

Village of Soldiers Grove – Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 9, 2026

Regular Board Meeting: 6:13 PM

Board Members Present:

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

Public Input

- Diane Coleman asked about the room tax amount that went to Driftless Art Festival, how much they received and if any of the other events in the Village has received portions of the room tax as well.

Fire Department Report – Chief Jeannette McCormick

- Buildings have been painted, does come with a one year warranty if paint peels or anything happens
- Vernon Health Night out was a huge success
- September 16 doing a fundraiser at Pizza Ranch in Prairie du Chien, about 7 members will be going down to help clear tables, greet guests. Will be doing a 50/50 raffle and department gets a portion of the sales made that night, will also be selling the fall fundraiser raffle tickets that evening
- October 18 will be hosting a trivia night at the legion starting at 3. \$20 per team, 4 person teams
- Fall fundraiser will be November 14th at the Legion, will be doing the large gun raffle, basket raffles, 50/50 raffle, will be serving pulled pork and brisket. Solar Meats is donating a huge portion of the meat for the fundraiser so the department's cost for the entire fundraiser will be \$300. Members will be donating all the extra food for the meal.
- Money raised at all the above fundraisers will be put toward new gear for the members. The current gear expired in February of this year. Got quotes on gear for one person is roughly \$3,600 to \$3,800 without SCBAs but we purchased new ones already
- The Tanker is up for sale, have had 4 persons interested and made offers

CDC Report

- Consideration/Possible action of proposed settlement of Driftless Brewery CDC Loan-Michael and Lisa Varnes-Epstein: Campbell gave a back story on when the brewery came to the village for the loan. Said they originally came and asked for

\$20,000, which was the max amount the CDC would loan out, a while later they came back for another \$10,000 to purchase more equipment. Campbell stated she was not for it and voted against, but it passed. With the CDC loans they get the prime interest rate. Campbell stated she is against letting them pay off \$10,000, feels the entire loan should be paid in full. Chapman explained that the partnership failed, so the Varnes-Epsteins are just wanting to clear up fifty percent of the loan and clear their name from it. Kemp mentioned having the attorney draw up an agreement that the Varnes-Epsteins pay the \$10,000 releasing them but Balistreri and Olmstead still be responsible for the remaining \$9,626.22 portion of the loan.

Motion: Campbell, Second: Kemp to accept the \$10,000 payment from Michael and Lisa Varnes-Epstein and release them from the loan but Christopher Balistreri and Cynthia Olmstead still be responsible for the remaining amount of \$9,626.22. All present aye, motion carried.

Public Works Report – Public Works Assistant Jeannette McCormick

- Made rock wall around the cemetery sign and put decorative rock around it
- Put decorative rock around the Soldiers Grove sign at Digger's sand pit
- Sprayed weeds around town
- Cut down overgrown brush at the Turnmire house; the wall along the sidewalk is falling down. Talk with the attorney on what the Village can do regarding the collapsing wall and the old Bennet house.
- Pulled the flowers from the pots around town as they were dying
- Started to change out the street signs again
- Flushed all the hydrants in town
- Been updating diamond mapping
- Keeping up with the sewer plant upgrade progress; Delta 3 will be at the October meeting to give an update to the board.
- Have continued mowing the village
- The door on the Village side of the building and the cold storage building need to be replaced, chapman had them reach out to Joe Swiggum for a quote. They are just metal doors.

Motion: Campbell, Second: Walsh as long as the doors/labor do not exceed \$2,000, do not need to come to the board for approval. All present aye, motion carried.

Clerk's Report

- Every year I need to have 6 credits of continuous education for Elections, so I have been doing online training to get my credits for the year
- The DNR has changed the recycling requirements, so the Village needs to change our ordinance to match the new requirements. I created the new ordinance with the updated language and have had it approved by the DNR to move forward with the Village adopting it
- We have until September 25th to get the playground equipment out of violation from our campground inspection. We have to paint the stairs to the white slide by the slough, paint the two merry go rounds, and fix the seesaw. Next week myself plus the 3 public workers will be doing the painting, figured if all four of us did it, we could knock it out in one day
- Been working on the 2027 budgets, hit a standstill as waiting on numbers from the state, the draft budgets will be provided to the board in October
- FEMA is in the process of updating the FIRM map, they will issue a letter of final determination, once that is received the Village will enter the six month adoption period, during that time the village will need to update its floodplain zoning ordinance to incorporate and reference the new FIRM.
- The Village Office will be closed October 5th through the 9th.

New Business

Proposed 2026 WWTF Phase 2 Upgrade—Pay Application #1

Portzen Construction, Inc—Pay Application #1 \$262,952.00

Motion: Kemp, Second: Quandahl to approve the pay application #1 for Portzen Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$262,952.00. All present aye, motion carried.

Consideration and Possible adoption of an ordinance repealing and replacing Article II, Recycling, 175-8 through 175-24 of the Village Code to update the Village's recycling requirements in accordance with current Wisconsin DNR standards

Motion: Walsh, Second: Kemp to adopt the ordinance repealing and replacing Article II, Recycling, 175-8 through 175-24 of the Village Code to update the Village's recycling requirements in accordance with current Wisconsin DNR standards. All present aye, motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes

August 12 & September 2 minutes

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

Approval of Monthly Bills

- General: \$23,117.80, Fire: \$10,214.78, Sewer: \$51,019.91, Water: \$2,809.23, and Library: \$7,469.88.
- Kemp asked about why WilKil is listed on both the Village and Fire, it is split half and half. Also asked about cold mix, this was a typo, it was actually recycled blacktop, she asked what it was for. Chapman stated it is used around the village.

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

Adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) to discuss personnel matters

Motion: Kemp, Second: Walsh to adjourn to closed session. All present aye, motion carried.

Reconvene to Open Session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(2)

Motion: Campbell, Second: Kemp to reconvene to open session. All present aye, motion carried.

No motions were made in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Kemp, Second: Quandahl to adjourn at 7:23 PM. All present aye, motion carried.