

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF MARION
AUGUST 11, 2025**

1. **Call to Order:** Jerrod Waterman, Chairman, called the regular Board meeting for the month of August to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Present at the meeting were: Jerrod Waterman, Chairman; Tom Haile, Supervisor; Jonathan Knowles, Supervisor; Judi Boughton, Clerk. Laurie King, Treasurer, was absent from the meeting.

Citizens who were in attendance of the meeting were: Lonny and Laurayne Fischer, Mary and Ray Kirschbaum, Herschel Marks, Carol Roth, Theresa Hollinger, Larry and Marlene Wetter.

3. **Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Tom to leave the agenda items in the order posted. Jonathan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. **Proof of Publication of Meeting Notice:** Notice of the August 11, 2025, board meeting was published in the Boscobel Dial on Thursday, August 7, 2025. Notice of the August board meeting and agenda were posted at the town shop and on the town website on August 7, 2025.
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The Minutes of the July 14, 2025, board meeting were distributed to all who were present and, after everyone had a chance to review the minutes, a motion was made by Jonathan to approve them. The motion was seconded by Tom. Motion carried.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was prepared by Laurie King and read by Judi Boughton as follows:

People's State Bank Accounts:

Checking	\$	115,667.98
Equipment fund savings		101.85
Red school house restoration		133.99
People's Money Market		<u>1,389.89</u>

Total People's State Bank Accounts: \$ 117,293.71

Local Government Investment Pool Account:

General	\$	196.29
LGIP Equipment		11,542.57
LGIP Red School		4,970.27
LGIP Building		<u>26.13</u>
LGIP Accounts Total	\$	16,735.26

7. **Citizen Input:** Larry and Marlene Wetter were present at the meeting and Larry said the end of O'Shadow Lane before their driveway is rough and needs gravel from the flooding and is washed out at the end of the bridge where the township comes in. He said last night's storm washed it even worse and it is quite a mess. Jerrod said they would stop out and see what they can do. Larry said the town road always ran to the bridge approach before and the bridge is actually set back some from what it used to be. Jerrod will stop and see what needs to be done tomorrow.

Theresa Hollinger owns Crooked Creek Cabins on Dry Hollow Road for tourism. She said Dry Hollow has no ditch on either side for runoff/flood waters. There are washouts because there is no ditch for proper drainage. Tom talked about cutting a ditch in there. Also explained neighbor above them (Travis Ward) has a dam or levy and has rerouted water away from creek bed. It has been rerouted away and came down the hill during the flood. She said he has been moving rock above her property. Theresa will give an update at the September meeting.

8. **Old Business:**

- **Update on Cameras:** Jerrod had to send the cameras back he ordered because they are battery operated and no way to charge them, so that is why they are not installed. He will be purchasing different cameras.
- **Update on Tower Road Seal Coat:** Jerrod said rather than doing a double seal coat on Tower Road and Town Hall/Cemetery Road, Scott Construction was directed to do a single seal heavy coat. They will be back next year to do another layer – single seal heavy or single seal light chip. They were told they will not have to do this next year but that another coat should be put on within 2 years. The township does not have to go with Scott and can use Fahrner, whoever has the best bid.

9. **New Business:**

- **Carol Roth – Proposed Boscobel Fire/EMS Station:** Carol Roth was present at the meeting along with Herschel Marks, Boscobel Fire Chief, to discuss the proposed new fire station and why they are looking at building a new station. Herschel talked about all of the duties they have with fire/rescue (river rescues with kayakers), tech rescues, searches, the need for training and the equipment needs and how they are running out of a place to put everything. They have tech rescue trucks, 2 boats, trailer, all not fitting into current building. Their call volume goes up every year. They need a facility big enough to house their needs in the future that will be good to go for years to come. The cost of the proposed building is about 11 million and their goal is to not raise taxes. Currently, the immediate need is to get state approved for plans and to get preliminary plans done. This needs to be done in order to successfully apply for grants. It will cost \$250,000 for state approved plans. They are looking at ways to raise that money and already have about half that money and have \$110,000 to raise. They are visiting township meetings to see if towns can consider helping to fund and design the budget next year. Herschel said the City of Boscobel will pay half of the \$110,000, leaving \$55,000. When applying for funds, they will only have a certain amount of time to raise the rest of the money they need. In regards to the building project, Herschel said they went to the city as there is currently no place to grow where they are now

located. The city stepped up and said they would give 8 acres to build what they need at Johnson Street and Morrison near the Wisconsin Secure Program Facility. In exchange for that property, the city will get first right of refusal for the current fire department property in town. The Boscobel Rural and Fire Department has 38 volunteer fireman and 17 volunteer EMS. Carol said bare bones it would cost over \$1 million per year to pay workers. She said government appropriation money is out there and they are getting closer. There are 254 square miles covered by the fire department and the rescue squad covers more than that with an average of more than 2 calls a day. They are asking that the town board consider all this when doing the budget for next year.

Mary Kirschbaum was present and asked if the building they have now is a substantial building and going to last. Herschel said it is in rough shape. It was built on what he would call wet grounds. The righthand side of the fire station was jacked up and concrete poured in there because it was sinking. Now the same thing is happening on the left side. There are also problems with plumbing and the doors operating correctly. To get new equipment now, it comes in standard size and length that do not fit in their building, so they have to get equipment modified in order for it to fit through the doors. There is no way to make doors bigger without spending a lot of money doing so. Mary said it would be easier to relocate the park. Herschel said Thieles invested a ton of money into the ball diamond and shelter. The fire board has tried not to raise taxes for municipalities. The fire department does not anticipate going full-time, but the EMS may be looking at full-time down the road and needing a place to stay overnight as volunteer staff are getting more difficult to find. The Town of Marion is one of the larger municipalities serviced by Boscobel Fire Department and its municipal assessment is approximately 17% of the budget (this amounts to \$9,350 of the \$55,000 they are looking to raise for the state-approved building plans). It is not known at this time how much of an increase in the municipal assessment there will be in the 2026 budget. Herschel said they will be discussing the budget in September.

- **Discuss Mower for Tractor:** Tom said the mower on the tractor is in sad shape. It is estimated to be around 15 to 20 years old and has taken a beating. Discussed if we want to replace the mower for the John Deere tractor. Side arm mower is around \$70,000. Discussed John Deere won't support where loader mounts onto tractor so you can't put a side arm mower on the tractor the township owns. Discussed there is more reach with a side arm. Jerrod brought up purchasing a wheeled excavator to be able to dig trenches for tubes, bore post holes, reach over bridges and grab debris, use grapple, etc. He thought we should consider finding a good used wheeled excavator and attachments built to go down the road at 20 mph. Did some research and found a few options. There was a Cat for \$50,000 on Facebook marketplace with mower on and buckets. Discussed we would still need the tractor to load winter mix in trucks in wintertime. Discussed tractor is having issues with going ahead when put in gear and is touchy. Jerrod said we need a reach mower to cut back brush as residents don't like spraying along the roads with weed spray. There was a listing in Minnesota for an excavator with mulcher, cutting blade, 2 buckets -- \$110,000; one in Illinois that needs a couple hoses for \$50,000; one in Illinois is a Cat 214 wheeled excavator \$35,500 with 10,000 hours, heat and no air, has attachments. There is one in Portage that is a Samsung for \$38,000 with 6800 hours on it, has buckets but no mower, has a Cummins motor, reaches 32 feet; Cat 315, air and heat, air ride seat, 78" bucket and no other attachments, \$36,950. Board agreed to check out excavators.

- **Look Ahead on Future Seal Coating Projects:** Might have to bump back list previously thinking about for seal coating projects. There is a short stretch on Dry Hollow that will need repair due to flood damage. Jerrod said we may be able to pair it with the 2nd coat on Tower. Discussed it takes time for road to settle when putting in tubes and may wait another year. There was about 300 to 400 feet by Bill Waterman with damage caused by water running down off his driveway and going under the road and causing the area to be soft. Jerrod said they are looking at adding tubes on Dry Hollow. From Bill's driveway to first tube you come to going towards Boscobel, the whole side of the road is squishy, lifted and rippled. Discussed road projects due to flooding and Steve Braun email and the need to document time, take pictures before and after, location, equipment used, etc.
- **Discuss Tube Brad Wetter:** Jerrod discussed we will be doing this project the 1st of September. Lonny Fischer was present and suggested the 30 footers that were taken out of Timber Lane be used by Wetters rather than buying a new tube.
- **Look Into Potential Funding for a Town Hall:** This will be tabled to the next meeting. Jerrod said we could consider doing a low-interest loan or put it out for municipal bonding. Jonathan asked if we should first put it out for the public to see if tax payers want it.
- **Fall Cleanup:** The board discussed and agreed to leave the charges for tires and TVs the same as at the spring cleanup. Tom will go ahead and schedule dumpsters. Laurayne will set up the workers. Size of dumpster should be 20 yard and a 30 yard or two 30 yarders.
- **August 10 Flooding.** Motion was made by Tom to go ahead and pursue Wisconsin Disaster Funding from the August 10 flooding due to the amount of damage sustained by the township. Jonathan seconded the motion.

10. Future Agenda Items: Camera Update, Crooked Creek Cabin update, fall cleanup, Wisconsin Disaster Fund Update, mower for tractor/wheeled excavator, discuss tube by brad wetter, look into potential funding for a town hall,

11. Patrolman's Report: The board discussed checking out an excavator for sale in Portage that has 2 buckets (6 foot articulating ditching bucket, 30-inch bucket) also has auxiliary ports for hydraulics, \$38,000. Jerrod thought it might save money and time if we need to change out a lot of tubes to go ahead and look into this.

Tom said we have been working on cleanup, taking pictures on all the damage, cleaning out tubes, was almost done with patching before the flood damage and half way through with mowing. Areas not yet mowed are the rest of Tower Road, Stenner, Smokey Hollow, Hickory and Sand Hill. Jerrod thought maybe we could take the mower off so it is not so hard on the tractor when using it for all the cleanup work.

12. Correspondence: Building permit for Bob and Sherri Whitish was reviewed by board.

13. Approval of Invoices: Discussed Fabick bill in the amount of \$12,448.61 for grader parts and repair. This was for work started in December of 2024 and seemed very high by the board. The bill included parts that were unavailable and had to be custom made for the grader. The bill was dated June 12, 2025. A motion was made by Jonathan to approve the invoices including Fabick. Tom seconded the motion.

Additional checks written out after the August 2025 board meeting and before the September 2025 board meeting are:

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14. Adjournment: Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Tom. Jonathan seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m. The September board meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Boughton, Clerk