

Village of West Salem
Regular Meeting
December 3, 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, Police Chief Scott Alo, Village Attorney Bryant Klos, Joe Pingel of Cedar Corporation, Village Administrator Teresa DeLong and Village Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Bohl.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2024, regular meeting as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$342,796.69.

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

Cedar Corporation

Joe Pingel, engineer with Cedar Corporation, re-introduced himself to the Board and discussed the transition of his role within Cedar and the relationship with the Village. Mr. Pingel plans on attending more Board meetings in the future to furnish any questions the Board may have on current and future engineering projects.

Resolution No. 11.24

Motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve Resolution No. 11.24 – Approving Certified Survey Map and Authorizing Village Officials to Purchase Land from La Crosse County and Sell Land to River Valley Cold Storage, LLC and enter into Development Agreement with River Valley Cold Storage, LLC as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Ordinance No. 534

Motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Leicht to adopt Ordinance No. 534 – Duplicate Treasurer's Bond Eliminated as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Finance and Personnel Committee

Chair Jim Leicht reported on the November 18, 2024 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. Administrator DeLong presented the Committee with the updated 2025 rates for health insurance through Quartz. The Committee was briefed on the premium changes, deductible changes, and were presented with a request to enter into a contract with Neighborhood Family Clinics to offer additional medical options to Village employees. The Committee reviewed the proposed fee schedule for 2025.

Police Chief Scott Alo briefed the Committee on the increase in calls the Student Resource Officer has been handling lately and that the Police Department and the School District are discussing the possibility of adding another SRO in the future.

The Committee discussed several personnel matters. The Committee commended the Clerk/Treasurer for her exceptional work during her first year of employment with the Village, and the Committee voted unanimously to award one additional week of paid vacation for use in her second year of employment with the Village. It was recommended she now work toward learning the payroll and utility billing systems. Wage and salary increases were also discussed.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve the November 18, 2024 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Public Works Director Loren Schwier reported that his department has been working on readying the snow and ice equipment for this winter season. Mr. Schwier also reported that wedging material was installed around manhole covers to protect the plow blades from uneven ground.

Parks and Recreation Director Tony DeGaetano reported that basketball is underway, with wrestling starting soon, and the spring program brochure is currently being completed.

Police Chief Scott Alo reported that the La Crosse County communication tower is up and running and his department will begin testing their radios. Mr. Alo also reported that his department met with the School District of West Salem's school bus drivers to discuss an increase in motorists not stopping for the red lights when students are loading and/or unloading. Drivers were advised on the information that needs to be obtained to ensure a complete investigation can be conducted.

President Scott Schumacher reported that LADCO has provided notice that their membership fees will increase for both public and private members for the 2026 budget year.

President Scott Schumacher also reported on the progress of the request to transform the tennis courts at Village Park into pickleball courts. A resident has worked out a budget for the proposed project and is spear-heading the fundraising for this project. Their goal is to raise funds and apply for grants to complete this project in the summer of 2025.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Ashley M. Bohl, Clerk/Treasurer