

Town of Forest Minutes of April 14, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Forest Town Board was held on Monday, April 14, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Kraus at 8:04p.m. Members Present were Supervisors Tom Loehr and Pete Brenner, Treasurer Lori Kraus and Clerk Sarah Loehr.

Chairman Gary Kraus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Loehr moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025 meeting. Pete Brenner seconded the motion, motion carried.

Chairman Gary Kraus read the Oath of Office for Newly Elected Officials for Clerk Sarah Loehr. Clerk Sarah Loehr then read the Oath of Office for Newly Elected Officials for Chairman Gary Kraus, Supervisor 1 Peter Brenner, Supervisor 2 Thomas Loehr, Treasurer Andrew Rentmeester and Constable Ann Kiehnau.

Robert Benike, representing Rural Mutual Insurance was present to go over the town's insurance coverage. Snowplows, tractor and lawn mower have coverage relative to their value. Building has a \$1000 deductible, coverage on the building does go up 7% each year for inflation, \$500 coverage for our sign at the driveway entrance, power surge coverage, also liability coverage for using personal vehicles for town business, public officials coverage, umbrella for any type of lawsuit, workers comp, public officials bond and treasurers bond are all part of the policy. No changes were made to the policy.

Pete Brenner moved to approve the Temporary Liquor License and 10 operators licenses for Forest Athletic Club and the Temporary Liquor License and 5 operators licenses for the Dotyville Hunting and Fishing Club. Tom Loehr seconded the motion, motion passed.

Bob Loehr presented a short power point presentation in support of a billboard placement along Highway 23 and Triple T Road on a small triangle of land that he owns. He would work with a company to manage the information that is advertised on the billboard. The town ordinance states that billboards may not be over 50 square feet and may only be placed in the Industrial District. Several residents that live in the area of where the billboard is proposed spoke of their opposition to having it there, or any billboards anywhere along the highway. The matter was tabled.

In September 2024, the tower that sits on Town property was purchased by StratCap from BugTussel. When the tower was originally built, an agreement was drawn up that the town was sent a lease check every month, which has then been deposited to our capital projects fund. StratCap has now proposed to purchase the land the tower sits on and pay the Town a lump sum and draw up a perpetual easement. The letter with information reached the board only a few days before the meeting, so the board will be taking more time to look into the options of selling or continuing to lease. The matter was tabled.

The Town requested a bid from Baumhardt Excavating to shoulder Forest Drive for a distance of just under 1 mile. The bid came in at \$5600. Tom Loehr moved to accept the bid to repair the shoulder. Pete Brenner seconded the motion, motion passed.

Before the March meeting, Clerk Sarah Loehr had received a few calls regarding solar ordinances, so she asked the board about looking into a solar ordinance. She presented information from Matt Parmentier, the Town Attorney, who has also worked quite a bit with solar ordinances. The board is going to take more time to read through that material and research more locally. The matter was tabled.

In bridge updates: work on the Poplar Road bridge will begin June 15 and will be complete around August 1. Construction will be by Pfeiffer Bros, from the Fox Valley. On Walnut Road, Alliant Energy will need to move a power pole, the town will need to reimburse them for this. The real estate agent is working on valuing and purchasing the land needed for that bridge.

In discussion from the floor: Ayers and Associates sent a letter offering their services to complete the town's WISLR rating for \$3600. Gary said he would complete that himself. Open Book will be scheduled for April 28th, residents will call to the Bowmar office with any questions. Board of Review is May 7 from 6-8pm at the Town Hall. Residents will need to contact the Clerk 48 hours in advance for an appointment. Fourth Street Road construction will be taking place from about mid-June to September over various parts of the road.

Pete Brenner moved to pay the bills. Tom Loehr seconded the motion. Motion carried. Bills paid as follows on April 14, 2025:

DISBURSEMENTS

Harter's Lakeside Disposal	curbside P/U	\$9,321.40	10422
Local IQ Gannett Wisconsin	legal notices	\$72.50	10423
Rural Mutual Insurance	workers comp and businessowners	\$3,929.00	10424
Wisconsin Towns Association	Dues	\$1,130.51	10425
Alliant Energy	town hall electric	\$93.36	10426
Web-Pro LP Gas	420.7 gal @ 1.799/gal	\$756.84	10427
Dempsey Law Firm	clerk and treasurer communication	\$155.00	10428
CNA Surety	Municipal Officers Bond	\$306.00	10429
Randy Loehr	wages and mileage	\$86.98	10430
Gary Thimmig	wages	\$73.88	10431
Steven Loehr	wages	\$129.29	10432
Sarah Loehr	election meal expenses	\$197.81	10433
Harry Ditter	Election Worker	\$112.50	10434
Ellen Loehr	Election Worker	\$125.46	10435
Kari Cox Gempeler	Election Worker	\$127.50	10436
Ingrid Braun	Election Worker	\$127.50	10437
Lori Kraus	treasurer expenses	\$195.00	10438
US Treasury	employment taxes	\$46.30	ACH

TOTAL

\$16,986.83

RECEIPTS

Jos. Schmidt Construction	Sargento Commercial Bldng Permit	\$500.00	34136
Pieper Power	Sargento Electrical Permit	\$75.00	440848
State of Wisconsin	Transportation Aid	\$34,058.80	ACH
Fond du Lac County	Late Pay Taxes/ Curbside P/U	\$1,364.90	501782
Fond du Lac County	Income Tax Revenue from FDLCo	\$17,829.00	502747
Schmitt Title	title search	\$20.00	5533
various	dog licenses	\$275.00	checks
Pam Lisowe	dog license	\$5.00	cash
Mark & Kathy Rosinski	DL return postage	\$1.00	cash
Champion Title	title search, Lacis Property	\$20.00	1663
Dotyville Hunting & Fishing Club	Liquor License and Op. Permits	\$175.00	3118
Crystal Miller/Rohlf's Transport	Electrical and Building Permit	\$175.00	7777
Gary Thimmig	New Home building Permit	\$1,330.00	1027
Weber's Express	6 operators permits	\$150.00	cash
Forest Athletic Club	Liquor License and Op. Permits	\$300.00	1883
Sargento	Variance Hearing Fee	\$300.00	1002085
Guaranty Closing & Title	Title Searches	\$80.00	77910
Jane Galligan	Dog License	\$5.00	2567
State of Wisconsin	April PILT	\$7615.58	ACH
Bank First	Money Market Interest	\$783.62	ACH

TOTAL \$65,062.90

Cash on Balance	\$ 435,381.76
General Fund	\$ 302,092.06
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 133,289.70
Bank Accounts – Other	\$ -1770.34
TOTAL	\$ 433,611.42

Previous Month Balance in Capital Projects	\$ 132,506.08
BugTussel – Lease (no deposit)	+
Bank First – Interest	+ 783.62
Total for April 30, 2025	\$ 133,289.70
Included in Total Capital Projects Amount	
Capital Projects – Bridge Fund	\$ 20,000.00

Next meeting Monday, May 12, 2025 at 8pm.

There was no further business; Tom Loehr moved to adjourn the meeting. Pete Brenner seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:25p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Loehr
Town Clerk

Gary H. Kraus/Chairman

Thomas Loehr/ Supervisor

Peter Brenner/ Supervisor