TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 19, 2026

Meeting Place: Grand Rapids Municipal Building, 2410 48th Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Present: Chairperson Jeff Kuhn; Supervisors Bill Clendenning, Jason Warren, Todd Radtke and Kevin Grosskreutz; Clerk Lisa Dotter (arrived at 6:27 p.m.), Treasurer Jewell Ninneman, Fire Chief Robert Piatt, Police Chief Joe Zurfluh, Public Works Lead Person Mike Smith, Attorney Nicholas Abts
Absent:

Notices of the meeting were legally posted at The Store in Kellner, the Grand Rapids Garage and the Grand Rapids Municipal Building, and sent to The Daily Tribune, Wisconsin Rapids Community Media, and Wisconsin Rapids City Times.

Chair Kuhn called the Town Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
2. **Approve agenda for meeting.**
3. **Approve minutes of the 6/23/2026 Special Board meeting and 7/8/2026 Town Board meeting.** *Motion* (Clendenning/Warren) to approve minutes, as presented. *Motion carried, 5-0.*
4. **Public Comment – People wishing to address the board will be limited to 2 minutes each with Public Comment limited to a total of 30 minutes. (*Note, the board will also take comment from the public on agenda items as called by the Chair, but not during Public Comment. Please note that once the board begins discussion on an agenda item, no further comment will be allowed from the public on that issue*).** Resident Andrew Eckmayer stated he has a concern on how the Town's water may be affected by a data center in the City of Wisconsin Rapids.
5. **Monthly reports from Departments:**
   Fire Department: Chief Piatt presented his July report, which is filed with the official meeting minutes
   Safety Department: Chief Piatt stated there were zero injuries reported for July.
   Police Department: Chief Zurfluh presented his July report, which is filed with the official meeting minutes.
   Public Works: Lead Person Smith gave updates on the following: completion of paving on 64th St., shouldering on 64th St., completion of road construction on 48th St. except for paint striping, completion of salt shed repairs, and minor equipment repairs.
   Treasurer: Treasurer Ninneman presented her July report, which is filed with the official meeting minutes.
6. **Consideration and possible action on Legislative Committee's referral to discuss data centers.**
   Resident Shirley Klapperich asked Board members to direct Attorney Abts draft a letter to the City of Wisconsin Rapids Common Council stating the Town is concerned with how a data center in the City could affect the Town's water, increase in electric bills, temperature increases, and diesel generator concerns. Resident Andrew Eckmayer stated he agreed with the above comments from Shirley Klapperich.

   Chair Kuhn stated the Town has a good Comprehensive Plan in place but would like the Town to strengthen the current zoning ordinance. Attorney Abts stated that under current WI law, data centers are not something that can be banned specifically. The Town can update, modify, and

strengthen its existing Comprehensive Plan, Conditional Use Permit process, and Zoning Ordinances; which he has already been directed to start reviewing and proposing modifications to Ordinance 52 to anticipate possible future risks. He reiterated that legally he cannot make changes that will outright ban data centers.

Supervisor Warren stated he has concerns with sending a letter from the Board, as he does not want to jeopardize the Town's relationship with the City of WR. However, he feels it's very important to move forward with the legislative process of reviewing and strengthening the Town's Zoning Ordinance to protect the Town as best as legally can be done. Chair Kuhn stated similar hesitations with a letter being sent to the City from the Town. The option of a moratorium was discussed; Chair Kuhn stated the length of time needed for required engineering studies, notices, public hearings, etc. would likely take longer than the Town revising Ordinance 52 instead.

Attorney Abts stated if the Board were to schedule a Legislative Committee in mid-September, he can have proposed revisions ready by then. He asked for clarification on what the Board would like the letter he's going to draft to the City of WR to state. Supervisor Clendenning stated he will have a sample letter for Attorney Abts within one week. Attorney Abts will then review and bring the letter back to the Board to review at September's Town Board meeting.

Motion (Clendenning/Grosskreutz) to have the Board work on drafting a letter to City of WR on data center concerns for residents of the Town of Grand Rapids. *Motion carried, 3-1*, with Supervisor Warren voting no and Chair Kuhn abstaining.

7. **Consideration and possible action on Economic Development Committee's recommendation for Weslan Park improvements.** Supervisor Clendenning stated the ED Committee's recommendation would be for a title search to be done and get the park back in the Town's name. Chair Kuhn stated the parcel currently shows the owner as Weslan Playground so doing a title search for clarification first would be best. *Motion* (Clendenning/Warren) to have a title search done on the property first, then bring that back to Town Board to discuss further. *Motion carried, 5-0.*
8. **Consideration and possible action on Resolution 2026-14; a Referendum to Exceed the State-Imposed Property Tax Levy Limit Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0602(4) for General Town Operations and Public Safety Services on an Ongoing Basis.** Chair Kuhn stated the Referendum Committee's recommendation is to have a referendum question at the November General Election, asking for an additional $300,000 in tax levy for general town operations and public services on an ongoing basis. Chair Kuhn stated the Town has been running a deficit for a number of years, using fund balance to balance the budget each year; and the fund balance is precariously low now so something needs to be done in order to maintain current operations. *Motion* (Clendenning/Kuhn) to approve Resolution 2026-14, Call for a Referendum to Exceed the State-Imposed Property Tax Levy Limit Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0602(4) for General Town Operations and Public Safety Services on an Ongoing Basis. *Motion carried, 5-0.*
9. **Consideration and possible action on options for sale of Town equipment.** Supervisor Warren explained that three Public Works' items did not sell at the last auction so they recommend decreasing the minimum amounts for those. The committee recommends placing the 2007 Sterling Dump Truck, that also did not meet the minimum bid amount, for auction at Integrity Sales of Merrill, with a set reserve of $10,000 as Buy It Now option (if the $10,000 Buy It Now is not met, then $8,000 reserve would be set). *Motion* (Warren/Grosskreutz) to set the following: a reserve price of $385 on welder and $50 on sandblaster, both to be listed through WI Surplus Auction; and set a Buy It Now price of $10,000 and reserve price of $8,000

on 2007 Sterling, to be listed through Integrity Sales of Merrill in late September. *Motion carried, 5-0.*

10. **Consideration and possible action on purchase of new office laptop.** *Motion* (Clendenning/Radtke) to purchase new laptop to be used for elections, not to exceed $2,000. *Motion carried, 5-0.*
11. **Consideration and possible action on WTA Fall Workshops and Annual Convention.** Clerk Dotter stated Board members have registrations for both events; if attending, Board members must have completed forms turned in to her by 8/25/2026, which is when the check will be printed for WTA.
12. **July disbursement vouchers.** Town Board members individually reviewed the paid invoice listing and signed it.
13. **Operator License Applications.** *Motion* (Clendenning/Warren) to approve two 1-year Operator Licenses. *Motion carried, 5-0.*
14. **Monthly reports from committees:**

    Public Works: Supervisor Warren stated the committee met tonight, topics discussed: 48th St. and 64th St. project updates, equipment repairs, and auction items. Future agenda items: two ditch projects, replacing bark on walking trail between Heritage Ridge and Lake Wazeecha.

    Airport Commission: Supervisor Warren reported on the 8/6/2026 meeting, which included the following: bidding for terminal rehab project, lower fuel sales in July than normal, fence repair.

    Recycling, Solid Waste & Water: Did not meet.

    Plan Commission: Clerk Dotter reported that per Zoning Administrator Eichhorn, Plan Commission met on 8/10/2026, topics discussed: chicken permit approval, permit term for future approval of temporary carnival events at Grand Rapids Lions Club, review of 52.7 Sign Ordinance draft which can now be reviewed at a future Legislative Committee meeting.

    Public Buildings: Did not meet.

    Legislative: Did not meet.

    Public Safety: Did not meet.

    Economic Development: Supervisor Clendenning stated the committee met tonight to approve minutes from their last meeting.

    Personnel: Did not meet.

    WTA: Supervisor Clendenning reported on the 7/17/2026 meeting that was hosted by Town of Hansen in Pittsville. Representative from Gardner Cranberry spoke, along with Ron Johnson's representative, and Steve Dickinsen from WTA. The next meeting will be 8/21/2026.
15. **Reports from individual Town Board Members.** Supervisor Warren thanked the community for their support at Kellner's Corn Fest, Grand Rapids FD and PD for their assistance in helping things run smoothly, and Chief Zurfluh and Supervisor Radtke for serving as guest judges. Supervisor Clendenning stated the Town should invest in microphones/sound equipment and virtual meetings. Clerk Dotter replied that the Public Buildings Committee had been given that task a couple of years ago and were supposed to be looking into options to bring a recommendation to the Board.
16. **Future agenda items** Attorney Abts will have a letter drafted to the City of WR for Board members to review. Clerk Dotter stated there will be items brought forward from the last Legislative Committee meeting.
17. **Adjourn** *Motion* (Clendenning/Grosskreutz) to adjourn. *Motion carried, 5-0.* Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Minutes subject to board approval.
Respectfully submitted and approved

This _____ day of _____, 2026

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Lisa Dotter, Town Clerk