

TOWN of WATERTOWN
Monthly Board Meeting
July 13, 2026 7:00pm.
N8302 High Road
Watertown, Wisconsin

1. Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance opened the July Board Meeting.
2. Board Present: J. Thoma, R. Preuss, B. Parsons, M. Christian, J. Wendt and Angela Jones.
3. B. Parsons moved to accept the agenda for July 13, R. Preuss seconded the motion accepting the agenda. Motion approved.
4. Agenda Notices were posted on July 6.
5. There was no representative from the Sheriff's Department.
6. J. Thoma moved to accept the June Minutes with changes to #17 being, "Formula", #18 "bond" for. R. Preuss added #7, to be "profit & loss". #19 being "the resident pushing snow from his driveway", rather than the snowplow clearing the roadway.
B. Parsons seconded the motion accepting the June minutes with the fore mentioned corrections. Motion accepted.
7. The June Financial Report was reviewed by Treasurer Christian. Highlighted were a grant amount, the 2% fire dues reimbursement etc. J. Thoma made the motion to accept the June Financial Report as reviewed. B. Parsons seconded the motion accepting the latest financial report. Motion carried.
8. B. Parsons reviewed the invoices received for June. He made the motion to pay those with check #4174 through #14207, totaling \$113,659.72. R. Preuss seconded the motion to pay invoices received for June. Motion passed.
9. Aari Roberts reported the Plan Commission had two items, both which were tabled due to not entirely being noted on the agenda, as they dealt with conditional uses. Neighboring property owners needed to be notified.

9. (continued) The location of one request may include residents of Dodge County, as well as those in the Watertown City limits. The Clerk will look into the area that needs to be included with conditional use request to ensure **10.**
No discussion, as it is not applicable at this time.

11. It was stated that board members should not be using their personal computers for Town Business, but it was suggested that members have “tablets” to use, issued by the Town. A representative from Badgerland Computers will attend the August Meeting. **12.**

Anti-Virus Software would be included with item #11 and discussed at the August Meeting.

13. Angela Jones was introduced as the “Deputy Clerk” of which she will assume the regular clerk duties as of January 1, 2027. J. Thoma moved to confirm the position offered to Angela Jones, with B. Parsons giving the seconded to the motion to appoint her as deputy clerk with the advancement to clerk. Motion approved. *She will begin August 1, 2026. Chairman Thoma and Treasurer Christian held the interview. She spoke of her experience with finances, elections, and other business experience.* **14.**

Compensation for the “deputy clerk” position will be \$20.00 per hour. A monthly salary adjustment for the “clerk” position will be discussed at the “Budget Workshop” in October.

15. The board is looking into going “Paperless”, as it is called. This would alleviate the printing of many items, etc. Badgerland Computers will also address this at the August Meeting.

16. G. Cooper stated that mowing is being done along the roadways and that repairs are, and have been made to equipment needed attention. **17.**

The Board was given the information received from the County regarding the “Data Center Moratorium”. Chairman Thoma made a motion to indicate to the County that the Town gives its support. B. Parsons seconded the motion supposition the moratorium. Motion accepted. Notice will be sent to the County indicating the support of the Town of Watertown. **18.**

Attorney Griggs spoke regarding the Solar Agreement. He felt that the revised agreement was much improved and detailed. Included is more reporting to government. Local Government would have more input also.

18. (continued) Insurance info was updated. Prospective landowners would have more responsibility for their property. Concerns of the Board and others etc. were basically addressed. A question still considered is the number of meetings that would need to be attended and by whom. Also, the reimbursement to be paid for attendance. Attorney Griggs did feel the information revised was the best to date. He recommended it to the board with the forementioned items being addressed. J. Thoma moved to accept the attorney's recommendation of which B. Parsons seconded the motion to place the item on the August Agenda for further discussion. Motion accepted.

19. Greg Johnson of "Ehlers", gave a presentation of what the Ehlers Company and those similar, actually do for Towns. Etc. (A handout was given to the Board and is available for public viewing in the office.) Use of the video screen was used for the audience to follow. He also explained "Levy Limits". Electors are the ones to decide. Chairman Thoma moved to hire the Ehlers Company to assist the Town of Watertown in items included in the presentation. B. Parsons gave his second to the motion to have Ehlers assist the Town. Motion approved. This will also be placed on the August agenda.

20. J. Thoma moved to open the meeting for the "Public Comment: period. R. Preuss seconded the motion allowing for public comments. Motion carried. Darly Hoffman asked why the board did not vote against the Solar Project, as that is what the residents vetoed at the last meeting? He stated that allowing only 2 minutes for a resident to speak was unacceptable, being not enough time. He quoted Chairman Thoma as saying to "play nice", was not what the residents wanted, PERIOD! The board should just say "NO"! The board needs to stand up for the residents. They should do everything to vote against it.

John Powleit also spoke against the Solar Project. He asked if work would continue on weekends? Sundays? What about the topsoil being removed? Replaced? Could it be used to make berms? He also asked if the final contract could be placed on the Town Website, (yes). Could it be emailed to Town residents?

Laurie Hoffman asked the board if they would like the solar panels across the road from their home residence? Darly Hoffman feels it is infringing on property owners having panels placed on or near their properties. Keith Stewart asked what type of monies to benefit the Town would receive? Would there be a utility ad? *Would properties be taken off the tax rolls? Daryl Hoffman feels that homes on the area would decrease in value.*

Ken Sell spoke on a concern regarding property on East Gate Drive. He asked what permits were taken or issued? Are wetlands being used? Is there an update on what is being done with the 20 acres? Is it under County Zoning?

- 21.** J. Thoma moved to close the public comment period with R. Preuss seconding the motion. Motion passed.
- 22.** The August Agenda will include Plan Commission recommendations, Badgerland Representative, Ehlers discussion if any, further Solar agreement items, and the East Gate Drive situation, amongst other items that may be brought up.
- 23.** Supervisor Preuss stated that July 28th will be a presentation by the Wisconsin Towns Association.
August 10—6:00pm. Plan Commission Meeting, followed at 7:00pm. with the Monthly Town Board Meeting.
- 24.** Chairman Thoma moved to adjourn the July Meeting with R. Preuss seconding the motion for adjournment. Motion accepted.

Respectfully Submitted,
James Wendt
Administrative Clerk