

Minutes

Town of Montrose

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

7:00PM

Minutes are not final until Board approval.

Present: Roger Hodel, Town Chairman; Paul Schaller, Supervisor; Cory Brown, Supervisor; Jennifer Armstrong, Treasurer/Clerk

Residents: Mary De Groot, John Cioci, Jean Hodel, Darren Chicks, Deb Chicks, Darren Eichelkraut, Jeanne Blasberg, Jr and Jean Eichelkraut, Tim Bahls, Tarna Hunger, Deb Brucaya, Nic Mink

Non-Residents: Julie Walser

Roger Hodel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, August 4th, at 7:02PM.

Jennifer Armstrong read the minutes from the July 7th Board meeting. **The minutes were approved with a date correction on a motion made by Cory Brown, seconded by Paul Schaller, and made unanimous by Roger Hodel.**

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Jennifer Armstrong and a motion was made to approve and to pay all bills by Cory Brown, seconded by Paul Schaller, approved by Roger Hodel.

Announcements:

Charlotte Viney passed away and the town's condolences are extended to her family and friends.

Sugar River EMS Update: Roger Hodel reported on his recent meeting with Josh Wescott, Second-in-Command of Sugar River EMS. Roger highlighted significant operational improvements, noting that while the service faced a critical shortage of EMTs five or six years ago—at times struggling to staff a single rig—the roster now stands at an impressive 85 members. Additionally, a new administrative staff member has been hired to oversee several EMS services.

Roger noted that the Towns of Primrose and Perry have expressed interest in joining Sugar River EMS, which currently serves seven municipalities: the Town of New Glarus, Village of New Glarus, Town of Brooklyn, Village of Belleville, Town of Exeter, Town of Montrose, and Town of Oregon. While expanding would create a larger coverage district, leadership feels confident in their service capacity. Darren Eichelkraut added that ongoing discussions focus on whether prospective municipalities would be admitted as full voting members or as contracted service entities.

Clerk Announcements:

A resident residing along County Road A stated that Dane County highway crews severed a Frontier communications line during recent culvert work, and that neither Dane County nor Frontier has agreed to repair the line. The clerk will follow up with the resident to provide appropriate Dane County contact resources.

Jennifer reported that informational packets were sent via certified mail to all lodging businesses within the Town regarding the new Municipal Room Tax that took effect on August 1st. The packets contained the following documents:

- ❖ Information Return Sheet: A form for business owners to complete and return with updated contact and operational details.
- ❖ Quick Facts Sheet: A guide outlining immediate requirements and compliance steps.

- ❖ Quarterly Income Reporting Form: The standard form for calculating and remitting quarterly room tax receipts.
- ❖ Municipal Room Tax Ordinance: A complete copy of the Town's official room tax ordinance for reference.

Agenda

Roger Hodel expressed appreciation to all members of the Town Hall Improvement Committee for their time, energy, and expertise throughout the ongoing repair projects. Roger noted the outstanding results in the updated kitchen, and extended special thanks to Jeanne Eichelkraut for her design contributions.

To date, completed repairs and upgrades include:

- ❖ Interior: Ceiling tile and lighting installation, women's restroom vanity and mirror replacement, men's restroom urinal repair, bubbler repair, and complete kitchen renovation (new cabinetry, sink, and faucet).
- ❖ Exterior: Parking lot lighting repair, along with extensive front and rear concrete repairs.

Brian Brown recognized Kittleson Concrete of Belleville for going above and beyond on the masonry work, and thanked McKee & Associates for their professional expertise.

Jennifer presented an itemized progress report detailing the costs of the Town Hall repairs and improvements completed to date, totaling \$13,820.82. Jennifer noted she will continue to track expenditures to coordinate the corresponding transfer of \$13,820.82 from the Capital Expenditure account to cover these project costs, not all invoices have yet been received.

In response to a question from Deb Brucaya regarding building wires referenced at last month's meeting, it was noted that necessary internet lines had been accidentally cut, but TDS Telecom responded within a few days to fully repair them.

Darren Chicks suggested that, following the recent Town Hall improvements, the Board prioritize ongoing preventative maintenance for building mechanicals starting in 2027. Darren recommended engaging a commercial contractor to perform annual equipment inspections, cleaning, and system audits to protect the Town.

Cory Brown made a motion to approve the application received for a Temporary "Class B" Wine License to serve locally produced cider for a Farm Dinner Event at Flynn Creek Farm on Saturday, August 13, 2026 from Reap Food Group, Inc in Madison, Paul Schaller seconded the motion, approved by Roger Hodel.

The Board continued discussion on evaluating parking and traffic concerns in Paoli.

Deb Chicks stressed preserving the town hall parking lot access for unscheduled community needs, like memorial services and funerals. Julie Walser recommended issue could be addressed with clear signage such as "Private Event Parking," "No Overnight Parking" and designated stalls, with Town liaison oversight.

Tarna Hunter suggested exploring a pedestrian path across the river bridge to connect the Town Hall parking lot to downtown Paoli. Junior cautioned that this route crosses private land, raising privacy and foot-traffic concerns for neighbors. Darren Chicks and Cory Brown also noted that using the Town Hall lot and converting a river path would require significant investment in lighting, plowing, stall marking, and pedestrian safety infrastructure. Tim Bahls noted that the Town Hall parking lot could potentially be expanded to accommodate more cars. John Cioci noted the Town holds rights-of-way off Canal Street. Roger Hodel cautioned that opening roads into that 2–3 acre area could prompt the landowner to sell platted lots, many of which face flooding and septic constraints.

Nic Mink reported that cars are parking along both sides of Range Trail and pedestrians walk down the middle of the roadway creating more safety hazards.

Mary DeGroot suggested exploring gated paid parking, citing the 2015 Comprehensive Plan.

Property owner Mike McKnight expressed a desire to help the town find a viable solution. Mike stated he is open to discussing the Town's potential use of his 6-acre parcel located along Paoli Road and STH 69 for a designated parking lot. While he clarified that he does not wish to serve on a committee or spearhead the development project himself, he welcomed further dialogue with the Board to explore how his land might be utilized to resolve the parking challenges.

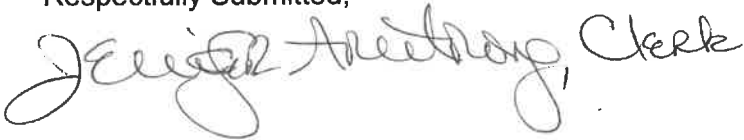
Roger met with Dane County Park's Joleen Stinson and requested a decision from her department within six weeks regarding a potential land lease for parking. Roger noted he is also in favor of a jurisdictional transfer of a portion of County Highway PB through Paoli, if it would give the Town authority over local speed limits and parking regulations. The Board agreed to await the County's response regarding the lease for parking and revisit the topic in September.

Nic Mink informed the Board that Seven Acres will host a Barbecue Festival on September 19 and 20, running from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM both days. Attendance is projected at 600 to 1,000 visitors daily—roughly half the size of Paoli Art in the Park and one-sixth the size of the former Christkindlmarket.

Nic noted that Seven Acres is completing the Dane County permitting process and coordinating a regional shuttle system in partnership with the City of Verona, Wisconsin Brewing Company, and Lake Louie Brewing. The shuttle, along with ride-share incentives to encourage visitors to park offsite, is designed to manage traffic flow so overall congestion does not exceed a typical busy weekend in Paoli. Mink invited Board input on any additional measures or details the Town would like addressed.

Motion to adjourn made at 8:20pm. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

 Clerk