

Laurie transferred \$100 from the general checking account as a deposit to open the tax revenue account for the Catalis system.

7. **Citizen Input:** Judi relayed a message from Jennifer Turner asking if the fence/gate could be fixed at the Brechler Cemetery. She said she has to push up against it when she mows the cemetery.

Jerrell Sazama was at the meeting and would like to put a new tube across from his shop. The tube goes across the township road. Jerrod told him if it goes across the road it is the township's; if it goes across the driveway, it is theirs. Jerrell stated it has been partially collapsed for years.

8. **Old Business:**

- **Update on Wisconsin Disaster Funds for August 2025 Flooding:** Jerrod talked to Kelsey Brown, Wisconsin Disaster Fund coordinator, and she is not quite sure on what information they need from her side. She says it looks complete.
- **Fire Board Update:** Tom attended a fire board meeting. The fire department is in the process of applying for grants to get more money for the new fire department building. They talked about trucks and new tires on trucks and things.
- **Review Budget and Discuss and/or Make a Decision on Request from Boscobel Fire Department Asking for Financial Support from the Town for the Cost of Work Necessary to Complete the State-Approved Plans for a New Boscobel and Rural Fire/EMS Station:** Tom said a couple of the other towns will be waiting until the end of the year to send in their money. The board agreed they could do the same.
- **Salt Shed Update:** Jerrod has heard nothing back from Jacob Dickman yet, DNR regional nonpoint source pollution coordinator. He is not sure who contacted us in the first place about having to move the salt shed and not being able to store salt in the current one any longer.
- **Update on Marion Bridge Town Hall Road/ARIP Program, LSSIP Program:** Jerrod said we will not be getting funds for the bridge project through the LSSIP program. Jerrod had estimates from Eric from Contech for heavy parts for \$123,600; total for light parts \$115,600. These are just the metal parts to put in a bottomless arch – footing parts and arch panels. Road would be 30' wide. He talked to Sam from Western Culvert and they can do wing walls and head walls for \$78,000. Galen said the post by the bridge is all set and moved. Only thing now is the telephone wire that will have to go over the top of the tube in the road to come across. Jerrod said there might be a conduit you can run the wires through in the head walls.
- **Update on Sale of Sterling Truck:** Jerrod said he had one person come and look at the Sterling truck but was not serious and he has had several calls asking.
- **Discuss Funding for Salt Shed:** This will be discussed further when there are more set plans.

9. New Business:

- **Discuss Advancing Eco Agriculture (AEA) Crop Improvement Program:** This is something Grant County wanted the township to discuss and Jerrod has let them know when our meetings are, but they have not stopped in. Judi talked to Steve at Grant County Conservation, Sanitation and Zoning for an explanation of this program. This is a producer-led application process where producers petition to the state. Minimum of 5 producers in the township need to sign a petition to say they want it; need to have \$6,000 per year gross farm revenue and be a Wisconsin resident. Purpose is to help producers get into following state standards and help them get into compliance. They will need to do things like soil samples. The requirements fall on producer groups. They receive a nutrient management plan and \$10/acre tax credit (10-year contract). There is a 4-year spot check.
- **Discuss Creating a New Town Website (Laurie):** Laurie prepared bids for building a new website for the township, listed out needs and what we have. Current website is not mobile friendly, does not have enough long-term storage and is not ADA compliant (which is currently required by the spring of 2028). Current website hosting is \$269.28 per year, which is \$22.44 per month. We currently do not have a .gov website domain. [.gov website establishes public trust, enhances cybersecurity and efficiently delivers mandated public services]. There is no additional cost for this. Laurie checked out the WTA list of township websites and about 29% of 400 samples are .gov domain and 21% are .gov from the federal government. She is asking if the board wants to get the .gov website address but this can only be done if we get a website rebuild. We do not need a .gov website to get .gov emails. The bids Laurie has for rebuilds are \$1499 and \$1200. WTA recommends JB Towns. Webwise is out of Fennimore and has just one owner. JB Towns is not a single owner. Town Web is headquartered in Madison and \$1200 per year (includes the rebuild) and you need a 5-year contract @ \$1200 per year (\$100/month). Webwise rebuild is \$1499. Price for hosting per month is \$59 for a total of \$708 per year and this includes email hosting. The first two do not include email hosting.

Microsoft 365 for Office, Excel, Microsoft Word also has email hosting. If we go with JB Towns, we can get email hosting through Microsoft 365. Laurie wants the township to get a business plan for Microsoft 365 for both the clerk and treasurer. She is recommending the plan Judi has for Microsoft 365 be turned back into the township plan and Laurie could be added to it. The Microsoft 365 desktop application for both clerk and treasurer is \$258.96/year. Laurie said she has not gotten in touch with them to see if we can get a lower price as a government entity.

As far as antivirus security for laptops, Laurie utilizes McAfee for Business for their private businesses and the township reimburses 1/5 of the cost of the plan as the plan includes 5 devices, 4 of which are personal and 1 township treasurer computer. Judi

goes through Applied Micro in Platteville [required for election security]. Laurie is recommending we continue with the way it is set up now.

- **Catalis Tax System – Online Payment (Laurie):** County has licensed software it coordinates for township tax collection each year. The cost last year was \$437 and it has gone up to \$500 this year. The county pays the whole amount for the license and then we will get billed through the county this fall the amount of \$500. With this version, the property owners will be able to pay online if the board wants to allow that. We can opt out if we choose. There is a lot of interest for people to want to pay that way. Laurie did the paperwork and we will have this set up so tax payers can pay their taxes online. Jerrod said this is the reason we agreed to set up the new savings account. Laurie said she will be receiving training. Laurie thought we had already budgeted for the website but does not see it in the budget. We are looking at a .gov domain for the website, Microsoft 365 to replace what Judi currently has for all town computers. We also need to add to 2027 budget for the website rebuild and increased cost of web hosting. We need to decide on whether we want a .gov domain and whether we want to receive this through the state or federal government. Federal has support and most of townships are going with that. Also discussed issues with clerk's current PC not having enough memory to efficiently use email and discussed hard drive for backup. A motion was made by Tom to purchase Microsoft 365 for clerk and treasurer to share, hard drive for clerk for backup and establish a .gov domain for website. Jonathan seconded the motion. It was decided to push the website hosting to the January agenda and add the cost to the 2027 budget.
- Galen Freymiller was present at the meeting and asked the board what the plans are to proceed with replacing the bridge on Town Hall next to the Marion Church. He is pushing for the board to get going on it. Jonathan said we do not currently have the money to do it. Discussed Smokey Hollow is next on the ARIP program so would have to sidestep that. Galen asked about emergency funding we could get and suggested getting a hold of Derrick Van Orden and tell him what a danger the bridge is and see what he can do for it. Asked how much county would pay on share.
- **Discuss Patrolmen Hours:** Jonathan said we need to get the patrolmen hours down closer to 160 hours a month as they have been averaging 200 for at least the last 3 months or so. Jerrell Sazama was present and said we are paying 2 people to go to Gasser's, etc. Tom said when they are finishing up a job they will go to Gasser's because it is close. Galen said we have a wheeled excavator and Jerrod had said we were going to put a brush hog on there. Currently running the tracked skid steer to do mowing is not economical. It is not made for doing road ditches. Jerrod said he has been working on a plate that goes on the mower so it can be used for the excavator. Galen said it was mentioned that someone was concerned about the skid steer tearing up roads. He thinks the boom would be better on banks. Galen said the skid steer was not made for

- that; says there will be thousands of hours put on it for all the road mileage there is. Galen stated he wants the patrolmen to get back to 160 hours a month. Jerrell has a problem with all the hours the township spent digging out where the salt shed will be. He doesn't think we should be using the skid steer, should use the correct equipment and be smarter about man time. Recommended hiring out some of that type of work. Jerrod said they will work on getting patrolmen hours under 160 a month. As far as mowing, Jerrod is going to work on getting the plate done to put on the excavator.
- **Discuss Proposed Board Salaries and Clerk and Treasurer Salaries Beginning April 20, 2027 to be Voted on at the Budget Meeting November 17, 2026:** Judi said the board salaries have not been increased since she began as clerk in 2013. Only the clerk's salary has been increased and that position continues to have more work and responsibility added including the county no longer being a provider for elections and the clerk being responsible for maintaining the WisVote system before and after elections. Judi feels the clerk salary should be raised to at least \$12,000. Laurie suggested a 10% increase for cost of living for the Treasurer position. The board members do not think the chairman and supervisor positions need increases. Jerrod recommends \$6,000 for Treasurer, \$12,500 for the clerk and does not recommend an increase for supervisors and chairman. Jonathan said we should be setting any wages at a special meeting of the electors for any wages a board member makes getting paid by the hour for doing other things not board related. We should be setting Tom's wages at a special meeting of the electors.
 - **Discuss and Begin Draft Wage Schedule of All Employees:** Skip and table to next meeting.
 - **Look into Information on Preventing Data Centers in Township:** Table to next month.
 - **TDS Telecom Fiber Optic Project Looking for Okay to Begin Construction with Start Date of 09/01/2026:** Judi provided the board with a copy of the materials sent from Shelby Ross of TDS for their review. TDS would like the okay to proceed with the indicated TDS telecom fiber optic project. A motion was made by Jonathan giving the okay for workers to proceed with the Telecom fiber optic project. Tom seconded the motion.
 - **Inquiry From Congruex, Contractor for Brightspeed, Regarding Fiberoptic Upgrade:** Judi received an email from Brittany Bruneau from Congruex stating Brightspeed would be performing a fiberoptic upgrade with an attached map of the route for the board's review. Jonathan gave the okay for them to complete the upgrade and Tom seconded the motion.
 - **Set Up Fall Cleanup with Dumpster, Hiring and Charges for Tires and TVs/Computers:** The board agreed to use the same charges for tires and TVs and computers as was in place in the spring of this year.
 - Tom will get two 30-yard dumpsters. Laurayne will get helpers for cleanup. She said there are usually three.

- 10. Future Agenda Items:** Marion bridge update. Establish refund policy for overpayment of property taxes in event they overpaid \$1.00 or so requested by Laurie. Wage document review, salt shed update, update on sale of Sterling Truck.
- 11. Patrolman's Report:** Ray said they have been patching roads, cutting edges down, putting culverts in and other jobs in between.
- 12. Correspondence:** MFL transfer order for Travis and Melissa Ward shared with the board.
- 13. Approval of Invoices:** A motion was made by Tom to approve the invoices. Jonathan seconded the motion. Additional checks written out after the August 2026 board meeting and before the September 2026 board meeting are:
- 8/19/2026, #15806, Peggy Updike, \$209.38.
 - 8/19/2026, #15807, Karen Gander, \$217.50.
 - 8/28/2026, #15808, Scott Construction, \$85,310.00.
 - 8/28/2026, #15809, SREC, \$105.00.
- 14. Adjournment:** Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Tom. Jonathan seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m. The September meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Boughton, Clerk