TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 04, 2026

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Notice of the meeting was posted at the Town Hall, and on the Town's website. Town Board Chair Steve Anders, Supervisors Mike Fonger, Troy Eickhoff, Kristi Williams and Patrick Buchholz were present, along with Highway Superintendent Dan Dresen and Clerk-Treasurer Kim Banigan. Deer-Grove EMS Chief Eric Lang was present virtually.

B. Anders called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

C. Flag Pledge.

D. Discuss/Consider approval of minutes of previous meetings: **MOTION** by Williams/Eickhoff to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2026 Town Board meeting as presented. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0-1** (Buchholz abstained). **MOTION** by Williams/Fonger to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026 Town Board meeting as printed. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

E. Finance Report and Approval of Bills:

1. **MOTION** by Williams/Fonger to approve checks #68633-38661, EFTs in the amount of $29,574.91 and planned purchase card payments of $248.00. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

2. **MOTION** by William/Fonger to approve payment of April per diems as presented. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

F. Public Concerns: Dave Muehl, 1682 County Road BB and representing the Friends of the Koshkonong Creek, had the Clerk-Treasurer display a PowerPoint presentation telling the history, goals and proposed solutions and initiatives of the flooding of the Koshkonong Creek (Exhibit A). Several others were in attendance for this issue, see the sign in sheet available in the Clerk's Office. Some gave accounts of the impact of the flooding on their property and livelihood. In his conclusion, Muehl said the Friends group is at the point of demanding help, including support from the Town, and he will be back with more information at a meeting when there is an agenda item for Board action.

II. BUSINESS

A. Plan Commission Recommendations: Craig Slager petitioner, Barnsdale, LLC, property owner, 3432 County Road N, seeking rezone of 5.5 acres from RM-16/General Commercial/Limited Commercial to Heavy Commercial with deed restrictions to extend existing contractor business and accommodate surrounding Ironstone Commercial Park (DCPREZ 12276): Mr. Slager was present. **MOTION** by Williams/Buchholz to accept the Plan Commission's recommendation to approve the rezone of the 5.5 acres to HC with the same deed restrictions as are proposed for the Ironstone Commercial Park (Exhibit B of the 04-22-2026 Plan Commission minutes), subject to meeting the conditions recommended by Town Planner Mark Roffers 1. a. through c. and 2. on page 3 of his memo to the Plan Commission (Exhibit A of the 04-22-2026 Plan Commission minutes.) **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

B. Review 2026-27 Non-metallic Mining Permit applications and set date for a public hearing: The applications were considered complete with no additional information needed. **MOTION** by Williams/Eickhoff to hold the public hearing at 6:30 P.M. on Monday, June 1, 2026. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

C. Consider attendees for a site visit with residents concerning no-parking signs at the Glacial Drumlin Trail crossing of Ridge Road: Several people were in attendance for this topic. Dale Freund said he, Tom List and Karolyn Rathert would attend to represent trail users. Kirk Eilenfeldt asked how this came up again and said he opposes removing the signs due to safety

concerns. **MOTION** by Williams/Eickhoff to appoint Williams and Eickhoff to represent the Town Board, and meet with the trail users, Dresen, and hopefully someone from the WDNR at the Ridge Road trail crossing at 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 14th. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

D. Discuss/Consider approval of 2026-27 Committee Appointments: Anders' recommended appointments included new Plan Commissioner Keri Robbins to replace retiring Jerry Meylor, and new Parks Committee Members Amber Steele and Susan Beck to replace retiring members Jason Bree and Linda Fonger. **MOTION** by Buchholz/Williams to accept the Town Chairperson's recommendations for 2026-27 Committee Appointments. Buchholz said there is a change to the Village of Cottage Grove's appointment to the Deer-Grove EMS Commission based on a family relationship, and asked if Anders' son is still a volunteer at DGEMS. Anders stated that he is not. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

E. Discuss joining the regional Shared Fire Protection and EMS Feasibility Study: Anders reported that the Fire Commission has already discussed joining the study, and while Village Commissioners seemed interested in participating, Town Commissioners did not. Anders had attended a meeting on this topic, which included the Village Presidents from Cottage Grove and Deerfield and the Fire and EMS Chiefs. The Village of Deerfield President said they would not be participating. Anders thought that if the Village of Cottage Grove does participate, the Town would have access to the results of the study by virtue of being in a joint district with the Village. Discussion was that there is no value to the Town in joining, that the subject matter of the study is more applicable to career personnel than it is to our volunteers, and regionalization could lead to potential loss of equipment and control. **MOTION** by Buchholz/Fonger to NOT participate in the regional study. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

F. Discuss/Consider using ticket books for parking citations: **MOTION** by Buchholz/Eickhoff to purchase 500 of the orange style of tickets shown in the samples, with the final proof to be approved by the Town's contracted Deputies, Highway Superintendent and Clerk-Treasurer. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

G. Discuss/Consider forfeiture amounts in the Tracs system used by Contract Deputies when citing for Town Ordinance violations (tabled from April 20th): Town forfeiture amounts were discussed for the most commonly cited Town ordinance violations, noting that some of the citations in Tracs are unnecessary, and others may require ordinance review/revisions. **MOTION** by Eickhoff/Williams directing the Clerk-Treasurer to communicate the updated forfeitures as determined tonight to the DSCO for updating of the Tracs system. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

H. Consider Tuesday June 30 at 5:30PM at Village Hall for a special joint meeting for the final PAA Fire/EMS Study Presentation: Consensus was that this date and time are acceptable.

III. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE

A. Report of Road Right-of-Way permits issued: One permit was issued since the last meeting, to Charter/Spectrum for a new home on Wooded Ridge Trl.

B. The electronics drop-off event this past weekend resulted in a full semi-trailer once again. Next year consideration should be given to holding a one-day, supervised event since there is evidence that a lot of non-Town residents are bringing discarded electronics.

IV. CLERK-TREASURER'S OFFICE UPDATE: A May 18th public hearing is planned for an ordinance to allow the Town to collect Highway Impact fees from North Star Road area properties. (Clerk's note: The public hearing was subsequently rescheduled for June 1st).

V. BOARD REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Anders heard from County Zoning staff that review of the Ironstone Commercial Park will be delayed until the Traffic Analysis meets State and County requirements.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Emergency Government Committee: Fonger said the committee will not meet in May.

B. Cottage Grove Fire District Committee: The regionalization study was discussed, and the new training aid was viewed by commission members.

VII. Adjournment: **MOTION** by Buchholz/Eickhoff to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**. The meeting ended at 9:15 P.M.

Kim Banigan, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved 05/18/2026