

# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR 2025

Chairman Rick Christel called the 2025 Town of Eaton Annual Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 15, 2025. The meeting opened with attendees reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Paul Binversie and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dean Benvenuto to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING: Minutes of the 2024 annual meeting were read by Clerk Paulette Vogt. Joe Neumeyer made a motion to accept the minutes with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dean Benvenuto. Motion Carried.

SET DATE/TIME 2026 ANNUAL MEETING: Kathy Neumeyer made a motion to keep the Annual Meeting date and start time to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Kleinhans. Motion carried.

TOWN CHAIRMAN REPORT: Chairman Christel introduced the Town Board members that were present: Supervisor #1, Joe Riesterer, was re-elected since 2023, for his second term; Supervisor #2, Lewis Schema, has been on the board since 2015; Pamela Schneider, Treasurer since being elected in 2017; Paulette Vogt, Appointed clerk since 2016; Also introduced were Craig Zipperer, Road Superintendent since 2017; Ben Schema, Outgoing Constable; and Recycling Center workers Randy Knier, John Thompson and Ed Spresser; along with the Manitowoc County Supervisor Dylan Hammel.

Also thanked for their work were the poll workers and the members of the Land Use Committee consisting of Steve Schwoerer, Nic Shoenberger, Mark Litz and new members Matthew Kauffman and Rene Jelinek.

As our clerk Paulette Vogt is retiring at the end of April, I would like to introduce you to our new clerk Carleen Harel and our Deputy Clerk Callie Behnke. Thank you.

LIST OF COMPLETED PROJECTS for 2024: With the ARPA money for Covid relief, we used a portion of the \$86,246.88, we bought a generator and hook up, new lights in the meeting room, and a Spartan lawn mower for the grave yard mowing. We also bought 2 storage containers for seasonal storage of the snow plows, snow fence, lawn mower, broom, and other seasonal items.

COMPLETED ROAD PROJECTS last year were chip seal by Scott Construction on a mile of Lax Chapel Road between Hwy C and Carstens Lake Road, 1 Mile of Hickory Hills Road between Duchow Road and Marsh Road. ½ Mile of chip seal on Niles Road between C and Baer Road. We also did a hot mix overlay on Cedar Road off of Hwy 67.

This year a reassessment by Associated Appraisals is underway. It is considered a drive-by maintenance reassessment for the cost of \$42,500

We purchased a new portable 2-way radio as well. The County had offered townships and villages a 50% match for certain projects. Culverts, radios and water projects were included. One radio was \$7,000.00 and we got approximately half paid for by the county.

BUILDING PERMITS: Permits taken out in 2024 were \$1,473,495.00 total. Down from \$2,105,005.40 in 2023.

SET ASIDE ACCOUNTS: At the end of 2024 the Road Equipment fund had \$40,000, Road Maintenance fund had \$175,378.21, Dog fund held \$1,025.56. The pickup truck fund is currently at \$20,000.00.

RECYCLING CENTER: Recycled glass no longer needs to be separated by color. It all goes in the same bin. The steel recycling bin must not have any plastic or rubber wheels on grills or bicycles, for example. We can lose the entire proceeds from a load of steel if these rules are not followed. It is not the job of the recycling workers to remove items. If rejected by one of the helpers, please be respectful and bring your item back after removing the non-metallic item. Cardboard is to be cut to the proper size and bundled, newspapers and magazines need to be bundled and tied with twine. They should never be put in cardboard boxes loose and it is not the helper's job to do this for you. We need the helpers watching and directing.

AMBULANCE SERVICE must be provided by the town for our residents, just like the fire service. As you know, this has become a problem, as we feel we are providing the best service offered, with the quickest response times. We now pay \$36 per capita, and just a few years ago, it cost the town a mere \$7 per capita. So the Town of Eaton will pay the Village of Valders an amount of \$36.00 per person for year 2025, \$38.00 per person in 2026 and \$ 40.00 per person in 2027 sum of \$32,480 based on the 2024s population. The contract is effective January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027.

#### TOWN EQUIPMENT:

2021 Peterbilt Snow Plow truck  
2016 International Snow Plow truck  
2011 John Deere 5095M  
Spartan Zero Turn mower  
1996 Caterpillar Road Grader  
2019 Chevrolet 1500 Pickup truck

PROPOSED ROAD WORK: On March 27<sup>th</sup> 2025 we did road inspection. The board felt the best use of the town's road budget was to do the following projects:

Wedge and chip seal 1 mile of Glen Flora Road between Newton Road and Town Line Road

Wedge and chip seal 1 mile of Greendale between Hwy 151 and Carstens Lake Road.

We are also seeking bids for each section of Carstens Lake Road between Greendale Road and Hwy 151.

ST NAZIANZ FIRE DEPARTMENT: Mark Kaufmann reported a total of 98 calls for 2024 of which there were 10 paged calls for fire and 5 EMS Assisted calls for the Town of Eaton. In the last year they have taken delivery of a new E-One pumper. After months of training with it, they put it in service in late November. They are very happy with the purchase and it's fitting their needs well. They have used it at several fires and it does everything they need it to do. They currently have 24 active firefighters and 4 cadets. At this time, they are full of cadets but they would not mind finding a few adults to join the department especially if they work in the area. New for 2025 they are planning on having a 6-inch water main installed in the fire station for filling trucks so they don't need to always set up a hydrant outside.

ST NAZIANZ MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDERS: The EMS Responded to a record of 151 calls in 2024. They treated 160 patients. This is up 52 runs from 2023. They responded to 94 medical calls; 48 trauma calls, and 99 fire calls. They responded to Town of Eaton 28 times.

The first responders volunteered 13,895 minutes, or 231 hours and 35 minutes, of time. Fire Department members assisted us in 2529 minutes, or 42 hours and 9 minutes, of time. Of all our calls we never missed having someone available to respond to each call.

In 2024, each member received a set of SAMSON straps to aid in lifting patients. The first responders orchestrated the new landscaping project in front of the firehouse. We also welcomed one new member to our roster.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, we held out annual Fish Boil as a drive-through only event. We had 591 vehicles, an increase from 519 in 2024. We served around 1700 meals in 4 hours. Our 2026 Fish boil is planned for March 13, 2026. (Submitted by Lori Krueger, EMS Chief)

VALDERS AMUBLANCE: No representation.

COLLINS FIRE DEPARTMENT: No representation.

MANITOWOC COUNTY SUPERVISOR: Chairman Christel introduced Dylan Hammel. Dylan gave a few brief facts about what the County Board was involved with. He briefed us about the struggle with the County's \$6,000,000 budget deficit which resulted in the County increasing the sales tax for Manitowoc County from 5% to 5 ½ %. He also reported that the County had tried spraying the road ditches with a spray that was to keep the growth down. Some worked and some did not. He also reported that the Sheriff's Department officers are in need of body cams. At the present time they do not have any. The cost for these would be about \$200,000 to \$250,000. Dylan stated that if anyone had any questions, to please notify him. If he could not get the answer, he would find someone who could. Chairman Christel thanked him for coming.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: No representation. Chairman Christel stated the BOR and OPEN book have not been scheduled yet as the reassessment is still ongoing. Rick stated that the taxes should not be changing much. This will be a drive – by reassessment so people should not be alarmed if they see a car parked in their yard for a time.

REVIEW ANNUAL BOOKLET: Chairman Christel stated that there probably will not be a booklet mailed in 2026 but just a financial report. The cost of the booklet and the mailing is getting to be a big factor for the Town.

PROPOSED ROAD WORK:

- Wedge and chip seal 1 mile of Glen Flora Road between Newton Road and Town Line Road
- Wedge and chip seal 1 mile of Greendale between Hwy 151 and Carstens Lake Road.
- We are also seeking bids for each section of Carstens Lake Road between Greendale Road and Hwy 151.

We received a grant to do Niles Road. Vinton Construction will be doing the work. We will be taking out an interest only loan and we will pay the borrowed money off when we receive the grant money.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE RECYCLING CENTER: No questions were asked.

PUBLIC INPUT: A question was brought up about tidiness of some people's property and if there was something that can be done about it. Chairman Christel stated that we have an ordinance, but that the County will not enforce our ordinance. It was also mentioned that Burning Permits can also be issued by the St Nazianz Fire Department and Collins Fire Department.

Chairman Christel thanked Randy Pingel for the \$20.00 donation he made towards the food for the annual meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Paul Binversie made a motion to adjourn and Dave Kleinhans 2<sup>nd</sup> the same. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted: Paulette Vogt Clerk