

Town of Caledonia
Columbia County

**N5479 Beich Road
Portage, WI 53901**

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NOTICE to the Electors of the Town of Caledonia,,Columbia County, Portage, Wisconsin:
The following town meetings are scheduled to be held at the Caledonia Town Hall located at N5479 Beich Road. All meetings are open to the public.. Town Board Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of the month, at 6:00 pm, unless otherwise noticed.

Office hours are held every Monday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. except holidays.

Town of Caledonia Board Meeting
August 24, 2026
Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: Draft

1. Call the Town Board Meeting to order and certify compliance with the open meetings law:

Chair Considine called the meeting to order after Clerk Davis certified compliance with Open Meetings Law at 6:01 p.m. Those in attendance: Chair Dave Considine, Supervisor Jim Zamzow, Supervisor Tom Considine, Treasurer Kara Paske, Clerk Barb Davis, Deputy Clerk Lorisa Harvey, Deb Osterhof, Melissa Miller Hayes, John Konopacki, Chuck Otto, Clair Walmer, Christopher Blau, Jacob Goetz, John Exo, Randy Holler, Keving Fregien,

*Announcement: meetings will be recorded going forward to support AI-assisted note-taking/minutes; attendees informed.

2. Approval of the agenda: Supervisor Zamzow made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Supervisor Considine seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Review and approve previous meeting minutes: August 10, 2026: Supervisor Considine made a motion to change the Board of Review minutes with the correction: 8/10/26 Agenda, #3 Change

Tom Considine and Jim Zamzow roles were swapped; corrected to reflect Tom as Vice Chair.

4. Questions from the Floor/Communications:

- A. New refuge-site message board arrived; will be erected within about a week (mounted on two green-treated posts).
- B. Alliant Energy policy change: calls due to electric lines will no longer be automatically reimbursed; they will investigate and deny if deemed “act of God” (e.g., storms). Two recent billed calls were denied; another storm-related one may be denied as well. Clerk will forward the letter to the board
- C. Durward’s Glen Road (off 78): residents raised concern about a very deep ditch near barricade.
 - Board noted awareness; Next steps described: coordinate with county; obtain DNR permit first (water flowing through culvert).
 - Concept plan: place boulders near/over guardrail area and build out from road back into the creek, subject to DNR constraints.
- D. Merrimac Fire Department proposed change to emergency services billing structure:
 - \$250 max for EMS calls; \$500 max for fire calls.
 - Billing proposal would bill townships (not individuals), similar to Portage’s model; would cover both fire and ambulance.
 - Next Merrimac Fire Commission meeting: Oct 5, 7:00 PM (public meeting); proposal expected to be reviewed and then recommended to the relevant town boards.

5. Discussion of Reed Spang and John Konopacki and the Town's involvement:

- Board revisited as planned; town has no involvement/authority to resolve the situation.
- County indicated Reed could apply for a private driveway permit but cannot expand it to a commercial driveway due to space limitations.
- Board concluded there is nothing actionable for the town at this time.

6. Discussion and Consideration of Switching Credit Card Company for the Town:

- Current credit card is through US Bank (bank no longer used for primary town banking); no rewards/benefits.
- Administrative need: remove Barb and add Lorisa to the card.
- Estimated spend discussed: ~\$700/month (~\$8,400/year); 2% rewards could yield about ~\$168/year (not large but positive).
- Motion passed authorizing Kara and the chair to research and switch to a commercial credit card, with requirement that it be a no-fee card

7. Discussion and Consideration of opposition to the 765 kV Transmission Project:

- Public raised concerns and requested the town oppose the 765kV transmission project due to impacts on property values, land use, agriculture, wildlife, and other effects.
- Board discussed:
 - Need for more information before the board formally takes a position; at least one board member not ready to decide yet.

- Importance of informing residents/landowners quickly; individuals encouraged to submit comments and attend meetings.
- Questions raised about why the project cannot follow existing utility corridors; state law requires consideration of existing rights-of-way (concern expressed it may not be happening).
- Mentioned: \$500 offers for land access/studies: board characterized this as requiring signing an agreement granting ongoing access rights; residents cautioned not to sign/take money if they oppose.
- Meetings noted (drop-in format):
 - Sauk County meeting: 10:00 AM–1:00 PM at UW–Baraboo/Sauk County (BUU referenced in discussion).
 - Poynette meeting: 4:00 PM–7:00 PM at Whispering Pines on Bethel Drive.
- Approach agreed in discussion:
 - Focus now on publishing/distributing informational materials (including landowner forms, bill of rights, and questions to ask).
 - residents also advised to contact senators/congressional representatives.

8. Discussion of Recommendation to review Future Land Use Policy for Town of Caledonia:

- Current future land use policy/map has not been reviewed/updated for decades (created historically; exact decade uncertain).
- County GIS “future use” layer is not the town’s official map; the official map is the hand-drawn map/document kept at town level.
- Motion passed: request Planning & Zoning Committee to review the town’s future land use policy and return with a proposal for updates/changes.

9. Discussion and Consideration of Refuse Site Employee Agreement and Refuse Site Porta Potty:

- Reviewed draft employee agreement for the Caledonia Refuge site; edits requested before finalizing.
- Still investigating options; monthly rental pricing discussed:
 - Cheapest found: \$120/month (considered unaffordable).
 - Another discussed: \$155/month.
- Plan: continue investigating affordable solutions.

10. Discussion and Consideration of lowering two culverts on Lake Rd.:

- Lake Road culverts (two close together / four culverts discussed):
 - Board visited site and measured.
 - Constraint: coordination with power company due to power lines near culverts.
 - **Decision (motion passed):** Hire the county to re-dig/lower the culverts on Lake Road to **28 inches below the benchmark** established on the power pedestal.
 - Cost estimate not yet obtained at time of vote.

11. Discussion and Consideration of removal of dead trees along Blackhawk Rd:

- Identified three dead trees near road: two township trees and one on landowner property leaning over the road.
- Landowner offered to handle wood removal if the trees are cut down.
- **Decision (motion passed):** Ask the county to cut down all three trees; wood to be cut into lengths on the landowner's property, with landowner responsible for wood removal; county expected to clear brush/twigs from the road as needed.

12. Discussion and Consideration of Jim Zamzow attending WTA training September 15th at Deer Valley Lodge, Barneveld, WI for \$75.

- **Decision (motion passed):** Approve Jim Zamzow attending WTA training on September 15 at Deer Valley Lodge (Barnerville) for \$75.

13. Discussion and Consideration of Dave Considine and Lorisa Harvey attending WTA training September 21st at Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI for \$75 each:

- **Decision (motion passed):** Approve \$75 each for training on September 21 for Dave and Lorisa (includes clerk-specific sessions).

14. Roads Report:

- Krejchik Road: gravel placed; completed per contract.
- Rowley Road: not started; county behind; expected start after Labor Day.
- Other items mentioned:
 - Tritz Road (near interstate): three failed culverts; working with DNR; hoped to qualify for bridge aid with the county (likely next year).
 - Krejchik Road: failed box culvert to replace next year (not this year).
 - Fox Glen Road: next potential repair if budget allows next year; LRIP program mentioned (~\$10,000; limited impact).
- Concern raised: Fox Glen Road pothole patching quality was poor/incomplete and considered dangerous due to swerving traffic (especially with tourists/campsite traffic); follow-up to check condition noted.

15. Treasurer's Report/Payment of Bills:

- Vouchers presented (partial election worker payroll included) and transfer approved.
- **Decision (motion passed):** Transfer \$18,665.67 from Summit Municipal Savings to Summit Checking; required three signatures/initials.

16. Next Meeting Agenda: Monday, September 14

17. Adjournment: Supervisor Considine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Supervisor Zamzow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Posted 8/27/26

Lorisa Harvey, Deputy Clerk