

MINUTES

TOWN OF RICHMOND BOARD MEETING February 12, 2026 6 P.M. RICHMOND TOWN HALL - 1428 100TH ST.

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm, as noticed, by Chairman Gary Knutson. Present were Supervisors Peirson, Naser, Stephens, and Van Dyk; Attorney Paul Mahler, Clerk Earley, Plan Commission Chair Tom Derrick (remote) and several members of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

The agenda approved on motion by Peirson/Naser

The minutes of the January 8, 2026, Regular Town Board Meeting approved on motion by Stephens/Van Dyk.

Treasurer Report – accepted as presented

Public Comment - David Kramer commented on 100th St. construction dip in the road and garbage truck traffic on roads. David Meyer (Erin Prairie) spoke on 10-mile creek solar project, recommends a “no solar” resolution. Ryan Sempf (Hammond) spoke on solar project.

REPORTS

1. Building Inspector/Permits – One new home, \$587,000 est value.
2. Animal Control – 6 total calls, 3 dog, 3 cat.
3. Plan Commission – Next meeting is Tuesday, 2/24
4. Ambulance – no report
5. Fire – no report
6. WTA - no report
7. Recycling Center – St. Croix County has a drop off center in Somerset with free recycling of appliances and electronics. The cold weather on Saturdays has lowered attendance.
8. Emergency Services - no report
9. Sanitary District – received an additional grant for pipe replacement.
10. Transportation – \$34,730 snow removal for the season. Update on brushing right-of-ways. Next month we will review chipsealing for 2026 and 95th St construction.
11. Pathway Committee – reviewing projects for 2026.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

1) Discuss Ten Mile Creek Solar project – discussion on whether Town of Richmond should consider a “no solar” resolution. John Mickelson spoke in favor of farmer/landowner rights as it pertains to solar development. David Kramer also spoke supporting landowner rights and solar as a viable alternative to crops, and in support of a developer agreement. Jim Terrell commented that education is needed on the financial impact of the cost of solar vs the non-solar alternatives. Consensus is to discuss at the annual meeting whether to adopt a resolution.

2) Renew animal control contract with Darel Hall, Dedicated Animal Control. Motion to renew the proposed contract by Peirson/Van Dyk carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3) Authorize transfer of \$2500 from the general checking to the emergency fund account. The emergency fund currently has a balance of \$37,500. Motion by Van Dyk/Naser to transfer \$2500 from general checking to emergency fund. Motion carried by unanimous roll call.

4) Set Board of Review Training – Peirson will attend “in person” Board of Review training at the WTA Spring workshop in Eau Claire on March 7. Knutson also attending.

5) Discuss tax status of “This Old Horse” property located at 1221 130th Ave. and 1234 128th Ave. The Town received a letter from the attorney for This Old Horse requesting an amended claim of unlawful tax for taxes paid in 2025. Attorney Mahler advised that per statute, claims must be made by Jan 31 of the year the tax is payable. Regarding the request by This Old Horse for tax exempt status for an adjoining lot, Mahler reiterated that Assessors are independent and not subject to the board’s direction when determining tax exempt status. Motion by Stephens/Van Dyk to deny any further claim from “This Old Horse” carried by unanimous voice vote. Attorney Paul Mahler will send a letter to the attorney representing the Old Horse property that their claim request is denied.

Agenda Items for March – 2026 proposed road schedule, Jason Wood CSM

Approval of Bills – Motion by Naser/Van Dyk to pay bills totaling \$85,367.54 and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Announcements – no Spring Primary this year. Spring election is April 7.

Meeting adjourned at 7 pm on motion by Peirson/Van Dyk.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Earley, Clerk