

Town Board Meeting
November 17, 2025

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Board of Supervisors, Town of Florence met on the 17th day of November, 2025 after the Budget Hearing, Special Town Meeting and Special Town Board Meeting to approve the budget, the first of which began at 6:00 p.m. at the Florence Community Center with Chairman Jim Gehlhoff and Supervisors Tom Tuchalski and Shane McLain present.

After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, a motion made by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski the agenda was approved as posted. All in favor, motion carried.

Under communication from the floor there were questions from residents in attendance regarding the proposed Town of Spread Eagle. Gehlhoff stated that he was called by Jim Petroff, who is part of the group that in his words are wanting to create another Township that they are going to call Spread Eagle. Gehlhoff stated he had a bunch of questions including what area they are talking about and why/what was their reasoning, how are they going to handle their roads and how are they going to handle a lot of things. He stated it is their right to do this, but they have not communicated anything with the Town other than with a phone call, so he doesn't really know much about it. They came to a couple of Town Board Meetings, and when it came time for communication from the floor they didn't have anything.

Gehlhoff explained that the Town has heard they are holding meetings, and they are circulating petitions. The signatures that they are collecting have to be 20% of the landowners and 1/3 of the eligible electors of the Town. When they get enough signatures, it then goes to a vote at the Town annual meeting (in April) where the Town of Florence and the proposed Town of Spread Eagle will each vote on it. Then goes to the County Board.

There was a question in regards the accuracy or the full story of the information being shared. The example was the budget didn't show any of the borrowings that would need to be repaid even though the Town has them. The Town has a bond rating, so if there is separation of land that changes the Town's borrowing abilities.

Gehlhoff stated that there has not been an official request, but the Town will get legal counsel and has already talked to the Wisconsin Towns Association regarding this. The Town would like the documentation to understand what is happening. Gehlhoff stated that he found out earlier today that his house would be in the new Town of Spread Eagle, so he would no longer be the Town chair. There are a lot of unknowns. It was asked that the information be shared because not everyone is aware this is happening.

Additional questions were asked about the impact to the school, to the Town, to the tax payers and to the EMS. Supervisor McLain stated that they would have to look to the Town (or County) to contract out those services – highway, fire department, electric, natural gas, etc.

Marcia Krcma asked if the Town board would add two additional supervisor positions. Andy Maglio asked the board to reconsider at a later date looking further into the advantages of adding those seats. Tuchalski stated it would be possible to reopen that discussion.

On a motion by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski a motion was made to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on October 27, 2025 and the BOR Meeting held on October 29, 2025
- There were no Operator Licenses to approve
- Fire Department bills totaling \$282.98 were approved for payment from November 1-17, 2025

All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion continued between Gehlhoff and Tuchalski regarding the sale of the Town property (10-1749-1) on Olive Avenue near the former Town garage. At the Special Town Meeting held tonight prior to this meeting, the public authorized the sale of the property by the Town Board. Before the discussion began, Supervisor McLain recused himself from the conversation, left the board table, and sat by his brother Shawn for the conversation. On a motion by Tuchalski and seconded by Gehlhoff it was approved to reach out to Boardman & Clark Law Firm to have them write up a sales agreement with the

proper easements required and have them help with the sale of this property. All in favor, motion carried.

The Town Board discussed the possibility of acquiring a credit card through Great North Bank for Town use. Clerk/Treasurer Klumpp shared that it would be a credit card that would be available to use for the office, the highway department or the board for authorized purchases. Klumpp also stated that the board would receive a print out each month with an explanation of charges to verify that they were legitimate charges. On a motion by Tuchalski and seconded by McLain it was approved for the Town to obtain a credit card through Great North Bank with a \$5,000 limit. A roll call vote was taken: McLain yes, Tuchalski yes, Gehlhoff yes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Gehlhoff began the discussion regarding employee reviews stating that it is good practice to have them done. Highway Foreman Steber and Clerk/Treasurer Klumpp would do the reviews for the employees that they oversee. The board would do the reviews for Steber and Klumpp. Gehlhoff stated that he doesn't have concerns but that it is used as a good communication tool between the board and employees. On a motion by Tuchalski and seconded by McLain it was approved to go into closed session at the end of a future meeting to do employee performances reviews. All in favor, motion carried.

Monthly town bills totaling \$202,884.20 and automatic withdrawals in the amount of \$3,432.84 were approved on a motion by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski. All in favor, motion carried.

Under Clerk/Treasurers report, Klumpp stated that the board viewed and initialed reconciliation reports for November. Klumpp also shared that Green For Life had looked at the roads they were not traveling and has already started traveling Frog Lake Rd North and Duck Lake Road for weekly curbside garbage collection.

Under board concerns, Tuchalski brought up the possibility of revisiting adding 2 Town Board Supervisor positions at a meeting after the 1st of the year. He also brought up the possibility of hiring a part time ordinance officer or constable to help enforce some of the ordinances. Tuchalski also mentioned looking at creating an EMS contract after the holidays.

Under board member concerns, Gehlhoff brought up the attempt to form the Town of Spread Eagle. He stated he doesn't understand it. North Lake Road was done. The Fire Department goes to great lengths to service the area in a timely fashion. At the Town annual meeting they stated it was 12 minutes response time to the farthest spot away. Gehlhoff noted the reason that we did not move forward with the fire hall due to the fact that with an engineering company it was not a viable option. It was not stated that the fire hall project was canceled, but it was canceled "at that location." Gehlhoff restated the Town Board would be open to looking at the project again if another location makes it viable. It was brought up at a meeting in June and then had to be brought up for clarification at the Town Board's meeting in July.

Gehlhoff stated that hopefully future board meetings will be attended by visitors where the board can talk about the facts.

There being no further business it was moved by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski to adjourn until December 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Florence Community Center. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jessica Klumpp
Clerk/Treasurer