

TOWN OF EMPIRE

Monthly Meeting

April 8th, 2026

Chairman Richard Julka called the monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Empire to order at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, April 8th, 2026, at the Empire town hall. Notice and agenda of this meeting was sent to the Town's official newspaper, the Reporter, and a copy is on file with the Town Clerk.

Present at the meeting were Richard Julka Chairman Scott Schnettler and Ted Halbur, Supervisors, Nikki Pierquet, Town Clerk, Gail Schindelholz, Treasurer, Mike Morgan, Deputy Clerk, Tom Schindelholz, Trish Schnettler, Mitch and Errin Hinz, Pamela and David Biddick, Jim Daleiden, Mark Grahl, Kay Urban, Scott Johnson, Tom Wiedmeyer, Anthony and Rita Jesop.

Chairman Richard Julka announced that a quorum was present and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. No additions or corrections needed.

Supervisor Halbur made a motion to approve minutes. Seconded by Supervisor Schnettler all in favor the March 2026 monthly meeting minutes were approved.

First on the agenda, discuss/act on the plan commission recommendations for Mitch and Errin Hinz which was to approve the rezoning of the 11.756 Acres on Butternut Rd part of parcel number T08-15-18-22-06-003-00 From A1 to A2. After some discussion and Chairman Julka mentioning that the town has no plans to maintain the unusually long driveway as a town road. Supervisor Schnettler said he was not in favor of the rezoning. Supervisor Halbur motioned to approve the plan commission's recommendation Chairman Julka 2nd the motion, the motion passed.

Next on the agenda Pamela Foti and David Biddick of W4415 Mary Hill Park Dr. They discussed ongoing issues with the HOA and asked questions about the town's ordinances on long term rentals. The board advised that there are no town ordinances for long term rental, just short term rentals, the Biddicks told the board that they are no longer doing short term rentals. The board advised them to seek legal counsel for any other issues they are having with the HOA.

Next on the agenda is to discuss/update on the Danny Lane project. No one from that project was present at the meeting so it will be added to the May agenda to be discussed at that time.

Next on the agenda is to Discuss/Act on the Roads Resolution. WTA asked towns to adopt this resolution asking the government to make road funding easier to access and that they make the funding of local roads a top priority. Supervisor Halbur motioned to approve the 2026-04-01 roads resolution. Supervisor Schnettler 2nd the motion all in favor motion passed.

Next on the agenda Discuss/Update on Poplar Rd Culvert. Chairman Julka updated that the culvert is on order and will hopefully be delivered in the next week to 10 days. There is currently still too much standing water to begin working on it in. Hopefully once the culvert arrives the water level will be down.

Next on the agenda: Discuss the attorney bill for John Diedrich. John had spoken to Chairman Julka and asked that we look further into the bill that he was sent, Chairman Julka asked Clerk Pierquet to verify that the amount was correct and he would let Mr Diedrich know that we have double checked the amount and what is due.

Next on the agenda Discuss/update on the infrastructure grant. Chair Julka discussed that he and Clerk Pierquet met and filled out the needed paperwork to apply for the grant. The town applied for grants for the bridge on Mill Rd and culvert on Artesian Rd. We won't know if we are awarded Grants until the end of July at the earliest.

Next on the agenda appoint John Lloyd as an election inspector for the two year term 1/1/2026-12/31/2027

Next on the agenda discuss/act on Bellin Health Drug testing(DOT required testing) price increase for 2026. The price increased \$3 per test. Supervisor Schnettler motioned to approve the new Bellin health contract Supervisor Halbur 2nd the motion all in favor motion passed.

Next on the agenda Discuss/Act on the watershed meeting on May 14th. Supervisor Schnettler said he would be willing to attend the meeting. Supervisor Halbur motioned to pay for Supervisor Schnettler to attend the meeting. Chairman Julka 2nd the motion all in favor motion passed.

Next on the agenda Discuss/Act on hiring someone to spray for wild parsnips. The board had a company inquire about spraying wild parsnips. After checking with John to get his thoughts it was decided that it wasn't necessary to hire someone to spray. The town will keep mowing them early in the summer as we have been advised to do to control them.

The last item on the agenda update on the wind turbines. We haven't heard anything from the wind turbine company but the land owners have a new contract and we will be hearing from them soon.

Report on Town Correspondence

Supervisor Schnettler mentioned he received the notice from Zieglbauer that the town hall septic needs to be pumped. Clerk Pierquet will call them and get it set up to be pumped.

Clerk Pierquet asked about the possibility of having an absentee ballot drop box installed at the town hall. She will begin looking into the cost of getting one installed and the requirements.

Public comments.

Anthony and Rita Jesop asked what the requirements were for building a shed on their 2nd lot they own on Pheasant Run. The board advised that they would need to combine the 2 lots into 1 lot since town ordinances do not allow a shed on a lot without a primary residence.

They were also advised to check their subdivision rules about having sheds in their subdivision.

The town was asked about posting children at play signs on Eleanore Ln. There are several small children and one with special needs in that area and they are concerned with how fast people are driving through the area. Chairman Julka said the town would look into the cost.

Bills were approved and paid.

A motion was made to adjourn by Supervisor Schnettler, seconded by Supervisor Halbur, all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35p.m.

Nicole Pierquet

Town Clerk

These minutes were taken at a meeting of the Town of Empire Board held on April 8th, 2026, and entered in this record book on this 13th day of May 2026.

Nicole Pierquet

Town Clerk