



Town of Winchester  
7228 CTH W  
Winchester, WI 54557  
winchesterwi.com

DRAFT

## DRAFT Meeting Minutes Regular Town Board Meeting

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Monday, January 12, 2026

Chairman Discianno called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm on Monday January 12, 2026. Chairman Discianno, Supervisor Newton, Supervisor Silvis, Clerk Newton and Treasurer Grimmer attended at Town Hall. There were fifteen other in-person attendees and seven attendees on Zoom including a Lakeland Times reporter. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Newton made a motion to approve the agenda. Supervisor Silvis seconded the motion, and the motion passed 3-0 in a voice vote.

Supervisor Silvis had corrections for the 12/8/2025 minutes including the sign indicated as damaged was a speed limit sign, not a road sign and making a note that the waste disposal contract with Republic Services was signed in 2022 as well as formatting errors with italics. Chairman Discianno made a motion to approve the minutes for the 12/8/2025 regular meeting after the changes discussed were made. Supervisor Newton seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0 in a voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Grimmer shared the treasurer's report and reported the balance in Town checking accounts as \$1,068,412. Mr. Grimmer reported that the January property tax settlement to county and three school districts for a total of 697,190 was due on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Grimmer reported that COH at the end of 2024 was around 40,000 and this year was around 220,000 including grants for ambulance, library, fire department, etc. Chairman Discianno made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as given. Supervisor Silvis seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0 in a voice vote.

**Clerk's Report:** Clerk Newton reported that she had filed the Statement of Taxes with WI Dept of Revenue and was working on completing the mill rate worksheet for the WI DNR.

**Chairman and Supervisors' reports:** Chairman Discianno reported that the Town Crew has been out plowing and sanding and noted that they have done a great job of clearing the roads during recent thaw temperatures. Chairman Discianno indicated that the Crew would be working on using the front-end loader to push snow banks back for increased visibility. Chairman Discianno

reported that the new truck box/hoist had been completed and was expected to be delivered/installed later this week. Chairman Discianno said that he has contact information for Lyle Schwartz with Northern Clearing, the company handling tree clearing along Hwy W, if any property owners have questions for them. Chairman Discianno reported speaking with Dennis Ruess in Boulder Junction about the possibility of sharing the cost of renting a wood chipper for storm damage clean up in Spring. Chairman Discianno explained that he contacted the Presque Isle Town Constable but had not heard back. Chairman Discianno said he would like to be replaced as the Town Lakes Committee liaison and Supervisor Silvis stated that he would attend the January 28<sup>th</sup> WTLC meeting.

Supervisor Newton reported that he attended NEMSD meetings.

Supervisor Silvis reported that he attended the NEMSD meeting. Supervisor Silvis explained that WinMan is seeing an increased number of visitors and that they are on track for opening of their new facilities in Spring.

**Vilas County District Supervisor's report:** District Supervisor Logan reported that Vilas County Zoning is concerned about bills the state assembly and senate to allowing non-dwelling units to be converted to living units which could double housing density on lake frontage properties.

**Correspondence:** Treasurer Grimmer reported that he was contacted about the tax bill increase for 2025 and District Supervisor Logan indicated that he was also contacted about the tax bill increase. Chairman Discianno reported receiving calls about plowing concerns and that he explains the order in which plowing is completed. Supervisor Silvis suggested that the letter sent with the tax bill next year could include plowing information/concerns.

**Public Comment:** Carol asked about the legality of parking on Town roads and Chairman Discianno explained that there should not be anyone parking on Town roads due to plowing. Carol reported a location where a vehicle had been parked on the road and Chairman Discianno asked to be notified if she observes the vehicle parked in the road again. Carol asked if there is a regulation that covers parking on Town roads and suggested that one be developed if none existed. Galen asked about the clean-up of trees that were 'topped' during the initial clean-up from the Thanksgiving Storm. Chairman Discianno explained that he was not sure how the future clean-up will be handled but that he is expecting to have to wait until significant snow melt to be able to get everything cleaned up.

**Old Business:**

1. *Road/lane name changes:* Clerk Newton reported that she was contacted by Kyle Larson at Vilas County Mapping after he received a request for a name change of

Agony Point Rd in Winchester and indicated that the Board had received a follow-up email from the person requesting the change. There were a few people in attendance who wanted to speak about the current name of Agony Point Rd and Chairman Discianno asked Assistant Librarian and local historian Blaze Burton to share his information first. Mr. Burton explained that maps from the early 1900's show the peninsula named as Agony Point and the name came from the surveyor working at the time finding it an agonizing area to survey. Mr. Burton described the road name as unique, recognizable, and long-standing emphasizing the safety of tow trucks and emergency vehicles being familiar with the name Agony Point Rd. Sulo added that every person living on the road must agree with the change and that subsequent re-addressing would be a financial challenge. Another attendee with property on Agony Point Rd spoke about unforeseen consequences to property owners having to update their property and contact information. Bill, a Zoom attendee, agreed that the name Agony Point road is historically significant and a change would create a hassle for property owners. Supervisor Newton suggests that a name change for Agony Point road is not considered and the Board move along in the agenda.

2. *Winchester ATV/UTV ordinance:* Chairman Discianno recalled that the Planning Commission had worked on the ordinance for close to a year and that the issue of creating an ordinance had gone back and forth for years prior. Chairman Discianno reported that the December public hearing on the ordinance was well attended. Supervisor Newton spoke about the time and effort put in by the Planning Commission and described it as a great example of people with different opinions working together. Supervisor Newton made a motion to adopt the Winchester ATV/UTV ordinance with an effective date after all Town roads have signage installed. Chairman Discianno seconded the motion and the motion passed 2-0 in a voice vote with Supervisor Silvis abstaining.
3. *Rent increase for Northwoods EMS District:* Chairman Discianno explained that he was looking to increase the monthly rent for the NEMSD to cover increased utility bill costs incurred from having the building staffed 24/7. Chairman Discianno reported that he had reviewed the monthly costs and increase over the previous year and recommends an increase of \$250 per month. Supervisor Newton and Supervisor Silvis agree that it is a reasonable increase and decide that Chairman Discianno will emailing NEMSD representative Steve Herzberg with his suggestion for an increase and have Mr. Herzberg bring it to the NEMSD Board.
4. *Turtle Lake Dam inspection report:* Chairman Discianno reported that the Town Crew were able to do some of the recommended dam repairs and that Rutsela Construction was hired to do internal crack repair and a wing wall rebuild in 2024. Chairman Discianno explained that the WI DNR is requesting additional

improvements including vegetation removal and a hole in the parking area as well as documentation of repairs completed and an emergency action plan. Chairman Discianno asked that this be handled by Supervisors Newton and/or Silvis and Supervisor Newton indicated that he would work on fulfilling the WI DNR requests and Supervisor Silvis indicated that he would help as well.

5. *Wisconsin Disaster Fund for storms on November 26-28<sup>th</sup>*: Chairman Discianno explained that an initial engagement for disaster relief was filed and said the application due in January would need to show labor and equipment costs associated with the clean-up. Supervisor Silvis indicated that he would take the lead on completing and submitting the application for relief.
6. *Meeting room improvements*: Chairman Discianno explained that improvements to the Town Hall meeting room were budgeted for and reported that he has two calls in for painting estimates. Chairman Discianno explained that Country Charm had given him a proposal for carpet replacement last year and indicated that he would try to get an updated proposal. An attendee asked about the need for new paint and pointed out that 'there aren't holes in the carpet.' Chairman Discianno explained that the meeting room should be kept up and briefly described several areas of damage. Sulo asked about installing carpet tiles and Chairman Discianno agreed, noting the benefit of being able to replace tiles as needed.
7. *Update named signers on Town bank accounts to include Deputy Clerk*: Supervisor Newton made a motion to name the signers on Associated Bank Accounts ending in 4819 and 7267 as Adeline Huybrecht, John Grimmer, Joe Discianno, Erin Newton, and Geri Sell. Supervisor Silvis seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0 in a voice vote.

**Future agenda items:** Dam inspection report, meeting room improvements were suggested for the next regular meeting agenda. Chairman Discianno indicated additional items for a future agenda could be emailed to him.

**Approval of Vouchers:** Disbursements were reviewed and Chairman Discianno made a motion to approve disbursements 12/1/25 EFT120 to Starlink through check 12/31/25 EFT123125mb to Xcel Energy. Supervisor Newton seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0 in a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Erin Newton, Town Clerk for Winchester  
DRAFT minutes submitted 2/6/2026