

4/14/2026 LINCOLN TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present – Chairman Dan Vaillancourt, Supervisors Brian Seago and Harold Wickman, Treasurer Kolene Arvidson, Clerk Kathy Bay.

Public Present – Peter Grames, Carol Seago, Susie Noonan

Tonight's meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairman Vaillancourt.

All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes – Motion by Chairman Vaillancourt, seconded by Supervisor Wickman to approve the 3/10/26 Town of Lincoln meeting minutes and dispense with the public reading. In favor – 3, opposed – 0. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Treasurer Arvidson.

- General Checking
 - A. Ending February Balance: \$233,488.23
 - B. March Deposits: \$430.00
 - C. March Interest: \$605.12
 - D. March Disbursements: (\$25,209.91)
 - E. March Ending Balance: \$209,313.44

Review Invoice Vouchers/Pay Bills/Other Financial matters/requests:

- Clerk Bay presents check register, AP vouchers and checks written for board approval and signatures. After board review, motion by Chairman Vaillancourt, seconded by Supervisor Seago to approve the above financial requests and pay bills as presented. In favor – 3, opposed – 0. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/REPORTS:

Clerk Report – Clerk Bay gave the election update on the 4/7/26 election.

Waste Management Report – Chairman Vaillancourt reports starting Wednesday, May 20th from 3-7 pm through Wednesday September 16th will be the summer hours for the Mason Area Solid Waste District. Everything is going good. The electronics bin was filled and collected. A new empty replacement bin is now there for electronics recycling. The collection of these recycled electronics will hopefully increase the DNR grant monies at the end of the year for the Mason Area Solid Waste District.

Ambulance Report – Chairman Vaillancourt reports there is a meeting tomorrow in Washburn on the proposal that the County board is going to talk about. The first proposal will be for the County to hire 10 EMTs, plus supplying a vehicle to transport the EMTs to any calls that come in where there is a shortage of available volunteer EMTs. If a call comes in and there are no available volunteer EMTs, some of these newly hired County EMTs will jump in the County vehicle and drive to the necessary township Ambulance garage and answer the call. The goal is to have 24/7 EMT coverage in all townships. The second proposal would be the County hiring these 10 EMTs, but then the County would buy an ambulance which would probably then increase taxes. Both these proposals will be reviewed by the County Board at tomorrow night's County meeting and ultimately it will be up for a County Board vote. A centrally located housing unit will have to be considered for housing these EMTs to rotate in and out of on their respective shifts. It is estimated that the County hiring 10 EMTs and supplying a vehicle for them to travel to the various township ambulance garages would cost approximately \$950,000/yr. Otherwise, the Mason Ambulance is doing good and making all their calls.

Grand View Volunteer Fire Department Report – Supervisor Wickman reports working on the picnic coming up in Aug. Got the paperwork for renewing our contract with the Town of Lincoln. Supervisor Wickman also reports that he has now resigned from the Grand View Fire Department a couple days ago but that at last meeting they were waiting on a document or quote on the cost of a generator from the Town of Lincoln before making a decision on contributing half the cost. Supervisor Seago prints out a copy of the estimate he received from Omer Nelson Electronics but states this is only a rough estimate and that if the Town proceeds with installing a generator at the town shop, that it would have to go out on bids first. Supervisor Wickman will drop this estimate off at the fire chief's house after tonight's town meeting for the fire department to review at their next fire meeting.

Roads Report – Chairman Vaillancourt reports that the road crew got the wing off the grader and are starting to grade roads heavily, weather permitting. He also updates the board that the Town has a chance to crush gravel this fall as Nels Ritola is going to have gravel crushed in his pit. Dan will speak to the surrounding townships to see if any of them are going to need gravel crushed as Nels Ritola will do it if there is around 10,000 total tons crushed. Dan reports that with our present gravel stockpile, that if the town does the Four Corners Store Road this summer, that we will be out of gravel by fall. We could buy gravel from Peterson's pit, but that is pricy and limited at this time. It would be less expensive to have gravel crushed at the Sandstrum pit at this time. Dan will update all regarding what he finds out from surrounding townships at the next meeting.

Public Comments – Robert Erdmann asks if the electronics’ waste dumpster is still available. He also comments that he is in support of the town continuing to offer the dust control on the roads like they did last year. Susie Noonan advises that last year she sent out a public email regarding offering this service and the cost and instructions of where to send payment to. Chairman Vaillancourt states he would like to see if this year two loads could be put down for dust control. He will contact Kafka, the company that did it last year. Supervisor Wickman comments that he will check on prices with a company that offers this service out of the Superior/Duluth area so the board can compare pricing. Clerk Bay will compose an email to send out to the public regarding dust control and bring it to Dan for approval to email out to the public.

OLD and NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Field Outing - Chairman Vaillancourt updates those present on an upcoming possible board quorum for a bridge/roads inspection that will be conducted on 4/30/26 beginning at 9:30 am together with a State of Wisconsin Transportation Department representative and a DNR representative to go around to Town of Lincoln roads to discuss high water flood issues and bridge issues. The field meeting will begin at the Ashland Bayfield Road bridge and go from there to other locations in the Town of Lincoln. The clerk has already posted a public notice of this field outing.

Town of Lincoln Five-Year Road Plan - Chairman Vaillancourt requests that both Supervisor Wickman and Supervisor Seago review the Town of Lincoln Five-Year Road Plan and be ready to review it at next month’s board meeting.

Zielies Tree Service Scheduled Vegetation Management - Chairman Vaillancourt informs those present on an email he received from Zielies Tree Service regarding their request to use a herbicide to spray the sides of the roadway near the Bayfield Electric Cooperative power line that parallels North Altamont Road. Chairman Vaillancourt is against allowing this to happen and both Supervisor Wickman and Seago are also opposed to allowing this broadcast spray of selective herbicide. Clerk Bay will email Zielies Tree Service and let them know that the Town is denying them permission to do this vegetation spraying along the Bayfield Electric Cooperative power line that parallels North Altamont Road.

Employee Handbook Review/Updates – The board reviewed the comp time paragraph within the handbook, and approved the added line of “up to 40 hours total per year”. With that language addition, motion by Chairman Vaillancourt, seconded by Supervisor Seago to approve the updated Town of Lincoln Employee Handbook. In favor – 3, opposed – 0. Motion carried.

Possible Future Town Hall Building Remodeling/Addition – Supervisor Wickman states he would like to see a bathroom installed so poll workers wouldn't have to use the porta-potty, especially in the winter time and would have running water to wash their hands. How long the town can continue to hold their elections at the Four Corners Community Room is unknown if that business establishment ever sells. Supervisor Wickman will try to get some plans drawn up and go from there. Chairman Vaillancourt reports he has talked to the neighboring property owners and they are more than agreeable to work with the Town if we need additional land to erect any town hall building additions.

Generator Purchase for Town Shop – The possible shared cost with the Grand View Fire Department for a generator purchase and installation at the town shop was discussed. Supervisor Wickman is going to drop off the signed Town of Lincoln and Grand View Fire Department's annual contract to the Fire Chief after tonight's meeting and will also give him the \$13,342 estimate the Town received from Omer Nelson Electric on the purchase and installation of a generator at the town shop for the fire department's review at their next fire meeting.

Upcoming Town of Lincoln Roads Dust Control – This was previously discussed during tonight's meeting (review above minutes). As stated, the clerk will draft a letter to email out after approval and direction by the board chairman. Chairman Vaillancourt will contact Kafka and Supervisor Wickman will check with a company out of the Duluth/Superior area for an estimate for their dust control. Date for return payments for dust control will be 6/1/26. Checks should be made payable to the Town Treasurer and mailed or delivered to Kolene. Chairman Vaillancourt states the cost to town residents will stay the same as last year.

Set May Meeting – May 12, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

Set Open Book and Board of Review date: Open Book May 18, 2026 from 5 pm – 7 pm.
Board of Review – June 2, 2026 from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Future Agenda Items – Five year road plan review and updates. Dust control timeline updates.

Adjourn – Motion by Chairman Vaillancourt to adjourn tonight's meeting at 6:25 pm, seconded by Supervisor Wickman. In favor – 3, opposed – 0. Motion carried.