

Town Board Meeting
April 21, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Board of Supervisors, Town of Florence met on the 21st day of April, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Florence Community Center with Chairman Jim Gehlhoff and Supervisors Tom Tuchalski and Shane McLain present. On a motion by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski, the agenda was approved as posted. All in favor, motion carried.

Under communication from the floor, Gary Merrill asked why the interim financing was happening now instead of waiting to when the interest rates drop. Gehlhoff asked Florence Utility Financial Manager, Kristina Williams to answer the question. Williams stated that the interim financing is needed now due to the fact that the Water Tower reconditioning project is happening now. She reported that the money will be used to pay contractors and function to allow the project to be completed. Once the water tower project is completed, then the paperwork can be filed and the DNR loan will be given. That loan will be used to pay off the interim financing noting that the DNR loan has an interest rate of 1.551% for 30 years and 40% principal forgiveness.

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 March 23 & 26, and April 6, 2026
- There were no Operator Licenses to approve
- Fire Department bills totaling \$413.63 were approved for payment from April 1 to April 22, 2026.
- Monthly town bills totaling \$76,371.94 and automatic withdrawals in the amount of \$2,739.20 were approved for payment from April 1 to April 22, 2026

All in favor, motion carried.

Gehlhoff shared that there currently is not an update on the EMS Contract. He also noted that he had asked for a copy of the sustainability study, contract and annual update for the annual meeting. The e-mail update had been received right before this meeting started. It was being copied and would be shared at the annual meeting.

The board reviewed the quote from McCoy Construction & Forestry provided by Highway Foreman Chris Steber for the purchase of a loader. On a motion by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski, it was approved to purchase a loader from McCoy Construction & Forestry. Call for the vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Kristina Williams, Financial Manager for Florence Utility was in attendance to update the board regarding the interim financing needed for the Water Tower Rehab Project. Gehlhoff mentioned that the bids that came in were higher than initially expected due to the fact that no local contractors bid on parts of the project. It was noted that local contractors were asked, but they were not able to bid due to their involvement in the infrastructure projects in Iron Mountain and Kingsford. On a motion by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski it was moved to authorize the Utility to borrow, not more than \$900,000, as interim financing from Great North Bank, with interest due at maturity, and a term not to exceed 12 months, which will be repaid with proceeds from the new subsidized WI DNR Safe Drinking Water Loan, the proceeds of which will be used to pay for the Rehab Water Tower Project.

The Board discussed a motion from the 02-23-26 Town of Commonwealth Board Meeting Minutes Motion by Bednarski, second by Pragacz to purchase a sign to be placed on the Dump Road stating a driver's license or tax bill (for out of town taxpayers) will be required to prove they are taxpayers of Florence and Commonwealth and able to use the recycling center. Gehlhoff noted the board learned about it when reading the minutes in the paper. Jessie Lindeman from Florence County Zoning was in attendance to talk about this issue as well. The board's concern is that this will be implemented before the public is aware there are new requirements. On a motion by Tuchalski and seconded by McLain it was decided to reach out to the Town of Commonwealth to wait until next year to make this change, which would allow information to be put in the tax bills to inform everyone. Call for the vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

The board discussed inviting the two candidates running for the position of Florence County Sheriff to a Town Board meeting, which would allow the public to meet the candidates and hear from them directly. It was noted that when there is a local race, the public reaches out to the Town to find out where they can get

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information on local candidates. On a motion by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski, it was moved to invite the candidates to the July 27, 2026 Town Board meeting. Call for the vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Under the clerk/treasurer report, Clerk/Treasurer Jessica Klumpp shared the journal entries and bank reconciliation reports with the Town.

There were not comments under board member concerns.

On a motion by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski it was moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss employee compensation pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Call for the vote. All in favor. Motion carried. Entered closes session at 5:28 p.m.

On a motion by Tuchalski and seconded by McLain it was moved to adjourn closed session. Call for the vote. All in favor. Motion carried. Adjourned closed session and reconvened into Open Session at 5:54 p.m.

On a motion by Tuchalski and seconded by McLain it was moved to approve the decisions made in closed session in regard to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Call for the vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, it was moved by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski to adjourn the meeting until Monday, April 27, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. at the Florence Utilities Board Room. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jessica Klumpp
Clerk/Treasurer