

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE
PUBLIC HEARING AND TOWN BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

Public Hearing for proposed revisions to section 02.03 of the Town Code – Town Board Meeting

- I. Notice of the public hearing was posted at the Town Hall and on the Town’s website and Facebook page. Town Chair Steve Anders, Supervisors Mike Fonger, Troy Eickhoff, Kristi Williams and Mike DuPlayee were present, along with Clerk-Treasurer Kim Banigan, Deputy Clerk Jennifer Millage, Highway Superintendent Dan Dresen and Deputy Sean Shotliff. DGEMS Chief Eric Lang was present virtually. Anders read the notice and called the public hearing to order at 7:00 P.M. There were no public comments on the proposed ordinance revisions.
- II. **MOTION** by Williams/DuPlayee to close the public hearing at 7:04 P.M. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

Town Board Meeting

- I. ADMINISTRATIVE
 - A. Notice of the meeting was posted at the Town Hall and on the Town’s website. Attendance was the same as for the public hearing above.
 - B. Anders called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.
 - C. Flag Pledge.
 - D. Discuss/Consider approval of minutes of previous meetings: **MOTION** by Williams/Fonger to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2025 Town Board meeting as presented. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0-1** (DuPlayee abstained).
 - E. Finance Report and Approval of Bills:
 1. **MOTION** by DuPlayee/Fonger to approve checks 38143-38170 and EFTs in the amount of \$13,884.15. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
 2. **MOTION** by Williams/DuPlayee to approve payment of \$2,875.00 to General Engineering for September building permits. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
 - F. Public Concerns: Richard Wood, 1965 Ridge Road, thanked the Highway Department for clearing trees on Uphoff Road at the Glacial Drumlin trail, stating it is better but could use more work.
- II. BUSINESS
 - A. Review August Police Activities: The monthly report showed 226 calls for service and 74 citations issued. Anders reported that Deputy Joshua Miranda is scheduled to start on September 21st.
 - B. Discuss/Consider request to prohibit parking on Ridge Road at the Glacial Drumlin Trail (tabled from September 2nd meeting): Richard Wood said that bad behavior by all parties contributes with poor visibility to make for a dangerous situation at the trail crossing on Ridge Road. He thought parking on the top of the hills on either side of the trail would be safer, but added that prohibiting parking was going to push more trail users to park at Uphoff Road, which is unsafe as well. Deputy Shotliff said that if you don’t give them a place to park, they will find one. He has not dealt with any problems at the trail crossing and noted that there are stop signs on the trail, Recreation Trail signs with 35 mph recommended speed signs on Ridge Road before the trail from both directions. He suggested putting a speed board out there to see how much traffic there is. Dresen had drawn up a diagram recommending a total of 10 no parking signs over an 800-foot zone centered on the trail crossing. **MOTION** by DuPlayee/Fonger to approve Dresen’s recommendation for no parking signs. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
 - C. Discuss/Consider Village request for shared sidewalk and road connections between the Town and the Westlawn area of the Village (tabled from September 2nd meeting): DuPlayee stated

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that he is opposed to any street or path connections. He said area residents had contacted him to say they live there because they like the dead-end road. He wondered how this topic came up, whether Village residents had asked the Village Board for it. Dresen said he observed 2 kids on Pheasant Run and 5 on Mourning Dove use the make-shift paths between 7:15 A.M. and 8:00 A.M. one recent morning. Williams had also visited the sites but had not seen much activity on the paths, and said it is not just kids using them. Millage, who lives near there in the Village, said she knows that a lot of kids do use the paths, and not always just before and after school. She also knows owners of residences on the Village side of the path who are not in favor of the roads being connected. Anders said there is no question that nobody wants the roads to go through, but seemed open to connecting the Village sidewalks to the Town Roads as long as the Village foots the bill and keeps the paths free of snow. There were concerns that the paths would be low on the Village's snow removal priority list. Anders said that unless someone is willing to pay for storm sewers, widening the road and sidewalks, it is not likely to happen. Dimitria Van Straten, 4591 Lotus Ln, Mike Anderson, 4582 Lotus Lane, and Deborah Feiner, 2760 Mourning Dove Dr. were also opposed to road or path connections. Feiner lives right next to one of the paths and said she sees more adults than kids cutting through, has not had any vandalism but has seen a bit of trash left behind. Williams said she likes to encourage people to walk more and made a motion that was not seconded to allow one of the two paths to be connected in exchange for the Village to address the stormwater issues on Nightingale Ln. **MOTION** by Fonger/DuPlayee to take no action. **MOTION CARRIED 4-1** (Williams opposed).

- D. Discuss resident concern over the intersection of Vilas Road and CTH BB: Everyone agreed this is a difficult intersection due to the offset crossroads and heavy traffic, which is getting heavier with development in the Village. Banigan said she heard that the County is doing a corridor study, which the Village is also involved with. Deputy Shotliff suggested allowing right turns only during busy hours. **MOTION** by Williams/DuPlayee to ask Dane County to include this intersection in their corridor study, and the Town in their discussions. Right turns only should be on the next agenda. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
- E. Discuss/Consider Luds Lane Traffic Control Plans during construction of the new Dane County 911 center: The southbound detour route provided by the project contractor shows traffic routed from CTH AB to Femrite Drive as the access point to US Hwy 12/18. Discussion was this is already a dangerous intersection much like the old CTH AB/US Hwy 12/18 intersection was where there were frequent accidents and multiple fatalities. Anders has spoken with the City of Madison Dept of Transportation, the County Highway Department and the WDOT. The WDOT took it under advisement. Dresen said the Town Engineer has advised that the Town can deny the use of any Town roads for a detour route. There was discussion about posting Femrite Drive, Vilas Road and Vilas Hope Road with a 10-ton weight limit, and prohibiting left turns from Femrite Drive onto US Hwy 12/18. Deputy Shotliff added that left turns from US Hwy 12/18 to Femrite Drive are equally as dangerous, and suggested a barricade be placed in the median. This would be in the WDOT's jurisdiction. **MOTION** by Fonger/Williams to deny the request to use any Town Roads as detour routes for the CTH AB utility project. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.** Anders will contact the WDOT about prohibiting left turns at the Femrite/US Hwy 12/18 intersection.
- F. Discuss/Consider adoption of Ordinance 2025-09-15 amending Chapter 02 of the Town Code of Ordinances – The Governing Body: **MOTION** by DuPlayee/Williams to adopt the ordinance amendment as presented. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

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- G. Consider adoption of Resolution 2025-09-15 approving borrowing: **MOTION** by Williams/DuPlayee to approve the resolution as drafted. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.** (Note the bank identifies this as Resolution NO. 1).
 - H. Discuss LRB-2907/1 relating to exempting certain farm owners from campground licensing: Anders said he included this proposed legislation on the agenda for discussion only. It would allow up to three campsites on non-licensed farms to promote Agri-tourism and provide supplemental farm income. Mixed feelings were expressed.
 - I. Accept resignation of Deputy Clerk Amber Steele: **MOTION** by Williams/DuPlayee to accept Amber Steele's resignation with regrets. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
 - J. Consideration of attendees for the September 17th DCTA Membership Meeting: **MOTION** by Williams/DuPlayee to allow two attendees (Anders and Eickhoff). **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
 - K. Set dates for 2026 Budget Workshops: Consensus was to schedule budget workshops for October 28th and 30th at 6:30 P.M.
- II. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE:
- A. Report of Road Right-of-Way permits: Dresen reported that one permit was issued since his last report to the Board, to Alliant Energy for gas and electric installation on Luds Lane.
 - B. The crew has started mowing out ditches and getting equipment ready for winter.
- III. CLERK-TREASURER'S OFFICE UPDATE: Banigan reported that her credit card had fraudulent charges again. The card number has been cancelled and she is working on getting a replacement.
- IV. BOARD REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Nothing to report.
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
- A. Town Parks Committee: Anders reported that the committee toured the parks, then came back to discuss updating signs and other possible improvements. Pickle ball courts were suggested for the park on Lane Street, but Anders said he has since had reservations due to parking limitations. He also said the parks were originally designed as neighborhood parks for mostly local use, and pickle ball may have a larger draw. Dimitria Van Straten pleaded to the Board to not put pickle ball courts there, saying they are loud and the open area is used for kite flying and other activities. She said no one even wanted the trees that were recently planted there for the same reason.
- VI. CONSIDER/ADOPT MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WISCONSIN STATUTE 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility: Discuss Deputy Clerk hours, compensation and plans for filling vacancy: **MOTION** by DuPlayee/Fonger to move into closed session for the reason stated above. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0 by roll call vote.** The Board, Banigan and Millage stayed for the closed session, everyone else left or was dismissed from the virtual meeting, the door and virtual meeting were locked and recording was suspended. The closed session began at 8:53 P.M.
- VII. CONSIDER/ADOPT MOTION TO RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION to take any action necessary from closed session: **MOTION** by Williams/DuPlayee to reconvene to open session. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0 by roll call vote.** The door and virtual meeting were unlocked, recording was resumed and the open session reconvened at 9:27 P.M. **MOTION** by

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Williams/DuPlayee directing the Clerk's office to post the vacancy as discussed, especially locally and on Indeed.com, until a new hire is made. In addition, Jennifer Millage's wage is to be increased to \$28.00/hour immediately. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

VIII. Adjournment: **MOTION** by DuPlayee/Williams to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.** The meeting ended at 9:20 P.M.

Kim Banigan, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved 10/06/2025