

Village of West Salem  
Regular Meeting  
January 2, 2024

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Village President Scott Schumacher. Trustees present: Anderson, Curtis, Hennessey, Lautz, Leicht, and Twining. Also present: Public Works Director Loren Schwier, Village Administrator Teresa DeLong, Village Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Bohl, Brian Olsen and Jessica Sands.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023, regular meeting as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$2,892,031.36.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Lautz to approve the payment of all claims as listed. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Planning Commission

Trustee Schumacher reported on the December 21, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting. The Commission reviewed an Application for Conditional Use Permit submitted by La Crosse Sign Group on behalf of Coulee Region Christian School. Coulee Region Christian School purchased the property at 701 Industrial Dr back in 2021. The property was recently rezoned as residential in order to allow them to operate as a school. They are requesting to install an illuminated channel letter sign above the main entrance facing north, setback 170 ft from Industrial Drive and another illuminated channel sign above the entrance facing west, setback 235 ft from Industrial Drive.

Motion by Trustee Schumacher, seconded by Trustee Lautz to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2023 Planning Commission meeting as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Public Safety Building Ad Hoc Committee

Trustee Schumacher reported on the December 27, 2023 Public Safety Building Ad Hoc Committee Meeting. Trustee Schumacher opened continued discussion regarding recent building tours the Committee went on in the search for a new building for the Police Department. The Committee discussed the building it toured at 980 Highway 16 in West Salem. It was determined that the location was a potential issue, including access to and from the building. The Committee was also concerned with only being able to lease the building and what the potential costs would be to remodel the building and, if allowed, the price to purchase the building in the future. The Committee agreed that the Lake Delton Police Department building was a very nice building, but agreed there was some excessive spending. The Sparta Police Department building was very functional, the floor plan was ideal, but the outside was not impressive. The Sauk Prairie Police Department building was brand new, very economical and functional, and the Committee felt if West Salem were to build brand new, this would be the best option to base it on. Chief Kyle Holzhausen has requested the plans to the building. The Committee discussed the building it will be touring on January 3, 2024, at 1500 Highway 16 in West Salem.

Committee members like how the building was is currently fitted with garage access and meets the needs of the department in that regard, especially if the previously discussed collaboration with the Fire Department and Tri-State occurs. Access to and from the building and how the Village would need to access Highway 16 from County MW to M was discussed, as turning East onto Highway 16 from Heritage Lane could be extremely difficult and dangerous. The size of the lot was also discussed in regards to potential future renovations. A discussion regarding other options, such as land already owned by the Village, then commenced. It was decided that the old Town of Hamilton shop parcel was not big enough for the needs of the department. The location of land owned by the water tower was also not ideal, as it relates to being centrally located in the Village, although the size was suitable. Chief Holzhausen did state that he liked the location by the water tower due to its easy access to I-90, Garland to 16, and its location close to the School District and Lakeview. The lots at County Trunk M, Crestwood Avenue, and Greenfield Lane were also discussed. It was determined the lots are likely too small, especially if collaboration with the Fire Department and Tri-State would occur. Trustee Curtis stated that there was some land by 1<sup>st</sup> Community Credit Union that Rahn Pischke owns that may meet the needs of the department, including size and location. The Committee asked Trustee Curtis to inquire into this. The Committee then discussed updated cost estimates for a new build. The last study done by Cedar Corporation is outdated and does not accurately reflect building costs today. The estimates are between \$150-\$210/sq. ft. In closing, the Committee determined location (both within the Village and access to major thruways), cost, visibility to the public, and future-use of the property and building to be the most important as the Committee is continuing to research location.

Motion by Trustee Schumacher, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the December 27, 2023 Public Safety Building Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

The Trustees determined there was not a need to convene in closed session due to no further information being available in relation to the subject of the closed session, and the meeting continued in open session.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Hennessey, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.

Ashley M. Bohl, Village Clerk/Treasurer