

TOWN OF YORK, DANE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD MINUTES – September 3rd,
2026

The special meeting of the Town of York Town Board was called to order by Chairman Dean Helwig at 6:03 pm. Those present included Chairman Dean Helwig, Supervisors Dave Auchtung and Jamie Derr, and Clerk/Treasurer Jessa Lane. Approximately 60 attendees were present, and all other attendees are listed on the sign-in sheet attached to these minutes.

The posting of the agenda and meeting notice was verified by Clerk/Treasurer Jessa Lane.

Public Input & Proposed Transmission Line: Chairman Dean Helwig opened the floor for public input. Beth Brace presented findings from volunteers who collected 55 signatures requesting the township pass a resolution of opposition to the proposed 765kV transmission line project. Beth raised concerns regarding the developer pushing the project through a short seven-month period with public comments closing on September 7th. Key issues cited included the lack of detailed maps, unknown easement road locations, and the scale of 180 to 200-foot tall transmission towers with 60-foot boreholes being placed in a 250-foot corridor of prime farmland. Dean requested a show of hands from the 60 attendees; no one was in favor of the project, and all were opposed.

Resolutions of Opposition: Dean proposed Resolution 2026-03, formally expressing the Town of York's opposition to the Bell Center-Columbia-Sugar Creek Illinois/Wisconsin State Line (BECI) 765 kV Competitive Transmission Project. A motion was made by Dean with a second from Dave Auchtung to approve Resolution 2026-03. Motion carried with all in favor. The resolution will be published and sent to the proposing company, Dane County elected officials, the State Senate, and the Assembly. The board then reviewed Resolution 2026-04, requiring Midcontinent Grid Solutions to provide specific landowner and municipal impact information by October 15th, 2026. A motion was made by Jamie Derr with a second from Dave to approve Resolution 2026-04. Motion carried with all in favor. Landowners were strongly advised not to sign any documents allowing surveyors onto their property.

Legislative Updates & County Coordination: Dean shared updates from a meeting, noting that State Senator Sarah Keyeske is working to strengthen state statutes regarding "best routes." Dane County Supervisor Pam Brandmeier is also developing a county-level resolution. The board discussed drafting a road use ordinance as an

enforcement tool to protect town roads from damage caused by heavy construction equipment.

Road Maintenance Bids: The board reviewed a bid for \$25,000 for chip sealing Mueller Road (from Highway 73 to Marshall Road) to prevent flaking following a wedging process. A motion was made by Dave with a second from Jamie to accept the \$25,000 bid. Motion carried with all in favor. A second bid from Thunder Road for \$60,000 was reviewed for crack sealing on multiple roads, including Deansville, Tri-County, and Marshall Roads. A motion was made by Dave with a second from Jamie to accept the \$60,000 bid from Thunder Road. Motion carried with all in favor.

Comprehensive Plan & Future Land Use: Jamie provided an update on the comprehensive plan, inviting everyone to attend a meeting next September 10th to discuss mill rates and analyze the net impact of new housing on the town budget. The board discussed the need to be proactive regarding future energy projects. Dean clarified that state statutes currently state that any project over 100 megawatts is managed by the PSC.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Jamie to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm, with a second from Dave. Motion carried with all present in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.