

TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Official Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Port Washington Town Board
Monday, December 1, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
At the Town Hall, 3715 Highland Drive, Port Washington, WI

Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Chairman Mike Didier, Supervisor Gary Schlenvogt, Supervisor Greg Welton, Heather Krueger-Clerk, and Mary Sampont-Treasurer.

Public: 8, Press: 1

Approval of November Town Board Minutes and Special Town Board Minutes. Didier moved to approve the November Town Board Minutes and Meeting of Electors minutes, seconded by Schlenvogt. The motion carried 3-0.

Public Comments:

Chris Karnish, 878 Weiler's Way. Disappointed that the city is allowing Vantage to operate 24 hours a day. What is the town going to do about this? Didier: Are you concerned about potential noise pollution or other issues associated with the 3 shifts? He will contact the city to express his concerns, although the noise is not an issue at this time; he cannot make assumptions. Karnish: What is the town doing for the residents? You allowed this to happen by ending the border agreement last year. You have not taken any action to stay on top of this. Didier: Border agreement was a judgment call. Now that we are only one month away and still nothing has been built, I am more confident that it was the right decision.

Karen Karnish, 878 Weiler's Way. The residents of Weiler's Way are near the construction site and will experience significant noise, light pollution, dust, and dirt. How can they allow work to be done 24 hours a day? This will affect all of us. It will not be easy to have them stop the 24-hour-a-day once it is implemented. These are our forever homes, and now we are in the middle of the biggest data center construction site in the United States. We had no say in this. Is there anything we can do? Didier: They have already created the site plan.

Heidi Janous, 4446 Weiler's Way. All the residents in the neighborhood are angry and upset. People are not sleeping at night; they do not know whether the data center will reduce the value of their homes, keep them quiet, or even make them livable. How did we get to this point? There was a land grab, the land was gone, and now we are getting a data center. You can't blame us for being angry; we haven't been involved in any of this. We knew nothing, and now we were in the middle of this mess. Didier: A broker was hired to contact landowners in the area, who sold their land and petitioned to be annexed to the city. There is nothing the town (or any town) could have done to prevent this; state statutes allow annexations by right, with no Town Board approval required. The town amended the border agreement 11 months early. I do not see anything that has happened out there that could not have occurred if the land were still in the town; they purchased property, moved dirt, tore down housing, and abandoned roads; all allowed in the township. It leads me to think that, at this point, it was a good decision for the town; we were able to negotiate some terms in our favor, rather than saying no and waiting until December 2025 to annex. Janous: As the town chairman, we would like you to meet with the mayor and convey our concerns. He will not return our calls.

Mary Baumann, 861 Weiler's Way. To be clear, do you want to help us? We should be a team. You're our representative. Didier: I understand. Some people want me to shut them down, but I can't.

Reports:

Chairman Didier: 1) Didier is meeting with the city engineer, along with the town engineer, about bringing city sewer and water to Knellsville. 2) There were a couple of snowplowing complaints, which Didier reported to the County.

Town Treasurer: The town's Money Market balance is \$513,744.99, the checking account balance is \$439,355.73, and the small business account balance is \$28.36. The town received \$69,792.91 in State of WI Shared Revenue.

Town Clerk: 1) The new town website, townofportwashingtonwi.gov, will be live on December 8, 2025. The old site has been paid for through July 10, 2025, and will remain live, but it will not be updated. 2) It would be nice to get the fan and noise panels installed this winter. Welton: I will look into this and get things started. 3) Christmas, the drop-off site will be closed Christmas Day, but open on Friday, Dec 26th, from 4:00 – 6:00, and regular Saturday hours. It will be open on Thursday, New Year's Day, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

Discussion and possible action to approve the 2026 Town Budget. The budget was discussed at the public hearing in November. **Welton moved to approve the 2026 Town Summary Budget, seconded by Schlenvogt. Motion carried 3-0.**

Discussion and possible action to approve the 2025-2026 snowplow bid submitted by Dave's Excavation for plowing and salting the Town Hall and drop-off site. **Didier moved to approve the snowplow bid from Dave's Excavation, seconded by Welton. Motion carried 3-0.**

Discussion and possible action regarding Ordinance 2026-01, An ordinance Amending the Frequency of Mandatory Inspections Performed by Authorized Fire Department Personnel. Per Didier, the new Fire Chief has made changes to the Fire Code, including inspection requirements. **Welton moved that the town hold a public hearing at 6:50 PM on January 5, 2026, for this Ordinance, seconded by Didier. Motion carried 3-0.**

Discussion and possible action regarding Ordinance 2026-02, Responsible Unit Recycling Ordinance. The WI Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests that all municipalities that receive the Recycling Grant update their recycling ordinances. Didier will contact the town Attorney to draft an ordinance.

Discussion and possible action regarding Encroachment and Hold Harmless Agreement between the Town of Port Washington and Austin & Megan Menke, 3557 Groeschel Rd, regarding an accessory structure encroachment on a town-owned parcel of land. According to Didier, this was on the agenda earlier this year, but Menkes did not accept the garage valuation. The Menkes received a builder's quote and an insurance valuation for the construction of a new garage, totaling approximately \$65,000. The town would apply the 50% rule, meaning that if the garage was damaged, it could be rebuilt for up to 50% of its value. **Didier moved to approve the Hold Harmless Agreement between the Town of Port Washington and Austin & Megan Menke, 3557 Groeschel Rd., with a garage valuation of \$65,000, or 50% at \$32,500, cumulative, seconded by Welton. Motion carried 3-0.**

Discussion and possible action on making Norport Park more accessible to the public. Per Didier, the land in the town park is covered with dead ash trees, making it difficult to use the area. Access from Groeschel Road is challenging to navigate. Clearing the land and installing a culvert to improve park accessibility would be a good idea. Didier and Welton will find a work date to move this forward.

Discussion and possible action of the disbandment of Holden East Cemetery Association. According to Didier, this is not happening at this time, but it may occur in the near future. If the cemetery is abandoned, the town would be responsible for maintaining the records. It appears that Union Cemetery will be taken over by the city, which is the same association that operates the Town of Port Cemetery. If the association disbands, the town may need to assume maintenance responsibilities.

Discussion and possible action on initiating a temporary land easement for the construction of the Dixie Road bridge from the owners of tax key parcel 070040500300. Didier was contacted by the town engineer regarding the private land on Dixie Road that the construction company would need to access during bridge construction. The land on the Port Washington side would be a temporary easement, but

the land on the Belgium side would be permanent. The town can request that the owners voluntarily sign an easement agreement. However, if the owners seek compensation for their land, the town cannot negotiate it because Federal funds are being used for this project. Steps need to be taken if any compensation is sought, and it may cost the town more than we pay the landowners. Didier has called and sent the Belgium side owner information, explaining that this is the first, as it will be a permanent easement.

Discussion and possible action to approve an Operator's License for Kevin Runkel to serve at the Shipyard Bar, LLC. Per Krueger, Runkel has passed a background check. **Didier moved to approve the Operator License for Kevin Runkel, seconded by Welton. Motion carried 3-0.**

Discussion and possible action to approve the following Election Inspectors to serve in the Town of Port Washington for the 2026-2027 Election Cycle: Republican Nomination List: Ellyn Potokar, Erin Brukhart, Susan Vranek, Sara Lueloff. Democratic Nomination List: None. Unaffiliated Election Inspectors: Doris Feider-Schlenvogt, Christa Christiansen, Elizabeth Fischer, Jennie Greisch, Nancy Holley, Thomas Holley, Lyndie Krueger, Jackie Oleson, Ed Potokar, Gary Schlenvogt, Leah VanMinsel, Kay Verley, John Wozniak, Leila Wilder, Jeff Witt, Theresa Wisinski. **Didier moved to approve the listed Election Inspectors for the 2026-2027 Election Cycle, seconded by Welton. Motion carried 3-0.**

Monthly Bills: **Schlenvogt moved to approve the November bills totaling \$27,644.61, seconded by Welton. Motion carried 3-0.**

Didier adjourned the December Town Board meeting at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Krueger,
Clerk