

TOWN OF EATON

MANITOWOC COUNTY

316 W MAIN STREET

VALDERS, WI 54245

Richard Christel, Chairman; Joe Riesterer, Supervisor; Lewis Schema, Supervisor; Pamela Schneider, Treasurer; Carleen Harel, Clerk;
Callie Behnke, Deputy Clerk

SPECIAL MEETING 3/18/2026

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED 4/13/2026

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Town of Eaton was called to order by Chairman Rick Christel at 6:35 p.m., Monday, March 18, 2026 at the Eaton Town Hall. The Pledge Allegiance was recited by all.

MEETING NOTICES: Meeting notices were posted at the Eaton Town Hall and on the town website.

ROLL CALL: Rick Christel, Chairman; Joe Riesterer, Supervisor; Lewy Schema, Supervisor; Carleen Harel, Clerk; Craig Zipperer, Road Superintendent were in attendance.

AGENDA: The agenda had been emailed previously. A motion was made by Supervisor Schema to accept the agenda, 2nd by Supervisor Riesterer, motion carried.

TOWN BUSINESS:

All of the following business items were discussed and the following action(s) were taken if necessary:

Equipment Needs & Considerations –

The Board held an extended discussion regarding the potential purchase of a backhoe/loader. Supervisor Schema expressed strong support for acquiring the 2024 New Holland B95C Tractor/Loader/Backhoe, noting that its loader capacity would be beneficial for town operations and would reduce reliance on the current town tractor for loading salt and sand into the plow trucks.

Supervisor Riesterer acknowledged that the equipment would be useful but emphasized that the timing was not ideal. He noted that the Town is actively looking for ways to reduce expenses for taxpayers, particularly following last year's re-evaluation in which many residents saw an increase in their tax bills.

Chairman Christel added that he did not agree with the assertion that the Town's existing 2011 John Deere tractor was incapable of loading sand and salt into the plow trucks. He also stated that taking on an additional loan at this time was not part of the Town's financial plan. Chairman Christel suggested that renting equipment, when needed, would be a more fiscally responsible approach. He further referenced a township in Calumet County that recently sold its rubber-tire loader/hoe in favor of a mini excavator, as the loader/hoe was not efficient for ditching long stretches. He emphasized that any equipment purchased by the Town should also be versatile enough to assist with snow plowing.

Supervisor Riesterer concluded by stating that a purchase of this scale should have unanimous support from the Board, and without that consensus, he did not feel comfortable moving forward.

Supervisor Schema moved to approve the purchase of the 2024 New Holland B95C Tractor/Loader/Backhoe with ditching bucket from Gruett's for \$82,379. The proposed funding plan included \$30,000 from the equipment fund, \$2,379 from checking, with the remaining balance financed through a loan. The motion did not receive a second and therefore did not carry.

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Riesterer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, a 2nd was made by Supervisor Schema, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carleen Harel, Clerk
Town of Eaton