OCTOBER 12, 2026 MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Tony Wolff called the monthly meeting of the Town Board of Cedar Lake to order at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held at the Cedar Lake Town Hall in Mikana. Present: Chairman, Tony Wolff, Supervisors, Kory Weiss and Jim Ludwig, Treasurer, Gladys Roux, Clerk, Cindy Zuleger. There were 11 members of the public.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Tony to accept the minutes from the September 14, 2026 monthly board meeting, seconded by Kory, all were in favor, motion passed.

Public Input and Memorial Tribute

A Tribute to Todd Robert Barthen Sr.

May 10, 1967 – September 27, 2026

In a small town like ours, when we lose someone to illness, the loss is felt throughout the community. Especially when that someone has contributed so much to the place we call home.

Todd Barthen was one of those people.

Todd was a craftsman who took great pride in his work. Many of us have benefited from his skills and dedication over the years. In fact, our own Town Hall stands as a reminder of his craftsmanship, with its metal roof and wheelchair-accessible ramp, both the result of Todd's hard work.

And if you ever drove past Todd's home on a weekend, chances are you saw him outside, tending to his garden, mowing his lawn, or making sure everything around his property was just the way he wanted it. That was Todd. He took pride in everything he did, and whatever the job, he believed in doing it right.

But Todd was more than a skilled craftsman. He was a good neighbor, a friend, and a man you could count on when you needed a helping hand. He was also a proud Army veteran who served his country as a Ranger.

Above all, Todd was a husband, father, and grandfather who loved his family dearly.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Todd fought his share of battles in this life, including his final battle with illness. He faced them with the same strength and determination that so many of us admired in him.

His work here is finished, but what he built, the people he helped, and the friendships he made will remain part of this community for years to come.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, Judi, his sons, Todd Jr. and Devin, his grandchildren, and all his family and friends.

Todd will be missed, but he will not be forgotten.

I would ask everyone to please join me in a moment of silence as we remember Todd Barthen and give thanks for his life and his contributions to our community.

Financial Report

- Monthly Financials:
  - Beginning of Month Balance (All Accounts): $673,710.24
  - Deposits: $1,737.17
  - Interest: $1,434.84
  - Withdrawals: $26,454.42
  - Outstanding Checks: $4,108.24
  - End of Month Bank Balance: $646,319.59

- Buckthorn Account:
  - Beginning Balance: $7,215.72
  - Deposits: $270.00
  - Withdrawals: $210.00
  - End Balance: $7,275.72

- Fireworks Account:
  - Beginning Balance: $13,499.63
  - Interest: $10.54
  - End Balance: $13,510.17

Road Report

- Projects and Operations:
  - Excavation and reshaping of the East Lakeshore/Lemler intersection are complete; paving deferred to next year.
  - County began hauling gravel for the Bayfield loop on 2026-10-12, expected to finish 2026-10-13.
  - Roadside mowing is ongoing.
  - Salt and sand supplies are adequate; will source more from the county as needed.
- Equipment and Infrastructure:
  - Need to establish market value for a plow truck to prepare for sale.
  - Bridge inspection reports note non-critical maintenance (e.g., cracks, approaches); repairs exceed in-house capacity and will be contracted for summer 2027.

Birchwood Four Corners Emergency Services

- Service Statistics:
  - Fire Department had 1 lift-assist this last month (58 YTD vs. 77 last year).

    - EMS handled 11 calls for the month, one of those in Cedar Lake (168 YTD vs. 157 last year), average dispatch-to-en-route time ~ 5:45 minutes.
    - National Prescription Drug Take Back Day: 2026-10-24, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Fire Department. ♻️

Old Business

- Speed Limit Discussion
    - Consider reducing unposted gravel road speeds from 35 mph to 25 mph due to increased residential density and dust control.
    - Legal criteria: driveway spacing under 150 feet allows a 10 mph reduction without a state speed study.
    - Evaluated posting signs primarily at main blacktop entry points (estimated 16–20 signs) versus every gravel road.
    - Considered town-wide ordinance requirements.
    - Will research Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) legal guidance and the State Statutes to determine exact signage requirements before drafting an ordinance.

New Business

- Fire Department Budget Approval
    - Discussed the rising district operational costs and requested earlier coordination next year regarding tax levy impacts.
    - Tony made a motion, seconded by Kory to approve the 2027 Birchwood Four Corners Emergency Services District budget. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- Town Treasurer Tax Bond:
    - Liberty Mutual discontinued standalone tax bond coverage; alternative quotes range from $1,912 to over 4,000.
    - There is a possibility to create an ordinance to exempt the treasurer from being bonded.
    - Gladys contacted Rural Mutual in Rice Lake for an affordable 3-month bond quote. She is waiting to hear back from them with the numbers. As of now it is looking like this will be a good route for us. We will also consider requesting Rural Mutual quotes for general municipal insurance ahead of the next cycle; with a note of checking on the ongoing litigation which may impact switching providers.

- Fire Department Loan Refinancing::
    - A missed initial loan payment from October 2022 necessitated restructuring to allow levy inclusion for the remaining balance (approx. 47,000) through October 2027.

- Tony made a motion, seconded by Jim to adopt a resolution authorizing borrowing up to $52,500 from Dairy State Bank at 5.74% annual interest for the final payment on the fire department building project. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Correspondence

- No correspondence this month

Tony made a motion, seconded by Kory to pay the bills and adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

This meeting was posted at the Town Hall, Red Cedar Country Store, LLBC and the Town of Cedar Lake website.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Zuleger, Clerk
Town of Cedar Lake

OCTOBER 14, 2026 BUDGET WORK MEETING

Chairman Tony Wolff called the budget work meeting of the Town Board of Cedar Lake to order at 10:00 am. The meeting was held at the Cedar Lake Town Hall in Mikana. Present: Chairman, Tony Wolff, Supervisors, Kory Weiss and Jim Ludwig, Treasurer, Gladys Roux, Clerk, Cindy Zuleger. There was 1 member of the public present.

Discussions were held on all items of the budget as to whether they needed to be raised or lowered for the upcoming year.

Tony made a motion, seconded by Jim to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

This meeting was posted at the Town Hall, Red Cedar Country Store and the Town of Cedar Lake website.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Zuleger, Clerk
Town of Cedar Lake

OCTOBER 20, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING

Chairman Tony Wolff called the special meeting of the Town Board of Cedar Lake to order at 3:00 pm. The meeting was held at the Cedar Lake Town Hall in Mikana. Present: Chairman, Tony Wolff, Supervisor, Jim Ludwig, Clerk, Cindy Zuleger. There were no members of the public present.

The meeting was held to set the date of the Budget Hearing and Special Town Meeting of Electors to approve the Levy and Budget in November. Tony made a motion, seconded by Jim to set the date for the Budget Hearing and Special Meetings for 2027 budget and levy on Monday, November 9, 2026 at 6 PM at the Cedar Lake Town Hall. All were in favor. Motion passed. The monthly meeting will follow the adjournment of this hearing and special meeting.

Tony made a motion seconded by Jim to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

This meeting was posted at the Town Hall, Red Cedar Country Store and the Town of Cedar Lake website.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Zuleger, Clerk
Town of Cedar Lake