Town of Polk Board Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2026, 8:00 AM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order for Thursday, October 15, 2026, at the Town of Polk Hall.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Official Meeting Notice

The Chair stated that the official meeting notice was sent to the West Bend Daily News, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and WTKM Radio. It was also posted on the Town website and bulletin board.

4. Roll Call

Present: Chairman Albert Schulteis, Supervisor Bob Roecker, Supervisor Jenny Zignego, Clerk Alison Pecha

5. Resolution 08.2026 requesting Participation in and County Assistance Through the Washington County Shared Services Grant Program for Countywide Fire/EMS

This item was held over from the Tuesday meeting. Clerk/Treasurer Allison reported that she had forwarded the resolution to the Town Attorney, who had no legal objection. She explained that the resolution only states the Town's intent to participate under the statute creating the levy exemption. A separate agreement with the details would follow. Funding is contingent on the County allocating funds each year. The Attorney added that a resolution is not as binding as an agreement or ordinance.

The Chair asked for comments, and a copy of the resolution was shared with the citizens present. LifeStar owner Mike Kreuger asked that, when the final agreement is presented, the Town seek a certified accounting of how funds are spent. The Chair explained that the larger municipalities with their own departments, such as West Bend, Germantown, Jackson, and Slinger, receive the 75% share directly. Every participant receives the 25% share, and all must still account for how funds are spent. Funding is expected to grow 2% to 4% annually.

Citizen Wally Behr voiced concern that municipalities felt coerced into participating and that the process lacked openness. He questioned the origin of the 25% funding, noting that similar requests for highway

services had previously been refused. He also questioned the sparse attendance and limited outreach at the County's public sessions. The Chair reported that the Washington County Board approved the countywide shared services program the previous evening, and the Clerk confirmed a County email describing the program as tax net neutral. Supervisor Zignego recalled that attendees at the public session she attended supported the services even at higher cost. Several speakers stated that the Town has borrowing capacity while other municipalities are heavily indebted. The Chair said that the Town's departments would not benefit if the Town withdrew alone.

Citizen Mary Franz shared similar concerns about the lack of detail on what funding was being reallocated. The Chair said County officials had indicated this would be permitted, though nothing had been seen in writing.

Supervisor Jenny Zignego said she did not feel the resolution had to be approved that day and was comfortable waiting until just before the deadline. The Chair said his priority was not to miss the deadline. A Supervisor Roecker said that on principle he would not sign, but he agreed to wait and decide before the deadline. He asked that another Town Board meeting be scheduled shortly before the deadline in case of changes. The Chair agreed but stressed that the Town must make a decision in time so that its fire departments are not harmed. The Clerk noted that the Town would also have to approve the final agreement when it is issued.

Motion to table Resolution 08.2026, with the understanding that the Board will reconvene and decide before the deadline, was made by Supervisor Roecker and seconded by Supervisor Zignego. The motion carried on a voice vote with all members voting aye.

6. 2027 Budget Workshop

Clerk Alison presented the proposed 2027 budget. She said the State's levy limit figure includes the loan and its debt service. Without the loan, the Town could levy only about $667,000. The summary figure shown for total collections was identified as a software flaw and should be disregarded.

Revenues. Building inspection revenue was budgeted at $160,000, against about $140,000 received to date, because building activity had slowed. Fines and penalties of about $60,000 were deposited in the general money market account and not carried into 2027. The Clerk conservatively budgeted little for professional fees charged back to applicants. Items shown in parentheses, such as the Cedar Hills streetlights and forest cropland, are pass-through amounts that do not affect the levy. The Chair noted that the tax rate is expected to change little because borrowing is unchanged.

Expenditures. A 3% wage increase was included for the Clerk/Treasurer and Department of Public Works. Election costs were reduced to reflect two elections. The Clerk added $7,000 to computer software and repair, and noted her recommendation to use the remaining ARPA interest to replace the office computers. The Chair asked that quotes be obtained before year end. Public works wages were increased to $110,000 to reflect the second part-time employee at about 20 hours per week. Fuel was budgeted at $15,000, and

$20,000 remains for salt, with 200 tons arriving in about two weeks. The Chair noted that the salt shed needs painting and that Town staff could do the work with inexpensive materials.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Roecker and seconded by Supervisor Zignego. The motion carried on a voice vote with all members voting aye at 9:25am

The meeting was adjourned.