

TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Official Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Port Washington Town Board
Monday, March 2, 2026, 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: 31, Press: 1

Approval of February Town Board Minutes. Welton moved to approve the February Town Board minutes, seconded by Schlenvogt. The motion carried 3-0.

Public Comments:

Kirk Deheck, 4525 County Road KW: Deheck has been circulating a Notice of Nuisance from the Vantage Site Operations, which has been signed by approximately 100 residents of the town and city. He is addressing the Town Board to speak on behalf of the town residents, stating that the 24-hour operation at Vantage is a nuisance. Multiple property owners have been complaining to the board and the sheriff's department. This aggravation is with the city, but he wants the town to represent the residents affected. Deheck was notified by Didier that various provisions in the border agreement restrict any "Town action" objecting to what the city legal can do. Deheck read the city/town boarder agreement, and he interprets the language about the town taking "No Action" objecting to the city decisions as only pertaining to Utility installation but the board can act by informing the city by public notice that operations 24 hours a day, 5 days a week, and 14 hours on weekends are a nuisance. You are our representatives; that is your job. The complaints include lighting, vibrations, tailgates on quad axles, and back-up beepers. Deheck officially submitted the Notice of Nuisance for the 24-hour operation by handing it to the clerk. Deheck further mentioned that this Notice will be presented to the city on 3-2-26. Deheck stated that if the 24 hours do not end within 10 days, we will file suit with Vantage, and he will handle that; they will not like our answer or our ask.

Gilbert Albinger, 3079 Green Bay Road: Lives on Lange Road and has been attending the Town Board meeting for years, asking if it will be resurfaced. The road is in poor condition and requires extensive repairs. Didier: This will be discussed as an agenda item later in this meeting.

Mary Jansen – St Peter, 4352 County Road KW. There is a lot of Jake Braking (engine brakes on trucks) with the Vantage operation. There is no one to contact if we have issues. Can the town provide contact? They are also experiencing frequent truck trespassing at JM Druecker, 3760 Highland Drive, which is their business address.

Dave Janous, 4446 Weiler's Way: Residents are asking for a point of contact for any issues on the Vantage site. Can the town provide a contact for residents? We have seen nothing coming from the town board, especially the chairman. Town residents need help, and we need to know what you're doing to help us. What are the plans for the major roads for the future? Will they be adding turn lanes? Can you look into whether anything is being considered to house the large number of workers who will be at the site?

Mary Deheck, 4258 County Road LL, says the dust from the Vantage site is terrible at her house and driveway. They (Michaels Corp) have come to the house to clean the dust, but are not happy with the results, and no solution has been provided to move forward.

Katherine Allen, 3349 Terry Lane. Is there an update on the bike trail? Didier: The bike trail is owned by We Energy, and they have continued to extend the lease to the county since the bike trail opened. It

could cease to exist someday, as it is not county-owned land. It is currently closed for utility work and scheduled repairs.

Jayne Heun, 4460 County Road KW. They live at the corner of KW and Lake Drive, next to the construction site. Traffic and vibrations have been a major issue. The vibrations are affecting the structure of their home. It is difficult to maintain their livelihood with all the construction.

Dean Wiegert 3708 E Norport. Lives closer to the city, but there is nothing between my house and the construction site, and the vibrations affect me 24 hours a day; it is horrible. This is so much louder than the freeway traffic, and it just shakes everything. Vantage needs to understand that people can't live this way. Please speak up for town residents, as this needs to change.

Bob Huen, 4460 County Road KW. I am very concerned that there is no traffic control at the intersection of CTH KW and Lake Drive. Directing the traffic would be a very cautious measure. If we do not stand up to them, they will continue to do whatever they want.

Amanda Mueller, 4488 Lilac Lane. The construction rollout of the Data Center is a complete failure. You are taking advantage of these wonderful people, and you don't care. Become familiar with the term "Cancer Crescent." Everyone on the east side of the construction site will be affected because the air stagnates there. There will be generators running phase one of the sites, which will also mix with the other pollutants in the air. Why do residents have to protect themselves? What did you install that could harm us? No studies were done. The residents in Weiler's Way are the most affected by this project. The town board does not care. Are there Town ordinances for camping? **Didier:** There is a 30-day limit, but it's not clear where and when. This will be discussed at the upcoming planning commissions, as there will be town landowners inquiring.

Lauri Deheck, 4525 County Road KW. It is clear that no one had a vote on the Data Center, including the town board. Since the residents don't have a say in anything, especially regarding the 24-hour operations, we are here asking you to support us. Having our town leadership support for its town members would go a long way.

Kim Tydrick 4465 Weiler's Way. Agrees with all the previous comments. Town residents are disenfranchised. The board is supposed to represent us and has done nothing to help us. The city will do nothing to help us. Our County Representative does not return my phone call. We've tried to speak to Vantage and Michels but haven't been able to reach anyone. We need a hotline from Vantage or from the city, somewhere where someone will take our concerns seriously and follow up. We are under siege, and we are being taxed with no representation. People are becoming increasingly upset and militant. Someone is going to snap.

Caleb Tydrick, 4465 Weiler's Way: Traffic is a big issue, along with the condition of the roads. Worried, the dust will continue to be bad over the summer. The light pollution is terrible. What are realistic timelines for this whole process? Where will all the workers be located? What are residents expected to do? How do we plan our lives around this? Caleb then spoke, strongly criticizing the mayor of the neighboring city of Port. **Several remarks contained profanity. [Profanity omitted from official minutes.]**

Didier: I am tasked with maintaining order at this meeting, which is difficult for some people but not for most in attendance to understand. We (the Town Board) cannot negotiate or debate everything during public comments.

Reports:

Chairman Didier:

1) Didier was invited to the Vantage site for a tour:

- a. There are 700 workers now, and it will increase to 2,000 over the summer. They have no plans for on-site housing.

- b. Didier did ask about the 24 hours, and I do not think I intend to stop the 24-hour operation right now. They understand it is burdensome, but they want to narrow the construction disturbance timeline and complete as much as possible before January 1, 2027.
- c. Vantage mentioned they are working on a door-to-door outreach campaign. They will stop at neighboring homes to answer questions and hear comments. I cannot say they will stop at every house.
- d. The giant mountain-like dirt pile on Lake Dr. is going to be redistributed on the job site and not trucked off-site
- e. The dust issues are being addressed with a water truck and a helicopter crop duster if needed.
- f. Water will be brought from the city up County Road KW and into the construction site to Lake Drive, looped back to the city at Highland DR

2) County Road LL will be open soon, but we are not sure the exact date; the County will not be able to apply asphalt until later in the year, but the city has agreed to open and maintain CTH LL with gravel until then.

3) Didier, along with the town planner, met on February 12th with Mead & Hunt regarding the town's land use plan. This will be on the Plan Commission agenda.

4) Meeting with City Engineer on Friday, March 6, to discuss road maintenance, speed limits, traffic ordinances, and stop signs regarding Highland Dr, Dixie Road, and Lake Drive.

5) Clearing the dead trees (ash trees) from Norport Park began this week.

6) On Feb 6th, Didier attended and completed the WI Dept of Review Board of Review Training in Baraboo, WI. This is a state-mandated training for property tax objections

7) Didier and Tom Winker, Chairman from the Town of Belgium, met with two engineers from the Department of Transportation (DOT), the town engineer, and Graef Engineering (Bridge Engineer) to discuss the Dixie Bridge replacement. The land acquisition specialists and the town-hired appraisers were also there. The start date of bridge construction is April 2027. The DOT took meeting minutes, and a copy is available

8) Didier attended a DOT webinar regarding the Local Small Structure Improvement Program (LSSIP). This is a \$30 million program funded by the state legislature to assist local governments with repairing "small bridges and large culverts," which the "small bridge" on Woodland Road would qualify for. The town has been discussing replacing this small bridge for a few years. It was recently inspected and given a rating of "4" on a 0-9 scale, with 0= bridge collapsed, and 1= bridge will collapse soon.

9) Didier met with the town engineer about the bridge condition and the new state funding option. The town engineer will be applying for this grant. And this will be a future agenda item

Town Treasurer: The town's Money Market balance is \$552,044.12, the checking account balance is \$19,552.10, and the small business/tax balance is \$344,162.00. February tax settlements have been paid to Ozaukee County (\$118,098.99) and the Port Washington-Saukville School District (\$611,788.93). And Milwaukee Area Technical College (\$66,696.21). Money from the town tax checking account has been transferred to the Money Market account.

Town Clerk: 1) Krueger will be submitting the annual 2% Fire Dues Report to the Department of Safety and Professional Services. 2) The annual Ozaukee County Wisconsin Towns Association will be held on March 23, 2026, at the Grafton Town Hall. 3) Krueger will be offering in-person absentee voting on Mondays, Wednesdays, and during the drop-off site hours on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Discussion and possible action regarding a submitted proposal from Mead & Hunt, to assist the town in researching the rezoning of land near the city of Port Washington Data Center. Mead & Hunt will be at the Plan Commission meeting this month. The full proposal is \$30,000, which is very comprehensive. It may be a good idea to allocate some funds and then determine exactly what the Plan Commission would like to do. **Welton moved to approve allocating up to \$15,000 towards the Mead & Hunt proposal. Seconded by Schlenvogt. Motion passed 3-0.**

[Welton recuses himself from this agenda item]

Discussion and possible action regarding Road Bids for 2026 Road Construction, including Lange Road for the LRIP Grant. The town is eligible for Local Road Improvement Programs (LRIP) for up to \$14,000

for a surface improvement. The project consists of fixing soft spots, improving ditching, correcting crowning, compacting, and applying a "double chip seal" finish. This is popular in the area north of Green Bay, where there are many low-volume gravel roads, like Lang Road, but rare in Ozaukee, so finding a contractor may be difficult. **Resident Dave Janous objects to this**, as he does not feel these residents are worthy of getting town funding for their road because "only 2 people live on Lang Road". Didier mentioned Lange RD serves 4 parcels. Didier further mentioned that sometimes town residents have objected to the road maintenance priority list, but this is the first time since he has been on the town board in 2011(14 years) that he has received a comment to not maintain a particular road at all. (Lang Rd). **Didier moved to publish the road bid for double chip-seal, seconded by Schlenvogt. Welton abstains. Motion carried 2-0.**

[Welton rejoins the meeting]

Further discussion was had regarding other road construction projects for 2026. The town board will take the annual road tour on Monday, March 23, 2026. If no additional road construction is needed at this time, the funds will be moved into road maintenance. Vantage will be responsible for maintaining any roads that are damaged by construction. Funds are being allocated specifically for a Lake Drive culvert project, which will happen in the next couple of years.

Discussion regarding the speed limit postings for Weiler's Way subdivision. The Town board recently discovered we have unposted speed limits in what is locally referred to as the Wieler's Way Subdivision, which is officially the Bluff View Estates, a planned subdivision from the 1990's that adjoins some CSMs and all Residential homes. So technically, this is a default 55 MPH road right now. § 346.57(4) would set these roads to 35 MPH, but it would still require board action and a formal ordinance. The town attorney is researching whether a formal speed study is needed and preparing an ordinance to officially change the speed limit on Weiler's Way and Lilac Lane to either 45 or 35 MPH. **Didier moved to have the Town Attorney draft an ordinance to reduce the speed limit on Weiler's Way and Lilac Lane from 55 MPH to either 45 MPH or 35 MPH, seconded by Welton. Motion carried 3-0.**

Consideration of the Town Chairman to attend the The Rural Policy Institute Summit, an invitation-only summit on rural policy that is being convened by the Rural Policy Institute on March 17-18, 2026. The following invitation was sent to Mike Didier from Mike Koles, WTA Director:

You have received a special invitation to a "by invitation only" summit on rural policy convened by the Rural Policy Institute (RPI). The WI Towns Association is limited to 15 attendees, and I consider you one of the town government's leading minds on rural economic development, environmental, and transportation policy.

Didier mentioned he received an email from this group but deleted it because he had been invited to lots of things and had never heard of the Rural Policy Institute. A few days later, the WI Towns Director followed up with him via the email above. Didier then researched the group, and it is a new advocacy group that the towns association is part of. It is overnight, and in Stevens Point, a quick check showed That Hotels are about \$130+/- . It is 4.5 hours of drive time for me.

Motion made by Welton to approve Mike Didier to attend the WTA summit on rural policy, seconded by Schlenvogt. Motion carried 3-0.

Monthly Bills: Welton moved to approve the February bills totaling \$94,403.10, seconded by Schlenvogt. Motion carried 3-0.

Didier adjourned the February Town Board meeting at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Krueger,
Clerk