

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF MERRILL BOARD MEETING
HELD AT THE TOWN OF MERRILL COMMUNITY CENTER
MARCH 9TH, 2026 AT 5:30 P.M.**

Chairman Tony Baumann called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Chairman Tony Baumann, Supervisors Darrel Dengel, Matt Leder, Tim Mueske and Scott Oberg, Clerk Mitzi Flegner in attendance.

Also present: See sign in sheet.

Motion by Darrel Dengel to accept minutes of February 9th, 2026, Town Meeting as printed, 2nd by Matt Leder; motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer's Report: Ending Balance as of March 9th, 2026, is \$1,328,153.48. After checks issued on March 9th, 2026, for \$22,045.20 and outstanding checks totaling \$2,694.82. Balance as of March 9th, 2026, \$1,303,413.46. Motion by Darrel Dengel to approve as read, 2nd by Matt Leder; motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Darrel Dengel to approve the vouchers as presented, 2nd by Scott Oberg; motion carried 5-0.

ROAD REPORT

Temporary road weight restrictions will be in effect soon. Ryan is checking the township roads often and the signs will be up soon.

There will be zero tolerance for overweight vehicles. If the township is notified of an overweight vehicle the Sherriff's Department will be notified.

JJ Brush Cutting is currently cutting the Township roads right of way.

North Star Drive has a dip in the road. This could be due to the culvert settling or the road has a frost heave.

Tony met with Jason Lemmer from the Lincoln County Highway Department about the Schulz Spur Drive bridge. The last inspection report showed this bridge rated a #3, with 10 being the best and 1 the worst. Jason said the township will need to start putting a plan together for this bridge.

Tony also asked Jason to schedule the bridge inspection for the bridge by the old Ward Papermill.

The township received maps from REI surveyors for the turn around Lake View Ave, Swamp Rd and Gibson Lake Dr.

EQUIPMENT REPORT

Ryan and Tony are doing some repairs to the snow wing on the Western Star plow truck. One of the drivers noticed that the wing was not operating correctly. It was found that the anchor point for the hydraulic cylinder was broken and parts needed to be made and welded into place.

The township is going to be doing some maintenance on the road grader so it will be ready to grade the gravel roads.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Streich asked about the turnout at the City Sewer district area meeting. Tony stated that the Town of Merrill and Pine River were present.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Darrel Dengel to approve the mailbox policy option 2 as presented, 2nd by Tim Mueske; motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Darrel Dengel to approve the updated utility permit Appendices pages, 2nd by Scott Oberg; motion carried 5-0.

H&H Electric was present to suggest the upgrades needed to be made to the hall and the garage. The suggestion for the hall was with the lighting we have now a 14-18 KW generator would be needed, with an automatic transfer switch. If the hall was changed to LED lighting a 10-14 KW generator would be needed, with an automatic transfer switch. At the garage a manual transfer switch is recommended and install a call light outside. This will be carried over to next month to put out for bidding.

River Road turnaround will cost approximately \$2500 for REI to survey, they will let us know when they are going to start.

Darrel Dengel made a motion to approve the truck inspection books, 2nd by Tim Mueske; motion carried 5-0.

Matt and Tony met with Erickson Law office about the mobile home ordinance; they will be drafting the ordinance for the township.

Our assessor Todd Anderson spoke with Tim Pfothenauer from the State Department of Revenue, they both agree that a separate mobile home park for 2 or 3 mobile home is un-needed in this situation.

Mitzi has also received emails from 2 people from the company that now manages the Little Florida mobile home park. They still have not paid for December, January and February, but in the last email they now know the amount that they owe. Another update will be given again next month.

Scott Oberg made a motion to approve the Election Day Emergency Response Plan; 2nd by Matt Leder; motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

The township needs an ordinance for utility regulation. An ordinance will be presented to the Board next month.

Darrel Dengel made a motion to approve the driveway/highway access permit for Michael Buechner & Jeff Stricklin; 2nd by Tim Mueske; motion carried 5-0.

Tim Mueske made a motion to create a spring clean-up on Saturday May 16th, 2026, from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 pm, 2nd by Scott Oberg; motion carried 5-0. This will be posted in the paper and on the website when the details are finalized.

The Board decided the following on utility permits from the past and future:

A past utility permit that has an expiration date into 2026 will only be required to complete the updated utility permit.

A past utility permit that expired in 2025 will be required to complete the updated utility permit and also pay the fee required for the work they are permitted to.

Discussion on forming a Road Committee and continuing with the Long-Range Planning Committee. The Road Committee will be Supervisor Tim Mueske, Supervisor Scott Oberg, Ryan King and Brandon Peterson. The LRPC will be Chairman Tony Baumann, one of the supervisors (best experienced with topic being discussed), Larry Wenning and Kristy Neumann.

Matt Leder made a motion to approve extending the lawn mowing to RA Property Services at a locked in rate of \$120 per mow for 2 years and a \$5 increase per mow in the 3rd year, 2nd by Darrel Dengel; motion carried 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Earl Welker sent an email with concerns about data centers; this does not pertain to us as we do our zoning through Lincoln County.

April Lincoln County Unit Meeting will be held at the Town of Merrill Community Center on Thursday April 16th, 2026. Dinner is at 6:30 pm, meeting at 7:00 pm.

Remember that the Town Board Meeting will be held Tuesday April 21, 2026, at 5:30 pm following the Annual meeting of Electors

Tony and Matt attended the City of Merrill Sewer district area meeting March 3rd, 2026. The city has agreed for a short term, to meet with the 3 neighboring townships twice a year to share information.

ADJOURN

Darrel Dengel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Scott Oberg; motion carried 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Mitzi Flegner, Clerk

