# Town of Winchester

8522 Park Way, Larsen, WI 54947

# Town Board Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER
1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Verification of Notice
3. Roll Call:

| | |
|---|---|
| Chair Olson | Present |
| Supervisor Miller | Excused |
| Supervisor Pavlik | Present |
| Treasurer Kreutzberg | Present |
| Clerk Stevens | Present |

Public Attendance: 14

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 21, 2026 Town Board Meeting Minutes.

Chair Olson postponed approval of the minutes because Supervisor Miller was not at the meeting to vote and Supervisor Pavlik was excused from the September 21st meeting and therefore cannot approve the minutes.

**POSTPONED to the next meeting.**

C. REPORTS

1. Winnebago County Board District 36 Representative

County Board Representative Howard Miller reported that they continue to work on the budget and reported that Executive Hintz had planned four informational meetings throughout the month to explain the 2027 budget.

2. Winnebago County Comprehensive Plan Update Ad Hoc Committee

Supervisor Pavlik reported that the next meeting is October 15, 2026 but he is not able to attend. He said he is looking for an alternative representative to attend in his stead.

D. BUSINESS REFERRED BY THE PLAN COMMISSION – None

E. BUSINESS

1. Flock Cameras in the Town of Winchester

Sheriff John Matz and Captain Darin Rice presented information about the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department policies and practices relating to Flock cameras.

Sheriff Matz reported that the County has cancelled their contract with Flock which was done in part due to public sentiment. However, he wanted to explain the importance of the automatic license plate reader (ALPR) cameras. He said they would talk about how and why they used the cameras and how the department holds themselves accountable for the data usage.

Sheriff Matz explained that they had contracted with Flock and the department had leased 15 cameras which were placed at the main thoroughfares in nonresidential areas throughout the county. He said he wanted to clarify that the stored information was NOT sold by Flock. He also noted that it was reported that the County's data was released through out of state agencies to fulfill Freedom of Information Requests. He said that did happen but the only information that was released was a complaint number and the type of call – no plate numbers or vehicle data was given out.

Sheriff Matz said they did allow access to other agencies because that gave them access to cameras nationwide. He said that hundreds of agencies throughout the U.S., but they did not share any information with federal agencies, including I.C.E.

Sheriff Matz explained that the public disapproval of the system was founded in misunderstanding. He said the cameras do not have facial recognition capabilities. They capture vehicle data only at a given point in time.

Sheriff Matz said the department used it as an investigative tool He said the cameras did not replace the investigative process that officers perform. He said they would get the data and then would have to follow up to confirm whatever the camera system was telling them. He said it gave them the capability to verify and eliminate suspects. He said the camera information assisted with the apprehension of some very violent offenders.

Captain Darin Rice explained the Flock Camera 'hotlist'. He said that officers can add a plate number to the list and if it is captured on a camera in the system, an alert is sent to notify the investigating officer. He said the networked cameras allowed the officers to expand their search to a much broader area.

Captain Rice explained that typical hotlist entries included stolen vehicles; wanted or missing persons; active suspects in homicide, suspected homicide, kidnapping, armed robbery, child sexual exploitation, and sexual assault; amber alerts, silver alerts, and green alerts.

Captain Rice explained that for an officer to search in the Flock system, they must enter certain required information including an offense type, case number, and a reason for the search. Without this very specific information, officers cannot get into the system. He explained the offense types are also limited to more egregious offenses including disturbing the peace, a riot, driving under the influence, drugs, narcotics, extortion, black mail, financial crimes, gambling, hit and run, accidents, homicide, death investigations, human trafficking, etc. He explained that only certain offense types can be put into the system so without that, the data is not available to officers. He said these are built in safeguards in the system. Officers cannot randomly search for information.

Captain Rice explained that any data returned in the searches required verification by human officers. He said they never took the camera data at its face and always followed up with an officer who led investigation.

Captain Rice also explained that there is an accountability officer who performs regular checks for all officers using the system. Audits were conducted to confirm that no improper access occurred. They confirmed every officer's usage history to make sure their searches were related to active investigations. The audits also confirmed that all the cameras were functional. Captain Rice also noted that the cameras also have built-in internal audits which would flag questionable activity.

Sheriff Matz explained that there are very common items which track personal data including wi-fi networks, TV streaming services, smartphones, smart rings, earbuds, fitness trackers, home appliances, etc. He said all of these things track personal data. He added that newer vehicles track very specific information about you. He said they need a warrant to get it but if you are in an accident or something, they can get that data and know how you drive, how you brake, if you use

your turn signals, if you speed, etc. said you are being tracked all the time. Sheriff Matz noted that you made that decision to have those things and you did not make the choice to have an ALPR camera, but you are being tracked almost everywhere you go. He also noted that Walmart, Sams Club, Target, Lowes, Menards, Costco, Home Depot, Meier, etc. Toll booths use them too.

Sheriff Matz explained the case law from 1983 which found that anyone traveling on a public thoroughfare has no reasonable expectation of privacy. He noted there is additional case law that found that motorists do not have any expectation of privacy relating to their license plates since they are traveling in public with them in plain view. Sheriff Matz said he understands the concerns, but it is not a constitutional invasion of privacy.

Sheriff Matz detailed information about successes that were directly benefited by the use of the Flock camera system. The cases included the Winneconne road rage shooting a couple years ago, Grand Chute armed robbery and kidnapping, Oshkosh armed robbery, repeat Oshkosh domestic violence offender and drug related charges, Town of Rushford domestic violence offender, Town of Winneconne child sexual exploitation case, Oshkosh stabbing suspect apprehended, Town of Oshkosh sexual assault of a minor suspect apprehended, financial fraud ring was identified and led to millions of dollars of fraud identified – the case has now been taken over by the FBI, Kewanee County welfare check for suicidal/homicidal threat suspect found, silver alerts found through flock within 48 minutes of the alert being issued.

Sheriff Matz noted that not having these cameras will most certainly make their job harder. He said he thinks this is the greatest tool that made the greatest difference for law enforcement in his entire 37 years in law enforcement. He said it put officers on a much more level playing field with the criminals. He said he believes that there needs to be legislation passed to regulate it, but it is an amazing tool. He said the state Sheriff's association is working with legislators to develop the regulation. He said they are looking for legislation that will define what it can be used for and that will make it a crime if it is misused. He said that with any tools that they have, there is the potential for abuse. But this tool is one of the biggest developments for law enforcement ever.

Sheriff Matz noted that if you remember the Jaime Kloss case. If they had had an ALPR camera, she would have been found much faster. He noted that as many people who have concerns over the equipment, he has had an equal number of people who want it used as long as the data is secured.

Jon Olson, 6182 Furman Road, noted that it is a powerful tool, but it can also be misused. He asked if the Wisconsin computer tampering laws able to be used against law enforcement if the system is misused. Or can anyone who receives or purchases data – can existing laws be used to prosecute them if they use it nefariously.

Sheriff Matz said the existing laws can be used. He said his department has never had a breach. However, that does not mean it isn't possible. He said he is confident in their system though.

Jon Olson said what laws will be used to charge people who may illegally gain access and use the data to black mail someone or to do other criminal use of the information.

Sheriff Matz said that there are laws in place that address those circumstances. He said there are state laws and federal laws. He said he is comfortable with the laws that would apply.

JR Schroeder, 8626 Angoli Way, explained his background is 35 years in cyber security. He said he understands how powerful this tool is. He said he also has a lot of respect for the job that law enforcement does. He said nothing that he is going to say about his concerns should take away from that respect for law enforcement. He continued to explain that he filed a records request for information relating to the Flock contracts, County Board minutes, Judiciary Public Committee

minutes, etc. and what he received was extremely disappointing. He said that whoever processed the request should do a better job with the fulfillment.

Sheriff Matz said he understands what he is saying. He also noted that there are two people in the department who process about 4,000 requests a year, so it is unbelievable what they get requests for. He said there often are a lot of redactions that has to be done, so the fulfillment process is difficult.

JR Schroeder said that the other concern that he has is the policies relating to the system. He noted that from what he could find, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department is far ahead of a lot of the other agencies. He said there is still room for improvement in the policies. He noted that right now, it says reasonable suspicion or probable cause is not necessary to use the resource. But Flock has already started to build in securities which go against exactly what the policy says. He said there is opportunity there.

Sheriff Matz explained that sometimes you need to research in order to advance cases.

JR Schroeder asked if the data from the cameras is still available to Flock to sell even though the contract has been cancelled.

Sheriff Matz explained that the data belongs to the Sheriff's Department and Flock cannot, has not, and will not have access to it to sell it. He also noted that he was on recently on a call with the state Sheriff's association and Flock and they emphatically said they have not sold any data.

Sheriff Matz said Flock will be coming in to take the cameras down. He said the department can't take them down because they belong to Flock and if they damage them, they would be liable for them.

JR Schroeder said that Flock has recently released information about new capabilities that their system is capable of doing. He said that some of it is rather concerning. He said it is great technology, but it is being rushed into the system without proper safeguards. He said if the County chooses to reenter a contract with Flock in the future, or another ALPR system, he would ask that more meetings like this one precede the actual implementation of the equipment. He said it is essential that the community understands how the cameras are used and how their information is protected.

Scott Sorenson, 8322 Pine Cone Circle, said he is on the opposite side, and he said that he thinks the benefits of the tool far outweigh the potential abuse. Additionally, there are changes in process to minimize or even eliminate the potential for abuse and he thinks the examples given in which crimes were solved due, at least in part, by the camera data, demonstrate how beneficial the tool is. He said he would ask what would be involved in getting the next system in place.

Sheriff Matz said that he agrees that there needs to be more public education about the tool. He said the decisions regarding the camera use will be up to the next Sheriff. He said he is not sure when or what will happen.

2. November 2, 2026 Regular Town Board Meeting – Reschedule or Cancel due to Election

Clerk Stevens reported that a regular Town Board Meeting falls on November 2, 2026, the evening prior to the November 3 General Election which is anticipated to have significant voter turn-out. To be properly prepared for election day, it is necessary to have the polling place fully set up prior to the election which precludes the facilitation of a Board meeting the evening of November 2. With no current business items scheduled for the meeting, Clerk Stevens recommended canceling the meeting.

**MOTION:**
**Motion by Supervisor Pavlik**
**Second by Chair Olson**
**Motion to cancel the regular Town Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2026 due to the facility prep and use for the November 3, 2026 General Election.**

**Roll Call:**

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| **Chair Olson** | **Aye** |
| **Supervisor Pavlik** | **Aye** |

**Motion carried by a vote of 2-0.**

F. CORRESPONDENCE – None

G. APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

Clerk Stevens presented the accounts payable.

**MOTION:**
**Motion by Supervisor Pavlik**
**Second by Chair Olson**
**Motion to approve the accounts payable as presented.**

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

H. NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Olson said the next Town Board meeting will be on October 19, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

No requests for agenda items were made.

I. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:**
**Motion by Supervisor Pavlik**
**Second by Chair Olson**
**Motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.**

**Motion carried.**

Approved this 19th day of October 2026

Holly Stevens, Clerk