

MINUTES
Special Town Board Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2026, at 6:15 pm
Linn Conference Room
W3728 Franklin Walsh St. Zenda, WI 53195
Held in-person Only

Chairman Weiss called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Present at roll call were Supervisors Zimmerman, Livingston (virtual), Leith, Palmer, Chairman Weiss also present were Attorney Duquette, Clerk Morris and Administrator/Treasurer David Zimmerman.

Consider a motion to convene into closed session:

Leith/Palmer motioned to move into closed session per WI Statue 19.85(1)(g) at 6:17 p.m.
Motion Carried.

- a. Closed session according to Wisconsin Statutes section per 19.85(1)(c) - considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of public employees.
I. Administrator & Treasurer Position

Roll Vote: Supervisors Zimmerman-yes, Livingston-y, Leith-yes, Palmer-yes, Chairman Weiss- yes

Motion to reconvene into open session:

Leith/Palmer motioned to move into open session. Motion Carried.

Possible discussion of/taking of action regarding closed session matters: Nothing to Discuss

Discussion, consideration, and possible action on the following:

Court:

Chairman Weiss said that it is not official yet, but he understands that Judge King will not be running for re-election. The Board was brainstorming what to do. It was mentioned that one does not need to be an attorney to be a municipal judge in the state of Wisconsin. Therefore, you run a risk there. Additionally, maybe no one runs for the judge position, and there are statutory requirements for timing when choosing to abolish the court. Chairman Weiss said that four years ago the Board discussed moving the Court to the County. Mr. Duquette brought up that if they send the court to the County, the Town would end up with someone who is not a Town of Linn chosen official and the Town would still have the cost of the municipal attorney for the cases that are contested. Linn would lose the court clerk. He doesn't think that the financial aspect should drive this decision. It would be a wash. Chairman Weiss said the decision stems more from a logistical and business sense. Supervisor Palmer said that they almost chose to send the Court to

County four years ago, and now they would not know who they are going to get. He commented that administratively it would be much easier to move the Court to the County. The Board will lose a bunch of things that they no longer have to worry about. He asked if there is a benefit to keeping it in Linn. Attorney Duquette said that there is a benefit. Community Policing, and whatever the values of the electorate are, would reflect in who they put on the bench. You lose that when it goes to the County. Locally, you would have your own attorney, and you can look at what issues the court may want to focus on for the community. Chairman Weiss asked what happens if no one wants to run for the office and then we would have to appoint someone and no one wants to be appointed. Mr. Duquette said that the statute then outlines a process for a Special Election. The District Court Administrator would supply a substitute Judge, but that cannot be forever. It would be some months until you appoint someone. There is the option to join another Town's Court. They discussed election laws and different options there. Attorney Duquette offered to write up the ordinance that would abolish the Linn Court if the Board wanted him to do so. Attorney Duquette said that they have until October 1st to decide to abolish the Court. Otherwise, the Town is stuck until the next term is up. Genoa City and Williams Bay use the County for Court. Mr. Duquette said that there are some very fine non-attorney municipal judges. If you are dealing with different judges in Linn, who is the court clerk's boss? The Town Board authorizes the position and the salary but does not hire or terminate the court clerk. Non-Candidacy paperwork can be given out on December 1st. Clerk Morris asked if the Court could be brought back anytime, and it can be.

Leith/Palmer motioned to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Alyson Morris'.

Alyson Morris

Town of Linn Clerk