

Village of Soldiers Grove – Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 10, 2026

Regular Board Meeting: 6:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Shayne Chapman, Vicki Campbell, Sarah Kemp, Marla Walsh, and Jill Quandahl.

Public Input

- Phil Carey spoke regarding multiple concerns; he sent an email prior to the meeting for the board members to review so he did not take up much time. 1. The loss of the two 100 year-old maple trees on Pine Street would've been a travesty and an environmental disaster. Soldiers Grove could be a Tree City USA community, but you have to stop cutting down the trees that we have left. I understand the reason to cut these trees was that they could buckle the sidewalk and they were in the ROW which gave you the right to do that. All across America trees buckle sidewalks everyday but are spared from the axe by creative thinkers and planners who find ways to work around that and save the trees. Please stop cutting down the trees we have left. Most of the old growth trees on Pine St have met their fate at the hands of axe wielding do gooders. Please save the trees.
- The open burning of green brush soaked with diesel fuel within the village limits must stop. No resident should be subjected to the smoke created by this and it is just environmentally wrong to do that. Please consider a chipper as an alternative. You can't keep ignoring the residents you are impacting on who have asked you to stop.
- After offering multiple options for encroaching into the ROW with my garage and never receiving an answer, I surveyed the property and have enough room to locate the garage on the west side of the house. The Fortney's and the Carey's both would like the platted street to remain and for the village to consider street improvements.
- With regard to the street improvements, we have established that the village has no stormwater drainage easement onto the Carey property. While previously serving the village with a cease and desist order, I withdrew that in the spirit of good faith to work with the village. Since then, you've done nothing except disrupt the grade that we worked so hard to get in place when you plow. That grading removed the ponding of water. I politely asked for public works to not plow up the grass and to stop short of where they were plowing, but it continues. Additionally, I would think if I was letting you drain your stormwater that you might be kind enough to plow my side of Third Street, but when I asked, I was told the village doesn't have to. I'll allow the village 90 days to come up with a drainage plan.
- When I inquired about the village participation in maintaining the Baker Creek Levee, I received a letter stating that the levee was built with local labor and local equipment and that it was never engineered to federal or state standards and had no Corps of Engineers oversight. Matter closed. The attached newspaper article

from 1971 will contradict almost all of that. While there may have been local labor and equipment this was a USACE project. Regardless, I recognize that the board has no intention of becoming involved in maintaining that levee properly and it's left to me to do what I can to protect my property. That I find disappointing. Of note is that the bolts on the flapper gate mentioned in the article were recently replaced by someone. Whom might that be?

- Lastly, we would like a written apology from Public Works Director Mike Allie who in his infinite wisdom thought it would be a good idea to call the Crawford County Sheriff's department and have not just one but two squad cars and two deputies come to our house to deliver us a notice that we could not park on the street during the months of November to April even though our driveway was full of construction vehicles. Generally, when two uniformed officers approach your front door and you're not a criminal the first thing you think of is somebody has died. That was what happened to my wife when she was 14 and her father had died. I was gone and when she found out about the officers visit, she was panicked. Sorry but truly a bonehead move done out of spite.
- Diane Coleman thanked the board for getting the coin machines installed in the park bathrooms for the showers.

Mike Lepke Excavating, LLC-Pay Application #1

- Bart with Delta 3 Engineering explained that ninety five percent of the rip rap is completed and about forty percent of the excavation is completed. He is hopeful to have the Baker Creek Stream Bank project completed by the end of June. The village will receive credit back for the black dirt that Mike Lepke Excavating will be taking but the amount is unknown as of right now.

Motion Campbell, Second: Quandahl to approve pay application #1 for Mike Lepke Excavation, LLC in the amount of \$37,051.00 for the Baker Creek Stream Bank project. All present aye, motion carried.

Sewer Rate Increase Options

- Bart stated that the Preconstruction meeting for the WWTF Phase 2 project will be June 25th at 10 am. He also stated that he has not received word back from the DNR on how much the revised grant amount the village will be receiving is but he said it will be somewhere around fifty thousand more than the original dedication. The village had requested Delta 3 to put in for the thirty year loan, and that was approved at a zero percent interest rate. The three options for the sewer rate increase were worst case scenario on if the village did not get approved for the thirty year loan and no extra grant monies allocated. Bart explained the annual cost worksheet he provided, which is how they figure the numbers for the increase. He told the board that the sewer replacement fund is required by the DNR to have. Option A would be to increase the base charge forty percent and the volume charge sixty percent, Option B to increase the base charge sixty percent and volume charge

forty percent, and Option C to increase each charge at even fifty percent each. He also stated that on each option they listed a thirty percent increase each year after the initial increase. It was discussed to do a seventy percent increase on the base charge and thirty percent on the volume charge. What will happen is the board gives Delta 3 their opinions, a public hearing will be held on July 8 at 6:00 pm for public comment on the sewer rate increase, then following the board will vote on the option.

Motion Kemp, Second: Campbell to have Delta 3 proceed with analyzing a seventy/thirty sewer rate increase. All present aye, motion carried.

Fire Department Report – Chief Jeannette McCormick

- Not a lot going on right now except getting ready for Dairy Days.
- Had monthly meeting on June 3, which mainly consisted of Dairy Days talk.

CDC Report

- Motion Kemp, Second: Walsh to approve payment of \$540 to Vicki Campbell for the flowers around the village. All present aye, motion carried.

Public Works Report – Public Works Director Michael Allie

- Sprayed weeds around the village
- Burned the brush piles(Yankee Town and in town)
- Stumps from trees that were cut have been ground
- Mark Udelhoven tilled the ball field, will be getting lime spread on the field this weekend
- Made repairs to the out field fence for the ball field
- Started the alley way repairs
- Been replacing road signs
- Had a sewer back up at the park bathrooms, Wallace Heating and Plumbing came in and got the issue fixed as well as installing the coin machines in the park showers.
- Replaced a curb stop in the trailer park
- Getting caught up on mowing the village

- Upcoming items to get done: gate valve repair in the trailer court, rain gutter guard installation on the lions shelter, finish replacing road signs when they come in, finish the alley way, and hydrant flushing.

New Business

2026-2027 Alcohol Beverage License Renewals

- Class A Renewal: R.K. Campbell's One Stop
- Class B Renewals: Walbek Enterprises LLC, William's Bar LLC, Tobacco Warehouse Inn, American Legion Post 220, and Old Oak Inn

Motion Campbell, Second: Walsh to approve all alcohol beverage license renewals if all required information has been submitted. All present aye, motion carried.

2026-2027 Operator License Renewals

- Operator license renewals: Mark Udelhoven, Tara Sheehy, Traci Beyer, Avery Steldt, Marlina Larson, Dan Nelson, Tiffany Nelson, Rae Boyer, Shane DeRudder, Makayla Faust, Tracey VanFleet, Marcey Nelson, Denise Grass, Susan Egge, Elizabeth Welsh, and Breanna Welsh.

Motion Campbell, Second: Kemp to approve operator license renewals if all required information and courses have been submitted. All present aye, motion carried.

2026-2027 Cigarette/Vape License Renewal

- Cigarette/Vape License Renewal: R.K. Campbell's One Stop

Motion Kemp, Second: Walsh to approve the cigarette/vape license renewal if all required documentation has been submitted. All present aye, motion carried.

Donation to Gays Mills Fire Department Fireworks

- Last year's donation amount was \$300.

Motion Campbell, Second: Walsh to approve a donation of \$500 to the Gays Mills Fire Department Fireworks. All present aye, motion carried.

Request to rezone 220 Pine Street from Residential to Commercial

- Campbell stated she didn't understand how the property was residential as Bullwinkle's used to be at the property. It was mentioned that after Bullwinkle's closed the school building was converted into apartments.

Motion Campbell, Second: Quandahl to approve moving forward with the rezoning of 220 Pine Street from residential to commercial. Will hold a public hearing on July 8 at 5:45 pm. All present aye, motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes

May 13, 2026 minutes

Motion: Campbell , Second: Walsh. All present aye, motion carried.

Approval of Monthly Bills

- General: \$34,152.60, Fire: \$1,321.40, Sewer: \$23,491.71, Water: \$991.21, and Library: \$7,864.19.

Motion: Quandahl, Second: Kemp to approve paying all bills. All present aye, motion carried.

Before adjourning the meeting, Campbell brought up the banners for the ball field sponsors, she said she had talked with Jeannette, and they came up with putting the banners on the light towers, so the banners do not disrupt the view of the public watching the baseball/softball games.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Kemp, Second: Quandahl to adjourn at 7:17 PM. All present aye, motion carried.