion at 7:03 p.m. by Lewis/Giardino to come out of closed session and go into open session authorized by Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(2) to possibly take action from the closed session and continue with the agenda. Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

    Chairman Hasdal stated that they will move forward as discussed in closed session.

DATES AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/MEETINGS

23. Next agenda items

    - *Plan Commission appointment*
    - *Raze order for 321 Dover Ct*
    - *Amber Danielski, Final Audit Presentation*
    - *Repurchase of Scenic Valley Properties, LLC property in the Rome Town Center*

24. Next meeting date and time

    October 7, 2026 – 3:00 p.m. Budget Meeting #1
    October 14, 2026 – 3:00 p.m. Budget Meeting #2
    October 15, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Giardino/Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Newsom
Wendy Newsom
Clerk