

Village of West Salem
Public Hearing
2025 Operating Plan
December 3, 2024

Public Hearing called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Village President Scott Schumacher. Trustees present: Anderson, Curtis, Hennessey, Lautz, Leicht and Twining. Also present: Stephen Cohen, Dorothy McClintock, Public Works Director Loren Schwier, Police Chief Scott Alo, Village Administrator Teresa DeLong, and Village Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Bohl.

The public hearing was scheduled for the purpose of hearing any taxpayer or citizen comments or questions pertaining to the proposed Village Operating Budget for 2025. There were no citizens present to speak for or against the proposed 2025 Operating Plan.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Curtis to close the public hearing at 6:53 p.m. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ashley M. Bohl, Clerk/Treasurer

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: Stephen Cohen, Dorothy McClintock, Public Works Director Loren Schwier, Police Chief Scott Alo, School District of West Salem Superintendent Ryan Rieber, Village Administrator Teresa DeLong and Village Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Bohl.

Public Comment

Village resident Stephen Cohen spoke to thank the Village Board for attending the Grand Opening of the wheeled bike park, for allowing the park to be located at Lewis Point Park, and for working in conjunction with ORA Trails. Mr. Cohen said the bike park has been a huge success and has been heavily used.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024 regular meeting as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$25,148.89. Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve the payment of all claims as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Pickleball Courts

A resident presented the idea of converting the existing tennis ball courts at Village Park into pickleball courts. Cost estimates are currently between \$150,000 and \$200,000, and fundraising efforts have been gauged. There are a few businesses in the area who are interested in helping fund the project. The resident is requesting that the proposal be referred to the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Anderson to refer the request to convert the Village Park tennis courts to pickleball courts to the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

2025 Operating Plan

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve the 2025 Operating Plan, which calls for total expenditures of \$4,567,259 and a levy of \$2,182.844. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Resolution 10.24

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve Resolution 10.24 – Village of West Salem Fee Schedule as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Resolution 12.24

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Lautz to approve Resolution 12.24 – Authorization for Short-term Promissory Note Borrowing and Tax Levy for Village Borrowing as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Resolution 13.24

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve Resolution 13.24 – Authorization for Short-Term Promissory Note Borrowing and Tax Levy or Village Borrowing as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Resolution 14.24

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve Resolution 14.24 – 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.

Hamlin & Leonard Streets

School District of West Salem Superintendent Ryan Rieber spoke before the Board in support of traffic control measures at Hamlin and Leonard Streets. Mr. Rieber said the School District receives complaints regularly on the safety concerns. There have been incidences in the past where students have almost been hit in the cross-walk. The School District of West Salem is willing to partner with the Village of West Salem, with each covering 50% of the cost to install a four-way stop with lighted stop signs and lighted, flashing crosswalk signs at the corners of Hamlin and Leonard Streets. Police Chief Alo stated there was room in his 2024 budget to incur the estimated cost of \$5,200, which is the Village one-half share.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve the funding and installation of a four-way stop with lighted stop signs and lighted, flashing crosswalk signs

at the corners of Hamlin and Leonard Streets, with the cost being split evenly between the School District of West Salem and the Village of West Salem for an estimated cost of \$5,200 to the Village of West Salem. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Law Enforcement Committee

The purpose of the meeting was to review for recommendation to the Village Board, an Application to Exceed Pet Limit submitted by Amanda and Brad Shea, who presently keeps a female West Highland Terrier, a neutered Yorkshire terrier, and a soon-to-be spayed Collie/Blue Heeler mix. A Special Permit Application to Own, Keep, or Harbor Chickens in the Village of West Salem was submitted by Stan Howe. Renee Jandt appeared before the Committee and provided a picture that showed one of the Howes' chickens at-large in her yard. Village Code Section 11.08(G)(3) states: "The chickens shall be provided with a covered enclosure and must be kept in the covered enclosure or a fenced enclosure within the backyard of the property at all times."

Motion by Trustee Curtis, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve the Law Enforcement Committee Meeting minutes of November 19, 2024, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve issuance of a Permit to Exceed Pet Limit submitted by Amanda and Brad Shea. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Anderson to deny issuance of a Permit to Own, Keep, or Harbor Chickens submitted by Stan Howe. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Public Works Director Loren Schwier reported that a second water main break occurred earlier in the day on Hamlin Street by the West Salem High School. Mr. Schwier also reported that the downtown holiday lights have been installed.

Police Chief Scott Alo reported on calls for service, with a year-to-date total of 6,281 calls. Arrests year-to-date are at 309. An officer was involved in a pursuit and followed protocol, calling off the pursuit once it reached Nathan Hill. The department is working with the City of Prairie du Chien Police in an attempt to identify the suspect.

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Twining to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Ashley M. Bohl, Clerk/Treasurer