

Regular Town Board Meeting
Tuesday September 23, 2025
6:30 P.M.
Boulder Junction Community Center, Boulder Lake Room
5392 Park Street, Boulder Junction, WI 54512

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ ROLL CALL

- This Regular Town Board Meeting was noticed according to WI State Statute 19.85. Chairman Dennis Reuss called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisor Laura Bertch, Supervisor Dylan Schutt, Clerk/Treasurer Dan Driscoll, Trevor Greene of The Lakeland Times and 49 guests.

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA /ORDER OF THE DAY(discussion & possible action),

- MOTION BERTCH/SECOND SCHUTT. To approve agenda. VOTE: MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

3) CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS & ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- Dennis Duke spoke on behalf of opening roads to ATV/UTV Traffic. His statement is attached to the minutes as Exhibit A
- Tom Basting spoke on behalf of keeping town roads closed to ATV/UTV Traffic.

4) ITEMS NEEDING APPROVAL (discussion & possible action)

a. Licensing: (application on file in the Clerk's Office)

- Approve Operator License
 - Christian Tessem
 - Tiffany Colloton
 - MOTION REUSS/SECOND BERTCH. To approve operator license for Christian Tessem and Tiffany Colloton. VOTE: MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.
- Approve Picnic License
 - Boulder Junction Chamber for Hops and Shops Beer Walk
 - Friends of the Library – Taste of Boulder Junction
 - MOTION REUSS/SECOND BERTCH. To approve picnic license for Boulder Junction Chamber for Hops and Shops Beer Walk and Friends of the Library – Taste of Boulder Junction. VOTE: MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

b. Approve Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2025

c. MOTION BERTCH/SECOND SCHUTT. To approve Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2025. VOTE: MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

d. Approve September Disbursements

- September Update on 2025 budget and disbursements
 - September Disbursements totaled \$303,142.70. Payroll accounted for \$36,439.84 (including town board and FD officer pay), \$2861.00 for Ee in lieu of benefits, \$219,141.40 to Northwoods EMS District for operations, \$3,565.00 to Garys Truck Repair (FD), \$4,535.00 to Chain Reaction Golf for disc golf course, \$1076.10 to County Materials for DG course, \$1000.00 to Gresham Lake (AIS donation), \$3,543.75 to Landfill

Venture Group, \$2,600.00 to Municipal Group for property assessment, \$2,291.01 to Pitlick & Wick for cold patch, \$3,042.13 to Republic Services, \$1,415.66 to Skarlupka for truck repairs, \$12,744.00 to Volm for garbage bags. A full list of disbursements can be found in the agenda packet.

- MOTION BERTCH/SECOND SCHUTT. To approve September disbursements. VOTE: MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

5) REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Update on Landfill Venture Group
 - Supervisor Schutt provided report. LVG is working with DNR on new landfill. Making headway. Looking at cost of leachate processing.
 - LVG raised fee of tonnage from \$75 to \$80.
- b. Update on Parks Board
 - Supervisor Bertch provided report. Town received a \$3500.00 grant from the Boulder Junction Community Foundation for Winter Park. Basketball court is 95% complete. Disc Golf course to have a soft opening in October. Hope for a grand opening in May or June of 2026.
 - Supervisor Bertch thanked Dennis Duke for all of his work on completing the basketball court and disc golf course.
- c. Update on EDC
 - No update
- d. Update on Road Committee
 - Greg Van Grinsven and Chairman Reuss provided report. Paving is completed on 2026 road project which was approved by the town board on April 9, 2025 and funded partially by a LRIP grant with the State of Wisconsin.
 - Pitlick & Wick will completing shoulder and driveway repairs connected to the project soon
- e. Update on BJVFD
 - Chairman Reuss provided report. FD held fundraiser on September 13, 2025.
- f. Update on EMS District
 - EMS District Chief Jolin provided report. His report is attached to the minutes as Exhibit B.
 - EMS District Board Member Dan Wahlgren stated that cost of EMS district will go up in 2026. Response time for EMS calls has be cut by 50% due to district.
 - AED Training will be held at the Boulder Junction Community Church on October 7, 2025.
- g. Update on Library
 - Library Director Sanderson provided report. Her report is attached to the Minutes as Exhibit C.
- h. Update on BJCF
 - Mary Van Grinsven provided report. Her report is attached to the Minutes as Exhibit D
- i. Update on Snowmobile Club
 - Chairman Reuss provided report. Snowmobile Club plans to build new barn on town property with donation funds received by the club. Plans have been revised several times.

6) OLD BUSINESS(discussion & possible action)

- a. Discussion and possible action – Consideration by the town board to raise room tax from 5.5% to 6.75%
 - MOTION REUSS/SECOND BERTCH. To raise room tax from 5.5% to 8.00% beginning in the year 2026. VOTE: MOTION UNANIMOUSLY NOT APPROVED.
- 7) ADJOURN(discussion & possible action)
 - Chairman Reuss adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm

Exhibit A

23 SEPTEMBER, 2025

TO: Boulder Junction Town Board of Supervisors
FROM: Dennis Duke (Resident & Business Owner)

SUBJECT: ATV/UTV Recreation – Access to Town Roads

You've had in your possession since 2017, and more recently since May of 2025, a Draft Ordinance that addresses ATV/UTV Recreational Sports in Boulder Junction. As a tax payer, business owner, and a home owner, I am asking the Town Board to approve an Ordinance governing ATV/UTV Recreation in Boulder Junction, which includes controlled access to Town Roads, and allows for the continued development of a Trail System in coordination with the Wisconsin DNR.

This is not, and never has been, a difficult issue. A faction of our residents and outsiders have made this a contentious issue using unfounded claims and fear as their strategy.

- 1) In the history of Boulder Junction, we have never debated for 7 years over how and why to exclude a group of people from visiting out town and using it as their base for a vacation or weekend getaway. This is a dangerous precedent, one that will lead to the demise of our town as we know it. We can never become a snobbish enclave that only welcomes 'certain kinds of people'. This stand-off has already tarnished our reputation as a welcoming community.
- 2) The recent advisory vote showed us that nothing has changed. People with strong opinions on both sides showed up to vote. But over half of the electorate is not concerned enough about the topic to register their vote or have their voices heard. Less than 25% of the electorate stand publically opposed to ATV/UTV Recreation. Much of the energy and money for this opposition effort is coming from out of town and out of state. You only have to look at the opposition flier, posted in Illinois, which we all received prior to the vote, and recall all the non-Boulder Junction residents that have spoken in opposition at this summer's Board Meetings.
- 3) Our Town is at a key, historical inflection point. We have many young business owners, lots of 'available' retail space, and large investments being made in the town existing and planned. The Town Board has an obligation to help support and maintain the economic health of our community. ATV/UTV Recreation offers our community an easy, proven, addition to our economic landscape – AT NO TAXPAYER EXPENSE. It is FREE for the Town to take advantage of this opportunity.
- 4) We are a gateway for people to access the outdoors and enjoy their public lands. We should be open to all forms of legal outdoor recreation. We are a crossroads in Vilas County. Our refusal to participate in county wide trail networks, negatively impacts the County and points Northwoods visitors away from our town.

Take Action now. Approve an ATV/UTV Ordinance that allows our residents and visitors to enjoy ATV/UTV Recreation in our town. Follow State statutes, and learn from all the towns that have gone before us. Address concerns where appropriate. Do what is right for Boulder Junction.

Sincerely

Dennis Duke

Tax Payer, Home Owner, Business Owner

Cc: Town Clerk, for permanent record with the minutes

Exhibit B

Northwoods EMS District

Monthly Report – August 2025

	Date	Time	Town	Unit	Transport	Billing Level	Response
1	8/1/2025	1554	PI	91	Y	BLS	Fall
2	8/2/2025	1541	WIN	91	Y	ALS2	Allergic Reaction
3	8/2/2025	1722	BJ	91	Y	ALS	Chest Pain
4	8/2/2025	1946	MW	91	Y	ALS2	Syncope
5	8/3/2025	0001	MW	91	Y	ALS	Hip Injury
6	8/3/2025	1523	BJ	92	Y	ALS	Fall
7	8/5/2025	0058	MW	91	Y	ALS	Stroke
8	8/5/2025	1209	BJ	92	Y	ALS2	Cardiac Arrest
9	8/5/2025	1925	WIN	91	Y	ALS	ATV Accident
10	8/7/2025	2104	BJ	92	Y	ALS	Altered Mental Status
11	8/7/2025	2211	PI	91	Y	ALS	Fall
12	8/8/2025	957	MW	91	N	Not Billed	Vehicle Accident
13	8/8/2025	1135	BJ	92	N	Not Billed	Altered Mental Status
14	8/8/2025	1927	MW	91	N	Not Billed	Medical Alarm
15	8/8/2025	2245	MW	91	N	Not Billed	Fall
16	8/9/2025	1710	MW	91	N	Not Billed	Medical Alarm
17	8/9/2025	1835	BJ	92	Y	BLS	Allergic Reaction
18	8/10/2025	1426	BJ	92	Y	ALS2	Allergic Reaction
19	8/11/2025	403	WIN	91	Y	ALS	Stroke
20	8/12/2025	1754	MW	91	Y	ALS	Altered Mental Status
21	8/13/2025	1342	BJ	92	N	Not Billed	Fall -Cancelled
22	8/13/2025	1533	PI	92	Y	ALS	Seizure
23	8/14/2025	207	PI	91	Y	BLS	Fall
24	8/15/2025	2258	BJ	92	Y	ALS2	Vehicle Accident
25	8/15/2025	2258	BJ	91	Y	BLS	Vehicle Accident
26	8/18/2025	1925	WIN	91	Y	ALS	Stroke
27	8/19/2025	1019	PI	91	N	Not Billed	Welfare
28	8/20/2025	1737	WIN	91	Y	BLS	Stroke
29	8/21/2025	0025	PI	91	N	Not Billed	Lift-Assist
30	8/23/2025	1854	BJ	92	Y	BLS	Fall
31	8/23/2025	2101	BJ	92	Y	ALS	Allergic Reaction
32	8/24/2025	125	PI	92	Y	ALS	Fall
33	8/25/2025	116	BJ	92	N	Not Billed	Lift-Assist
34	8/26/2025	2337	BJ	92	N	Not Billed	Lift-Assist
35	8/27/2025	1315	BJ	92	N	Not Billed	Lift-Assist
36	8/28/2025	102	BJ	92	N	Not Billed	Lift-Assist
37	8/28/2025	310	BJ	92	Y	ALS	Difficulty Breathing
38	8/28/2025	1453	WIN	91	Y	ALS	Bicycle Accident
39	8/28/2025	2158	BJ	92	N	Not Billed	Lift-Assist
40	8/29/2025	835	PI	91	Y	BLS	Fall
41	8/29/2025	1214	BJ	92	Y	ALS	Fall
42	8/29/2025	1424	BJ	92	N	Not Billed	Fall
43	8/30/2025	1710	MW	91	Y	ALS	Fall
44	8/30/2025	1844	BJ	91	N	Not Billed	Allergic Reaction
45	8/30/2025	2102	PI	91	Y	ALS	Chest Pain
46	8/31/2025	1416	BJ	92	N	Not Billed	Fall
47	8/31/2025	2049	MW	91	Y	ALS	Fall

Response and turnout time

Turnout time, from dispatch until responding, was under 90 seconds 80% of the time. August average turnout time is **1.41** minutes.

Average response time for the month of August was **12:02 minutes**. This is from the time of 911 call received to arrival at patient. Response times are obtained through Vilas Dispatch Center

NORTHWOODS

Transport and Billing

31 of the 47 responses were transported. "*Not Billed*" responses included those that refused transport following medical evaluation or no patient identified. Of the 31 responses that were transported, **24 responses benefitted from Paramedic Level care** with one requiring significant intervention. Paramedic level care is defined as intervention beyond IV placement. Since the start of the district, **76%** of patient transports receive paramedic level intervention. **744.9** loaded miles were recorded.

Billing Rates

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August
Not Billed	5	8	6	9	11	17	14	16
BLS	1	3	8	5	2	8	11	7
ALS	7	14	14	17	11	22	18	19
ALS2	2	2	2	1	1	4	1	5

Crew Activity

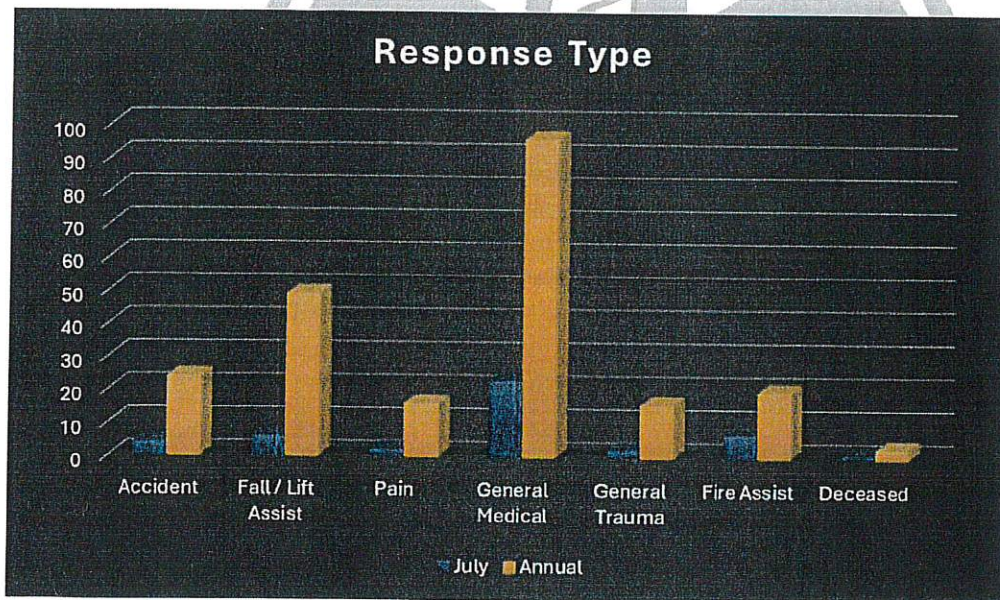
NEMSD crews provided stand-by for the Musky Jamboree event in Boulder Junction. They were able to interact with numerous residents and visitors. Additionally, they attended the August training focusing on "The 1st 5 Min" which provided training on critical intervention in the first few minutes of a patient encounter. Fortunately, there were no incidents, but crews remained ready for several WIN:MIN events with large number of participants. NEMSD crews also completed a combined **37** hours of continuing education.

Response by Town

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total
Boulder Junction	6	13	14	12	10	18	13	22	108
Presque Isle	4	9	7	12	4	14	13	9	72
Winchester	2	2	1	1	3	10	5	6	30
Manitowish Waters	3	3	8	7	8	9	11	10	59
Mutual Aid Given	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2

August Events

- Conducted EMS Training for Patient and Scene Assessment
- Attended NEMSD Board Meeting
- Attended Musky Jamboree
- Attended North Central Chiefs Meeting
- Attended meeting with Bayfield County to discuss benefits of the District



Respectfully Submitted,

EMS DISTRICT

Jason Joling – Chief Northwoods EMS District

Eph. Let C

Library Update to the Boulder Junction Town Board

September 23, 2025

Library Updates:

- **Children's Programming Update:** Kate is planning to start the Lighted Schoolhouse After-School Reading Program at NLS on Monday, October 6. She will also be scheduling visits to the Little Forest School library. There are several children's/family events planned for this fall- see schedule below.
- **Playground/Park Book Walk:** The next book walk book will be installed in time for our October 11th Fall Interactive Book Walk. The book is *Insect Action! An Alphabet, Rhyming, and Movement Book* by Heidi Braun (a Minnesota author).
- **Adult Programming Update:** Regular monthly programs/clubs are still taking place. There are a few more events/programs being held in October – see below. Programming will wind down until winter programs start.
- **Technology:** The library will continue offering Tuesday Tech Time every Tuesday afternoon from 2-4pm for patrons who seek technology assistance. 30-minute slots are available, and appointments are required through the end of September. Starting in October, you will not need an appointment.
- **Friends of the Library:** The weekly Used Book Sale finished off their season with a little over \$11,000 in sales! The Friends of the Library's Taste of Boulder Junction event will be held on Saturday, October 4th from 5-8pm with only 120 tickets being sold. Tickets are also on sale for their fall raffle.
- **Summer Hours Ending:** The last day of extended summer hours will be Tuesday, September 30th. Beginning Wednesday, October 1st we reduce our Monday, Wednesday, and Friday hours.

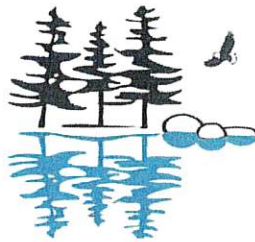
Ongoing Programs:

- September Art in the Library is Astrophotographer Kate Reichl
- October Art in the Library will be nature photographer Steve Rotter
- Mah Jongg- every Monday from 1-4 pm
- Tuesday Tech Time – Tuesdays from 2-4pm
- Chat 'n Craft – 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 10 am to Noon
- Boulder Junction Book Club – 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 pm
- Books & Brews Book Club – 1st Wednesday at 7 pm – times and locations may vary
- Northern Waters Genealogical Society - 1st Tuesday of the month at 2 pm
- Boulder Junction Music Gathering - 2nd Tuesday of the month from 5-7pm

Special Programs and Meetings:

- Thursday, September 25 – OurStory History Program at 7pm – Dr. Kate Angel on Snowshoes
- Saturday, October 4th – Friends "A Taste of Boulder Junction" fundraiser from 5-8pm
- Saturday, October 11 – Interactive Book Walk and Author Visit at 11:30am
- Tuesday, October 14 – Connecting Nature & Technology with the NL Discovery Center at 12:30pm
- Thursday, October 16 – Library Board of Trustees Meeting at 5pm
- October 19-25 – Friends of the Library Week
- Saturday, October 25 – Fantastical Creatures Family Event at 10:30am
- Saturday, October 25 – Book Bike at Downtown Trick or Treat from 2-4pm
- Saturday, November 1 – Dragon Training Academy Program at NLDC at 10am

Exhibit D



Boulder Junction Community Foundation

Our mission: To preserve and enhance Boulder Junction for present and future generations.

FIDUCIARY REPORTS TO THE TOWN BOARD September 23, 2025

The Boulder Junction Community Foundation is an Affiliate Member of the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin (CFONCW) as of 1/1/2023. *In our merger, we secured the same low rate of 2% on all Fiscal Agreements with the town of Boulder Junction.* All other Fiscal Agreements (with entities other than the town) will be at the normal 5% rate.

NORTH CREEK LOOP TRAIL FUND (NCLT)

Contracts Signed: November 17, 2020 & December 20, 2022

ACTUAL COSTS:	\$1,069,411.60	Pitlik & Wick
	\$73,255.50	Town & Country Engineering
	\$6,519.13	Signage, Survey, Sitework, . . .
	\$1,149,186.23	TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$732,132.48 Foundation funds paid to town

1 OUTSTANDING BILL FOR GRAVEL REPLACEMENT COMING IN 2025.

\$14,813.53 Current balance held by Foundation

BOULDER JUNCTION BASKETBALL COURT FUND (BB)

Contracts Signed: February 13, 2024

\$84,000.00	Projected Project Costs
	(\$81,000 project cost + \$3000 two benches)

\$20,000.00	Town Funds for Project
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\$2,500.00	Park & Recreation Department Funds
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\$47,265.67	Foundation Grant paid to town November 2024
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\$20,685.40	Current balance held by Foundation
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\$90,451.07	TOTAL FUNDS
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TALL PINES DISC GOLF COURSE FUND (DGC)

Contract Signed: January 28, 2025

\$44,000 Projected Project Fundraising
(\$26,800 project cost + \$13,200 contingency funds for additional work)
Any residual at end of project will be placed in the Park & Recreation
Maintenance Fund)

\$6,000.00 Town commitment to the project
\$29,603.88 Current balance held by the Foundation

\$35,603.88 TOTAL FUNDS

Town of Boulder Junction Designated Fund

(Held in the Boulder Junction Community Foundation Family of Funds)

Boulder Junction Parks & Recreation Maintenance Fund

Contract signed. 12/28/24, revised 1/22/25

Fund Purpose: Funds are designated for any parks maintained by the Town of Boulder Junction. This shall include but not be limited to on-going maintenance activities for Boulder Junction Parks and Recreation facilities, funding of staff positions for Parks and Recreation maintenance or programs, or purchase of equipment for use within the Parks and Recreation facilities.

\$4,918.05 Current balance held by the Foundation

Town of Boulder Junction Designated Fund

(Held in the Boulder Junction Community Foundation Family of Funds)

Boulder Junction Bike Trail Maintenance Fund

Contract signed. 6/23/25

Fund Purpose: Funds are designated for any bike trails maintained by the Town of Boulder Junction. This shall include but not be limited to on-going maintenance activities or purchase of equipment for use on the bike trails.

\$15,277.71 GRANT from BOULDER JUNCTION COMMUNITY FOUNDATION 6.23.25
\$16,177.75 Current balance held by the Foundation