

**TOWN OF MCMILLAN**  
**McMillan Town Hall**  
**113904 Elm Tree Road, Marshfield, WI 54449**  
**March 9, 2026 7:00 PM**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Deb Derfus. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **Roll Call:** Present: Rod Bauer, Nicole Forst, Dave Swenson, Carolyn Opitz, Deb Derfus
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
  - a) Kris Seehafer read an article about a farmer wondering “what have I done” regarding hosting a wind turbine on his land.
  - b) Mike Lang read a letter that was sent to Marathon County concerned about health issues related to the Hub City Wind Farm citing the Shirley Windpower project in Brown County.
  - c) Dave Falkosky noted potholes and washboarding on Drake
  - d) Jeff Stueland stated that the wind turbines would be the height of Rib Mountain
  - e) Heidi Peskie reminded people to come to the annual meeting in April
  - f) Matthew Boor from the Village of Cleveland appeared on behalf of Alliant Energy to give an update on the Hub City Wind Farm. Due to Wisconsin’s utility shared revenue program the project would pay approximately \$750,000 annually. 3/5 of that would go to the County, 2/5 would be paid out to the towns. The amount McMillan would receive is undetermined now, as it is based on turbine placement. Hub City Wind is planning on having an open house toward the end of May.
  - g) A member of the audience asked when the wind turbine noise ordinance would be implemented.
  - h) Faith Meyer, Marshfield School Board candidate introduced herself.
  - i) Mason Gukenberger, Marshfield School Board candidate introduced himself.
  - j) A 20-year long resident on Drake stated that Drake Avenue is in the worst condition it has been in the last 20 years.
4. **Approval of Town Board meeting minutes from February 9, 2026 – MOTION** to approve the minutes as presented; Forst/Swenson; motion passed.
5. **Approval of Town Board meeting minutes from March 2, 2026 – MOTION** to approve the minutes as presented; Forst/Swenson; motion passed.

**MOTION** – to move up #9, open and possibly award road materials bid, to the current position; Swenson/Forst; motion passes

Chair Derfus opened bids from five bidders. The bids were received as followed:

<b>3/9/26 bids McMillan</b>	<b>Phoenix</b>	<b>Worden</b>	<b>Kafka</b>	<b>Bugar</b>	<b>Earth</b>
base course 5/8-3/4				9.50	9.68
base course 1 1/4				9.50	9.65
4 in breaker run shell rock				9.40	9.50
6-8 breaker		10.78		9.40	9.35
recycled blacktop				14.00	
decomposing granite	9.89	9.60	9.65		9.70
aggregate gradation 2				9.50	9.80

MOTION to award the 2026 McMillan road materials as follows:

- **Decomposing Granite:** Worden
- **Base Course 5/8"-3/4":** Bugar
- **Base Course 1 1/4":** Bugar
- **Aggregate Gradation No. 2:** Bugar
- **Shell Rock Sand:** Bugar
- **Breaker (Dirty) 6-8":** Earth
- **Recycled Blacktop:** Bugar

Forst/Swenson; motion passes. Phoenix, Worden, and Earth offered the same price to town residents with a 22-ton load. Bugar price for town residents is \$1.00 more than the bid price.

## 6. **REPORTS**

- a) Fire Department – Chief Schmidtke reported 0 fire calls, 3 EMS calls, and 2 vehicle accidents. Amendments to the Department bylaws have been presented to the Officers and Memberships as a first reading. Second reading scheduled for March 10. Received 2 new applications for membership. The Department continues to transition into the State’s new software. Request to have FirstNet and Country Wireless as autopay bills. No objection was made. Cokl will work with Rahn to complete. Been getting calls regarding burning permits. Generally speaking, start after 6pm out by midnight. Even if you call the Chief, you still need to notify Marathon County dispatch.
- b) Plan Commission – lots of discussion regarding Farm Consolidation. Plan Commission recommends option #1 as that gives the most control to the citizens and the town. They also recommend staying with County zoning. They recommend approval of the Guldan CUP. Regarding the Back 9 Estates, Plan Commission recommends negotiating with Marshfield and the developer to help carry the costs of St Joes. Dave has a meeting scheduled with Marshfield representatives and he will bring this up.
- c) Highway – Derfus roads will be posted March 10. Marathon County posted theirs March 9. Shop is pretty well cleaned up and the highway workers were working on filling potholes on St. Joes today.
- d) Library – No report
- e) Buildings and Grounds – Forst reported the pavilion calendar is filling up quickly for the late spring and summer.
- f) Garbage – Swenson reported April 25, 2026 is the tire recycling date from 8-noon. Two volunteers are needed from McMillan. No red cards are issued, residence will be validated with Driver’s License.
- g) Policies and Procedures – these are in process and should be available soon.
- h) Newsletter – The newsletter is being printed and should be mailed very soon.
- i) Ordinances – No report

## 7. **CLERK REPORT**

- a) Clerk Report
  - i. Clerk Cokl reported 154 votes were cast in the Spring Primary. 20% were absentee.
  - ii. Cokl sent out the final Innovation Planning Grant report for Fire and EMS from Strategic Management and Consulting to the town board. The report outlined scenarios for creating a fire district, EMS district, or both, with the City of Marshfield. In that scenario, we could reasonably apply for an innovation grant worth more than \$7 million. Cokl will post the report online for residents to view.
  - iii. Cokl responded to 2 open records requests.
  - iv. Russ Kollmansberger notified Deb and Dorothy he is unable to remain on the Plan Commission. His term expires May 2028. Bruce and Dorothy’s terms expire in May of 2026.
  - v. In February there was a \$700 Frontier charge for the Fire Department for an Early Termination Fee (ETF). After a lengthy back and forth, Cokl was able to convince Frontier to waive the fee. We should expect a refund check from Frontier within the next 60 days.
  - vi. Sanitary permit was issued on: Highway 97

- b) **MOTION** – approve checks 21238-21288, plus check 21289 for \$31,058 for Northwest Recycling Board plus electronic transfer 260201-260210 as presented; Forst/Swenson; motion passes.
- c) Year to date budget to actual through March 9, 2026 was available in the packet.

**8. TREASURER REPORT**

- a) February bank reconciliation was presented
- b) **MOTION** – to transfer \$130,000 from tax savings to main, and transfer \$1,035 from Fall Fest to the main, and money from Asylum Scrap and the sale of the Oshkosh transferred from the main to the highway savings; Forst/Opitz; motion passes.

**9. Open and possibly award road material bids** – this was taken care of earlier.

- 10. Quote and possible award of audit** – John Trautman quoted \$20,000-30,000 for an audit. He proposed an AUP, agreed upon procedure. They would go through the all the cash, the reconciliations, the budget to actual, disbursements, revenues, prior CT, and it will include Fire Department also. Cost will be hourly and will be done remotely. This will cost approximately \$10,000-\$15,000. He did the 2016 Town audit. **MOTION** – to approve AUP with John Trautman; Opitz/Forst; motion passes.

- 11. Resolution for cemetery** – Jerry Zehrung and the cemetery board decided to abandon the cemetery. They desire to give the cemetery to the town. The attorney encouraged prompt acceptance as the Town would need to take ownership of the cemetery ultimately. There is a possibility to sell or donate the cemetery, but the electors must vote on it. This item will be on the annual meeting agenda. **MOTION** – to approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of the McMillan Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Forst/Bauer; motion passes.

- 12. Bids for Stadt** – **MOTION** – to put Stadt out for bid; Opitz/Forst; motion passes.

- 13. Resolution for disposal of John Deere zero turn lawn mower** – **MOTION** – to table; Swenson/Opitz; motion passes.

- 14. Town of McMillan Farm Consolidation amendment comments to Marathon County** – **MOTION** – to return option #1 per Plan Commission recommendation, include comment: #1 give most control for citizens and the town.” Forst/Opitz; motion passes.

- 15. Resolution adopting 2026 Marathon County Comprehensive Zoning revisions** – **MOTION** – to table until April; Derfus asked Dorothy Olson to contact the County to confirm that the resolution as presented approves McMillan staying in County Zoning; Bauer/Swenson; motion passes.

- 16. Aaron Guldan Conditional Use Permit** – **MOTION** – to approve CUP per Plan Commission recommendation; Forst/Bauer; motion passes.

- 17. Back Nine subdivision – connecting road to St. Joseph Ave** – **MOTION** – to table. Swenson will bring this topic up with the City of Marshfield at his meeting on March 10. Bauer/Opitz; motion passes.

**MOTION** – to have renewable energy as a recurring agenda item; Opitz/Forst; motion passes.

- 18. Closed Session – Regarding Personnel Matters pursuant to WI Stats §19.85(1)(c) to consider McMillan town employee performance evaluation for Fire Department Administration.** **MOTION** to go into closed session; Opitz/Forst. Chief Kevin and his team of five refused to enter a closed session for these evaluations, insisting that any scrutiny of their performance be held in an open public session. A significant discussion involved a disagreement over instructions allegedly given to EMTs. Carolyn Opitz stated she confirmed with three EMTs that the Chief told them they did not need to drop everything immediately for a page due to the ambulance contract with the City of Marshfield. Chief Schmidtke vehemently denied

this, stating it was "misinformation." He clarified his instruction was that EMTs should go directly to the scene with their gear bags rather than wasting time stopping at the station to pick up a rig for medical calls. There was a discussion regarding an approximate \$40,000 transfer for the department association. It was noted that, per legal counsel, funds cannot be transferred to the McMillan Firefighters Association. Derfus asked Cokl to coordinate a meeting of the Board, the County, the Fire Department administration, and the Woller's from Dairyland Balloon Jubilee. Rahn stated she would provide Andy's (from the County) contact information to Cokl.

**19. Reconvene into open session and possible action related to Town Clerk and Town Treasurer evaluation**  
– not applicable

**MOTION** – to adjourn the meeting; Forst/Swenson; motion passes

**ADJOURN:** 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: John Cokl, Town Clerk