

Town of Otter Creek – January 13, 2026
Otter Creek Town Hall – E5905 County Road S, Wheeler WI
Regular Town Board Meeting – 6 p.m.

Attendees:

Chair LeAnn Ralph*

Supervisor 1 Cecil Hayes*

Supervisor 2 Bob Bernier*

Clerk/Treasurer Bev Bernier

Guests: Erica Kragness, Dustin Kragness, Trent Morning, Jeff Dehnhoff, Renee Carrell, Chuck Boyer

*Board Members

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Regular Town Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Ralph at 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Meeting minutes from the December 9, 2025 Regular Board Meeting were not read by Clerk as the Town Board reviewed the minutes prior to tonight's meeting and agreed that the minutes did not need to be read. Motion by Ralph to approve the December 9, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes, second by Bernier, motion carried.

Public Comments - Public Comment is limited to 3 minutes. As per the state's Open Meetings law, there will be no back and forth discussion with the town board. The state Attorney General's guidance is that board members can ask clarifying questions but that back and forth discussion is not advised.

Jeff Dehnhoff – Feedback on clearing of town roads, he has been in Otter Creek since 1997, heard some complaints about roads. The roads are the best they have ever been. It is like night and day from how the roads were. When he complained in the past, the area by his driveway was not sanded. Roads are winged, they are beautiful. Chair has not gotten any complaints.

Communication from Dustin Kragness – Chains – need automatic ones. Trent knows Clare Repair from Plum City, \$2,500 to put them on, gets parts from Wis Kenworth gets parts. We bought set of chains for the truck, cams are smashed. Chain links broke. Automatic you can use when you need to. Several hours to install. Can drop the plow and take the truck to his shop. Get another set of cutting edges for the plow. Clerk to text number for DC Shop to Dustin. Dustin to move ahead with automatic chains for tires and cutting edges for the plow.

Communication from Town Chair – project for LRIP for 670th for 4" from 970th to 1120th (blacktop to blacktop). DC increased the estimate to cover the correct cost.

Communication from Town Supervisors –

Supervisor 1 – Removed a tree from 690th on 12/29/25.

Supervisor 2 – Removed 4 trees, 1 on 1180th on 12/30, 3 on 730th (one on Christmas day – sheriff phoned, two on 12/29 with the tractor and saw – Doug Owens Pike reported). Wirth delivered 4 loads of salt/sand from the 64/25 salt shed week of Dec. 8. Discussion with Barry Wirth regarding salt/sand for week of January 12, running short. DC agreed to release 5 loads, we asked for 10, but they are running short. Need to pick up salt/sand in Menomonie, other pits empty. Jan. 8 – took tractor to town hall to load salt/sand into tractor weight with Dustin. DEF and diesel fuel delivered to town hall on Jan. 7. DEF filter plugged on plow truck, dropped off to Cameron on Friday, 12/26. Snow storm on Sunday 12/28, Faron used the town grader and cleared all town roads starting Sunday night until 6 a.m. Monday, 12/29. Dustin picked up the town truck 12/29 and plowed until 11:30 p.m. Jan. 9. Met Dustin on 765th and held traffic as Dustin backed up the hill because of ice. Can use bedding sand if needed. Mix with magnesium oxide. Get one load of sand from Wirth.

Communication from Clerk - 2026 elections – April 7, 2026 Spring Election; August 11, 2026 Partisan Primary (need to move Regular Board Meeting); November 3, 2026 General Election.

DC Unit meeting - Wis Towns Mon, 1/26/26 6:30 p.m. – DC Judicial Center.

Nuss Truck – contacted WI DOR, confirmed no tax on truck repair, Nuss wanted \$735. Phoned Josh George of Nuss Truck and followed up with email to Chair, Rural Adjuster and Jeff White.

Brent Carpenter built a large pole shed sometime between 2023 and 2024 with no DC zoning permits. DC approved an address for this location in Jan. 2026 as owner wants to run internet to the shed. DC looking into required permits. New address: E6737 1090th Avenue, Wheeler, WI 54772

DC looking into Otter Creek residence with large quantity of scrap vehicles.

Included information for obtaining replacement fire numbers in mailing with SW&R permits.

Preparing town records for Clifton Larson annual audit.

Fuel contracting – Consideration and possible approval of fuel contracting for April 1, 2026 – Nov. 30, 2026. \$2,549 – add .309 for on-road taxes. Motion by Hayes to approve fuel contracting, second by Bernier. MC.

New Fire Truck - authorization of clerk-treasurer to pay the Town of Otter Creek's share of the final invoice amount for the fire engine purchased by the Colfax Community Fire District. Approx. \$25,000 from Otter Creek. The truck will not be in until March. [Put on the March agenda.](#)

Colfax Fire Dept – smoke detector malfunction – Teri Bookless, 12/11/2025, \$72.00

DC Survey completion request - DC Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update to be completed by Otter Creek board.

Flatland Inspections December report – no activity

Mileage reimbursement effective 1/1/2026 - .725/mile (2.5 cents/mile increase)

Treasurer Report and Budget Amendment - Review treasurer's report. Review and possible approval of budget amendment to balance the 2025 budget. Motion to accept the financial report and budget amending by Hayes, second by Bernier MC. Hayes motion to approve the treasurers report and balancing of budget, second by Bernier, MC.

Auditing of bills for payment

Any other business

Adjournment of Regular Board Meeting. Motion to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. by Cecil, second by Bernier, MC. Respectfully submitted – Beverly Bernier, Clerk/Treasurer

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS IN ORDER OF CALLING:

LeAnn Ralph – 715-308-6336; Bob Bernier – 715-577-6310; Cecil Hayes – 715-577-6334

Bev Bernier – 715-658-0131; Town Shop - 715-658-1319;