

VILLAGE OF SOLDIERS GROVE, CRAWFORD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Minutes of a Special Board Meeting held October 8, 2025. Meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Roll Call: Present: Shayne Chapman, Marla Walsh, Vicki Campbell, Sarah Kemp, and Harrison Heilman

Review of the Library Budget for 2026: Campbell stated that she is having an issue with the library wages being seventy seven percent of the budget. With benefits included, Sarah is making 32 dollars a hour. Had Kaitlynn reach out to surrounding libraries to get information on their wages, benefits, and budget amount provided by each municipality. Maura Otis spoke on behalf of the library and stated that every library is different from the benefits provided. Campbell stated her issue is trying to justify the wages portion in the budget. Maura said it is better to compare the library to the school. For 2026, sixty-three thousand dollars of the budget will go towards wages and benefits, leaving only thirty-six thousand dollars for the expenses. Heilman stated that back in 2022, the Village's allocation was fifty-one thousand six hundred fifty-five dollars, the library is asking for fifteen dollars more than what they were given in 2022. Heilman stated he believes what the library is asking for is reasonable. He stated that Sarah has gotten other sources for funding to help with the library expenses in the past and continues to look for other funding options. The library is only open thirty-two hours a week, but the Director gets paid for thirty-five hours, part-time employees work up to seventeen hours per week, Maura stated that a lot of work happens outside of the library open hours as there are required meetings, continued ed hours that need to be met. Maura stated that the Village's only job is to set what the library receives from the Village each year, Campbell stated that the board understands the Village has no control over how the library spends their money, only on the amount the Village gives them. Heilman asked if Campbell was convinced, Campbell stated no, the Village should not pay more than what the counties provide. It was mentioned that about one third of the Village population comes to the library. People rent out DVDs and use computers more than get books. Chapman stated that he agrees with ninety percent of what Campbell had to say. They are not criticizing the library, and it's not that they do not appreciate the library, it is just that some places need to be cut sometimes. Heilman made motion to give the library the two thousand seven hundred fifteen dollars. No one seconded the motion.

Review of the General Budget for 2026: The board was told that more money has been put in the sidewalk budget for 2026 as there are many sidewalks that need repaired. Campbell stated she really wanted to put more money into the equipment fund for 2026 but cannot see where to pull money from. Campbell asked public worker, Jeannette, what equipment is needed. Jeannette stated that in 2026 they will need to upgrade the zero-turn lawn mower, and that they are wanting to get rid of the dump truck and purchase another one ton with a sander. The reason behind that is because the dump truck sits for 7 months out of the year and is only used for plowing, and the only reason they would need the dump truck is to wing the county roads they plow, but Clayton Township goes down the roads as well and can wing them back as they go by. Chapman stated his opinion is to keep the dump truck and to shy away from getting a new one ton. Jeannette stated that if the dump truck breaks down, the County is no longer allowing use of their trucks, so the Village would be down to one plow truck until the other is fixed. Kemp asked about raising the camping fees in 2026, Chapman told her that it will be brought to the board before the camping season begins for 2026.

Review of the Fire, Water, Sewer Budgets for 2026: Fire department is upping Clayton's fire protection by sixteen thousand dollars as most of the calls that come in are for Clayton Township. No changes are made to the water and sewer budgets.

Motion by Heilman, second by Walsh to approve the Library Budget for 2026. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Campbell, second by Heilman to approve the General Budget for 2026. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Campbell, second by Kemp to approve the Fire, Water, and Sewer Budgets for 2026. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Heilman, second by Kemp to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(f), for personnel matters. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Walsh, second by Campbell to reconvene to open session, pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(2). All present aye, motion carried.

No discussion when returning to open session. No motions made from closed session discussion.

Motion by Walsh, second by Kemp to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm. All present aye, motion carried.