TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2026

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Notice of the meeting was posted at the Town Hall and on the Town's website. Town Chair Steve Anders and Supervisors Mike Fonger, Troy Eickhoff, Kristi Williams, and Patrick Buchholz were present, along with Clerk-Treasurer Kim Banigan, Highway Superintendent Dan Dresen, Fire Chief Nick Archibald and Assistant Fire Chief April Hammond. DGEMS Chief Eric Lang attended virtually. Anders called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

B. Flag Pledge.

C. Discuss/Consider approval of minutes of previous meetings: **MOTION** by Williams/Buchholz to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2026 Town Board meeting as printed. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

D. Finance Report and Approval of Bills: **MOTION** by Buchholz/Fonger to approve checks #38901-38927 totaling $111,502.61, EFTs for $30,154.75, and scheduled ACH and purchase card payments of $3,975.10. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

E. Public Concerns: None.

II. BUSINESS

A. Discuss/Consider approval of a Certified Survey Map for Silvin F & Rosemary C Kurt Rev Trust associated with rezone #12315 at 4559 Ridge Rd: **MOTION** by Williams/Buchholz to approve the CSM identified as Office Map #260473 dated 09/21/2026. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

B. Discuss/Consider approval of Agreement with Strand Associates for 2027 Services for the Natvig Road Landfill: **MOTION** by Fonger/Buchholz to approve the Agreement for 2027 Services as presented. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

C. Discuss exterior maintenance of the Emergency Services Building: Anders said the Fire Commission had concerns about overgrown bushes, a tree growing near the generator, and decomposed granite that is looking rough. Dresen said Town and Village crews alternate yearly in caring for the grounds, the Town just took over on October 1st. Anders asked him to spruce up the outside without going too overboard, since changes to the building may be coming as a result of the PAA study currently in progress. Anders also mentioned that the blacktop in the lower parking lot is in poor condition. Dresen will get a ballpark figure to replace it for discussion at the Joint Town/Village Board meeting tomorrow night.

D. Discuss/Consider 2026 tax bill mailing enclosures: No additional enclosures were suggested beyond the usual tax enclosure letter and recycling schedule. The tax letter should include an announcement of seats up for election in April, encouragement to serve on committees and sign up for Town notifications, and notice of the reconstruction of the CTH N bridge next summer.

E. Consider an alternate date for the November 2, 2026 Town Board Meeting: Consensus was to move the meeting to Thursday, November 5th at 6:30 P.M.

III. PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITY UPDATE:

A. Report of Road Right-of-Way permits issued: Two permits were issued since the last meeting: 1) to AT&T to install fiber on Luds Lane and 2) to TDS to install fiber on West Ridge Rd.

B. The paving contractor just finished up on Saturday. Now the Town crew will get busy with shouldering.

IV. CLERK-TREASURER'S OFFICE UPDATE: The County Clerk's budget includes funding to pay 80% of the cost to replace all tabulators and ExpressVotes in 2027. The County will own and house the equipment, and deliver it to the municipalities in time for elections. The Town's contribution of $5,052.00 to replace the two DS200s with DS300s, and replace two ExpressVotes can be split over the next two years. Proceeds of the short-term loan for 2026 road maintenance projects were deposited in the Town's account on October 2nd. There have not been any promising applications for either the Planning and Development Facilitator or Town Planning Consultant. Williams suggested contacting MATC to see if students from any of their programs might be a match, and/or checking with other municipalities for a job-share possibility.

V. BOARD REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Williams reported on her recent tour of the new 911 center on Luds Lane. She described it as an amazing facility designed for the well-being of employees in a stressful environment. An open house will be scheduled when the project is complete.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Plan Commission: A resolution recommending adoption of an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan was adopted, a public hearing is scheduled for November 16th.

B. Emergency Government Committee: Fonger said their meetings with representatives from all of the emergency services, the Highway Department, and Monona Grove Schools have given the committee a good understanding of all of the operations. There will not be an October meeting.

C. Natvig Landfill Monitoring Committee: They reviewed annual test results, which revealed no surprises, and approved the 2027 Agreement for services and budget.

D. Flynn Hall Committee: There was agreement to increase annual contributions of the Village and Lions Club by $100, bringing it to $2,600 each in 2027.

E. Cottage Grove Fire District Commission: Anders said they approved budgets for the Fire Department and Emergency Services Building. Fire Department capital items include a new command car, tires and one wheel for the Brush Truck, electric saws to replace gas ones, and a SCBA fit testing machine since the County no longer has one to loan out. The Chief was encouraged to look into sharing the cost with a neighboring department since it is used on a seldom basis. Williams suggested sharing the cost with Deer-Grove EMS. Chief Archibald said that would be possible with an additional adapter. Chief Lang said they have been using less accurate methods that require a sense of taste and smell, so the machine would be an improvement. Williams also suggested asking local businesses for donations. Assistant Chief Hammond said they have been unsuccessful twice in applying for grant funds for the fit machine, but there is one grant still open. The Commission agreed to take over operating expenses for pay per call payroll accounting and processing, subscriptions and memberships that had previously been paid by the Firefighter's Association. They also agreed to fund $2,500 in legal fees related to HR matters.

VII. Adjournment: **MOTION** by Williams/Eickhoff to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**. The meeting ended at 7:53 P.M.

Kim Banigan, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved 10-19-2026