

March 11, 2026 Town of Dewey Board Meeting

Note: These are the proposed Minutes that will be approved at the next Board meeting.

Minutes

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

430 Dewey Drive-Stevens Point WI 54482

Verify Open Meeting Notice & Roll Call: The open meeting notice was verified. Chairman Maurice King, Supervisor LeRoy Pukrop, Supervisor Dennis Meis, Clerk Angela Lochinger, and Treasurer Lori Kolodziej were present. 25 town residents and/or visitors were present.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman King at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Discussion on a special exception request by Chopper Farms LLC (John Oberthaler), owner, request a 20-year extension and to modify conditions placed on the special exception approval to operate a nonmetallic mine (A06-21) in the A4 – General Agricultural Zoning District located at 581 County Road DB, Parcel 014250701-11: Chris Mrdutt, Portage County Zoning Coordinator, reviewed the special exception process and was present to answer questions. Quarry owner and applicant John Oberthaler then gave a presentation on his request, including a 20-year extension, year-round crushing, Saturday truck loading, permission to recycle asphalt and concrete, and increased mining depth. He stated the quarry has operated for 20 years with a history of compliance, is in compliance with applicable regulations, and provides a local source of aggregate that supports road work and other infrastructure projects. Mr. Oberthaler also requested that Supervisor Meis recuse himself from the matter. Public comment was then heard from several residents, neighboring property owners, business owners, and contractors, both in support of and in opposition to the request. Comments in support generally focused on the need for local aggregate and the cost savings for road work and construction projects. Comments in opposition generally focused on concerns related to noise, truck traffic, blasting, wells, groundwater, rural character, and consistency with the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The board was also provided with two letters opposing the mine.

Discussion/Action on a recommendation to the Portage County Board on the special exception request by Chopper Farms LLC (John Oberthaler), owner, a request for a 20-year extension on the special exception approval to operate a nonmetallic mine (A06-21) in the A-4 General Agricultural Zoning District: Board discussion followed regarding the request for a 20-year extension. Discussion included balancing business and property rights with neighboring property owners' concerns, the Town Comprehensive Plan, groundwater flow information, prior quarry conditions, and the lack of documented violations over the life of the permit.

Supervisor Pukrop motioned to recommend approval of the 20-year extension request to the Portage County Board of Adjustment. Chairman King seconded. The motion passed 2-1, with Supervisor Meis opposed.

Discussion/Action on a request to modify conditions placed on the special exception approval to operate a nonmetallic mine (A06-21) in the A4- General Agricultural Zoning District: The board reviewed proposed conditions in detail. Discussion included the quarry depth, hours of operation, Saturday truck loading, blasting notifications, dust control, truck tarping/signage, fuel containment, white noise backup alarms, well testing for new homes within one mile, tree planting for buffering, and enclosing the diesel water pump motor to reduce noise. The Board also discussed revisions to certain proposed conditions, including making the additional truck tarping sign required rather than allowed, and adding an exception for emergencies to the one-week advance notice requirement for extended hours. A copy of the Proposed Recommendations for Conditions from the Town Board is attached to these minutes.

Supervisor Pukrop motioned to recommend the list of modified conditions presented by Chairman King, with the two amendments discussed during the meeting, to the Portage County Board of Adjustment. Chairman King seconded. The motion passed 2-1, with Supervisor Meis opposed.

Chris Mrdutt noted the Portage County Board of Adjustment is expected to consider the matter on April 20, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. at the Portage County Annex Building.

Initial review of the draft updates to Town Policies: The board began the process of reviewing draft updates to town policies. Discussion included the spending authority policy, public participation policy, road construction/brushing policy, fire department billing language, and the fee schedule. Review will continue at the next town meeting.

Adjournment: Chairman King adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Plan Commission Recommendations

- o We reviewed conditions Number 1, 5, 8, 9 and 11 and left as written.
- o Number 2 – This approval is good for 5 years upon issuance of the Portage County Zoning Permit.
- o Number 3 – Approval is for the current ~ 13-acre quarry site with a maximum quarry depth of 60’ at 1120 mean sea level (msl).
- o Number 4 – The operator is to meet with and follow any recommendations the Portage County Highway Department may have regarding cost sharing, maintenance, acceleration/deceleration lanes.
- o Number 6 – The remaining land outside the established ~ 13-acre quarry must remain in natural woody vegetation including landscape screening. Management of this woody vegetation should follow best forest and wildlife management practices.
- o Number 7 – Machinery used onsite, especially crushing and hydraulic rock hammer equipment, is to be kept at the bottom of the pit whenever possible for noise reduction.
- o Number 10 – The blaster must be Wisconsin certified and license on file with the Planning and Zoning Department. Planning and Zoning Department staff, Sheriff’s Department, Town Chairperson and landowners within one mile radius of the pit, must be notified at least 24 hours prior to a blast.
- o Number 12 – No Crushing, grinding, splitting, pulverizing or any other mining activity that reduces the size of material within the mine site on Saturdays, Sundays, any federal legal holiday and the Wisconsin traditional nine-day gun deer Season.
- o Number 13 – No pit operations are allowed on Sundays.
- o Number 14 – Clean fill can be brought into the site to be recycled.
- o Number 15 – Hours of operations shall be between 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for mining activities. Truck loading on Saturday 6:30 a.m. to noon. Extended hours of operation can be approved by the Town Chairperson for specific projects that may have time constraints. The Town Chairperson shall provide documentation of the extended hours of operation, the reason for the extension, and the duration of the project to the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department.

Proposed Recommendations for Conditions from the Town Board

- 1) A Portage County Zoning Permit must be obtained.
- 2) This approval is good for 20 years upon issuance of the Portage County Zoning Permit
- 3) Approval is for the current 14-acre quarry site with a maximum quarry depth of 1120 mean sea level. Any future request for expansion beyond the current permitted parameters must be accompanied by a comprehensive hydro-geologic study for a non-metallic mine completed by an independent 3rd party agreed to by the quarry owner and the Portage County Planning & Zoning Department.
- 4) The operator is to meet with and follow any recommendations the Portage County Highway Department may have regarding cost sharing, maintenance, upgrades for haul roads and if there is a potential need for acceleration/deceleration lanes.
- 5) A copy of the DNR storm water plan and clean water discharge permit shall be supplied to the Planning & Zoning Department prior to the issuance of the Zoning Permit.
- 6) Remaining land outside of the established 14-acre quarry must remain in natural woody vegetation. Management of this woody vegetation should follow best forest management practices.
- 7) Machinery used onsite, especially the crushing and the hydraulic rock hammer equipment, is to be kept at the bottom of the pit whenever possible for noise reduction.
- 8) Access roads are to be watered as needed to keep dust to a minimum.
- 9) The established containment area to service vehicles and equipment must be maintained to prevent groundwater contamination. Any petroleum products stored on site shall be kept inside of a concrete containment that is large enough to contain 150% of the maximum volume of product stored in the containment. The containment must either be covered or regularly monitored to keep it free of other liquid sources.
- 10) The blaster must be Wisconsin certified and have a license on file with the Planning & Zoning Department. Planning & Zoning staff, the Sheriff's Department, the Town Chairperson and any landowner with a one mile radius of the quarry who request notification, must be notified at least 24 hours prior to a blast. A list of landowners requesting notification shall be on file with the Town. Landowners may request to be removed from the list at any time. In January of each year the quarry owner shall contact the Town requesting information on any new homes built within the one mile radius of the quarry. The quarry owner shall contact the new home owners and obtain verification as to whether they do or do not want to be on the notification list. By February 1st of each year the quarry owner shall provide the Town with an updated notification list.

11) One additional sign beyond the existing 32 square foot sign shall be required on the property. The sign shall be located near the scale house. The sign shall notify drivers that all loads leaving the quarry need to be tarped and all loose material outside of the box on the truck shall be removed prior to entering County Road DB. The sign shall also state that the truck owner/operator will be responsible for any accidents/injuries that occur due to material on the road surface.

12) Crushing, grinding, splitting, pulverizing or any other mining activity that reduces the size of material may only take place from December 1st to October 31.

13) The only quarry activity allowed on Saturday will be truck loading from 6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. No quarry operations will be allowed on Sunday.

14) Clean fill and asphalt can be brought into the site to be recycled.

15) Hours of operation shall be between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for mining activities. Maintenance and repairs of equipment may take place between 5:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Extended hours can be approved by the Town Chairperson for specific projects that may have time constraints. Such request need to be made at least 1 week prior to the start date the extended hours are being requested for, except for cases of emergencies. The Town Chairperson shall provide documentation of the extended hours of operation, the reason for the extension, and the duration of the project to the Portage County Planning & Zoning Department.

16) Upon issuance of the zoning permit the quarry owner/operator shall purchase 1,000 spruce tree seedlings. These seedlings shall be used to fill in openings on the north side and east side berms as well as along the south edge of the quarry where the 2019 windstorm destroyed a significant amount of the trees that had buffered the south side of the quarry.

17) The quarry owner/operator shall contact all new home owners within a one mile radius of the quarry since the quarry's opening and offer to test their well for water quality and quantity. This should be completed by August 1, 2026 and a copy of the test or a statement saying the well test was refused shall be provide to the Town. In January of each year the quarry owner shall contact the Town requesting information on any new homes built within the one mile radius of the quarry. The quarry owner shall contact the new home owners and offer to test their well for water quality and quantity. By February 1st of each year the quarry owner shall provide the Town with a copy of the well test or a statement saying the well test was refused.

18) All equipment being used in the quarry operation that can legally utilize a "white noise backup alarm" shall have a white noise backup alarm installed and used on that piece of equipment.

19) The diesel motor that runs the water pump shall be enclosed to the extent possible