

Town of Big Flats
Regular Board Meeting
September 9, 2025

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Kipfer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: Supervisor Kipfer, Supervisor Clark, Clerk Horacek, Treasurer Nigh,

Absent: Chairman Meyers

The Pledge was recited.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda by Supervisor Clark, 2nd by Supervisor Kipfer. **Motion Carried**
3. **Approval of Bills:** Motion by Supervisor Clark, 2nd by Supervisor Kipfer to pay the bills. **Motion Carried**
4. **Approval of Previous Months Minutes:** Motion Supervisor Clark, 2nd by Supervisor Kipfer to approve the minutes from the previous month's minutes and the minutes from the special meeting. **Motion Carried**
5. **Treasure's Report:** Treasurer Nigh read balances for all accounts. Motion to approve the treasurer report by Supervisor Clark, 2nd by Supervisor Kipfer. **Motion Carried**
Treasurer Nigh stated that the August settlement was wrong. She has been in contact with the county to figure out the issues.
6. **Correspondence & Clerk's Report:** Clerk Horacek handed out; what she had received no questions. She also stated that she had applied for another grant with the Public Service Commission. The town was granted \$25,000 to replace the stove and the hot water tank in the town hall.
Clerk stated that when a county buys MFL lands, they do not pay back the taxes.
7. **Public Comments:** It was asked how far fire signs should be from the road. Supervisor Kipfer stated 4 feet. It was stated that in the 800 block of Browndeer, the signs can't be seen, the town needs to mow those areas.

It was asked what was being done 8th Dr. Supervisor Kipfer stated it should have been done already. He will be calling about it. It was also asked about 7th being done. Supervisor Kipfer stated it will be done this year.

8. Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Schmidt Reported for calls in August. She stated that the funds received from the dance were about \$23,000, they should end up with about \$15,000.00. Both the chief and assistant chief will be training. The new compressor is being installed. They will be doing a prescribed burn on Highway 21. All hose have been tested, 15 did not pass. New fire hose have been purchased.

9. Committee Reports:

Zoning: Rich Westover approved 3 land use permits.

Nuisance Committee: None, he will be setting up a meeting for the coming Friday.

Plan Commission Committee: Wendy Goerke stated She met with a property. Next week will be a meeting with the county on purchasing of land.

10. New accounting program for treasurer: Clerk Horacek stated that the town treasurer is having issues with her accounting program. After discussing it, a motion was made by Supervisor Kipfer, 2nd by Supervisor Clark to let the treasurer purchase a new accounting program for \$1000.00 but no more than \$2000.00 **Motion Carried**

11. DCM Landscaping for Fire Wise: A motion was made by Supervisor Clark, Second by Supervisor Kipfer to approve the contract. **Motion Carried**

12. Board request to review zoning ordinances: Clerk Horacek stated that the board would like to have the zoning and plan commission to review the ordinances to see if there should be any updates.

13. Set Budget Prep Date: It was decided the date for September 29th at 5:00 PM.

14. Adding Supervisor I and Supervisor II to the checking account: Motion Supervisor Clark, 2nd by Supervisor Kipfer to approve adding both supervisors to be able to sign checks on the checking account. **Motion Carried**

15. Approval of Operator License: Motion Supervisor Clark, 2nd by Supervisor Kipfer to approve the operator license for Dollar General. **Motion Carried**

16. Recording in a public building: Clerk Horacek stated that she contacted that WTA attorney. They informed her that Members of the public can film or take pictures during open session board/committee meetings. See s. 19.90, Wis. Stat. They can also record or film in public places during times your building is open to the public. Reasonable restrictions on how this occurs might be needed if people are blocking entrances/exits or creating other safety concerns. They cannot film in places that are posted as “staff only” or “authorized personnel only”. So, for example, if you have a public waiting area, they could film there but could not come behind a counter or open a closed door without permission if you have it marked as staff only. As an example, you will often see reporters interviewing people in hallways outside of courtrooms, etc. There is no general law that says people can only record in public buildings while official meetings are taking place. She also asked if the town could make any kind of "rule" or ordinance stating that recording can only be done during the open session of a meeting? Because we are a public place. The attorney stated that “You cannot simply ban all recording on town property except for meetings, that is correct, as it could violate First Amendment rights.”

The clerk also contacted the Adams County Sheriff to ask: Could you please tell me what the department says about recording in a "Public" place? As in our town hall. We had someone at a meeting state that they talked to the sheriff's department. I don't know who they talked with, but they were told that all cameras must stop recording once a meeting is adjourned. Can you please tell me if they is correct? Sheriff York replied: the policy of the Sheriff's Office would not apply to the town hall. I would seek legal guidance from the town attorney about recording a public meeting or at the town hall.

17. Announcements:

- Next Plan Commission meeting: Sept. 16 @ 6:00 PM
- Next regular town meeting: Moved to October 21 @ 6:00 PM
- Clerk's Office will be closed on Sept. 15 because of training and Oct. 13 & 14 for WTA Convention.

Adjourn: Motion by Supervisor Clark, 2nd by Supervisor Kipfer to adjourn. **Motion Carried**

19 people sign in

Terri L. Horacek, Town Clerk