

Village of West Salem
Regular Meeting
February 18, 2025

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Village President Scott Schumacher. Trustees present: Curtis, Hennessey, Lutz, Leicht, and Twining. Excused: Anderson. Also present: Public Works Director Loren Schwier, Police Chief Scott Alo, Recreation Director Tony DeGaetano, Village Engineer Joe Pingel, Axel Cohen, Stephen Cohen, and Village Administrator Teresa DeLong.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2025, regular meeting as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$3,011,118.40.

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

West Salem Area Room Tax Commission

Stephen Cohen reported on the February 11, 2025, West Salem Area Room Tax Commission meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to hold the annual meeting as required by Village Ordinances, and the Commission will review 2024 expenditures and carry-over revenue amounts and review possible uses of 2025 and future room tax funds to promote and develop tourism. The Commission appointed Stephen Cohen as the Chairperson. Chair Stephen Cohen stated Village President Scott Schumacher asked to be on the agenda to present a renovation proposal for the unusable tennis courts at Village Park. President Schumacher reported the Village Board has heard a presentation proposal to construct pickleball courts where the present tennis courts stand. The Buildings and Grounds Committee directed Dorothy McClintock to acquire more information and conduct more research to ultimately determine an estimated total project cost. President Schumacher also relayed that Ms. McClintock has funds from donors to put toward the total project costs. The Village may be asked to “front” some of the costs until all donations have been received. The West Salem Area Community Foundation is collecting the donated funds on behalf of the Village of West Salem. President Schumacher explained six pickleball courts are proposed. The three courts on the north side will be regulation size, and the three courts on the south end are one foot shorter than a regulation court. The project has been broken down into three general contractor parts order to simplify the process: Court surface contractor; Court asphalt contractor; and Fence contractor. The fence contractor would remove all fence mesh, gates, lateral bracing, and tension wire. The Public Works Department would remove the materials and dispose at the fence contractor’s option. The asphalt contractor will remove existing asphalt, regrade, and compact the existing base course and finally install new asphalt. The fence contractor will then install remaining perimeter posts, gates, lateral bracing, tension wire, and fence mesh along with the interior fence posts and install owner-furnished pickleball sleeves. The court surface play contractor will then stripe the courts. The goal is to complete all of this work by the end of summer 2025. The Commission

thanked Ms. McClintock and President Schumacher for the presentation, and a Commission determination would be forthcoming soon. Chair Cohen then directed the Commission to the spreadsheet outlining 2023 and 2024 room tax tourism expenditures along with carryover revenues from 2022 and the room taxes collected from 2023 and 2024. The Commission discussed a pledge to the downtown pickleball court project. The Commission approved a pledge of at least \$10,000 toward the pickleball court project at Village Park, with a final donation amount to be finalized depending upon room tax dollars collected in 2025. Deducting the \$10,000 pledge to the pickleball court project, Chair Cohen estimated there would be approximately \$20,000 left to expend toward tourism promotion. The River City Running Club has again requested a donation from the tourism commission toward the June 22, 2025, Swim Neshonoc event. The Club already has 23 swimmers registered. This year, a block of rooms has been reserved at AmericInn in West Salem. Funds raised from the event will benefit the La Crosse dive team. The 2024 event had 49 participants from all over Wisconsin, and the Club would like to see 100 participants this year. A donation of \$500 to the Swim Neshonoc event was approved. The Commission next discussed a new water fountain by the fix-it kiosk at the State bike trail and shelter. This fountain would be a water bottle filler. Chair Cohen has discussed this with Water Utility Superintendent Lee Schwier who offered to assist with the installation. An amount not to exceed \$5,000 was approved toward a bottle filling station at the Mill Street bicycle shelter. Chair Cohen discussed his continued interest in constructing and essentially renting out sign spaces on a large sign showcasing the downtown businesses. The main sign structure would be visible to trailer users, and he has reviewed a location on Department of Natural Resources property by the bike trail. Chair Cohen stated he would research businesses that may wish to fund a plate or a sign for placement on the large sign. The next item discussed for future funds use was a kayaking station at Lewis Point Park. Chair Cohen has identified a company that installs kayak kiosks where users can pay to rent kayaks by using their phone. The Village would receive 50 percent of the revenue from the rentals. The initial cost is \$19,000 with a five-year agreement with the company having the responsibility of maintaining the equipment and the kiosk. The Commission still likes this idea. Another suggested use of tourism dollars would be to purchase aluminum steps for placement at the end of Lewis Point out into Lake Neshonoc. The steps would make lake use safer as the present rocks are slippery and jagged. Member Patsy Hofer brought forward a past West Salem High School senior exit project proposed for West Salem Historical Society. The project was to create signage for all of the historic places and buildings in the Village, but the plan was never completed. Patsy Hofer offered to find this information and obtain some pricing for a future review by this Commission. Last year, the Commission donated \$2,500 to the West Salem Historical Society for construction work at the Octagon House on Leonard Street. The Commission requested a progress report update on the project for donation consideration at a future Commission meeting.

The Board discussed the kayak kiosk idea, the steps into Lake Neshonoc, and set aside park capital donations. Trustee Leicht stated when La Crosse County installed riprap along Lewis Point, it was also supposed to put in flat stepping stones. The contractor did not install those flat stepping stones. Because the stepping stones are favored over aluminum steps, Trustee Leicht stated he would follow up on this with La Crosse County.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025, West Salem Area Room Tax Commission as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Planning Commission

President Schumacher reported on the February 13, 2025, Planning Commission meeting. The Commission reviewed a request by Allied Cooperative to construct a new bulk storage facility at 165 Mill Street South for the sale of chemicals and fertilizers for agricultural use. Joe Spinler, Executive Vice President of Allied Cooperative, introduced the project and explained that Allied currently processes chemicals and fertilizers at its West Salem location. Allied is looking to replace, upgrade, and enhance their existing facilities in two separate phases. Allied previously looked at consolidating its facilities in Centerville, Wisconsin, but decided it was best to upgrade the facilities they currently have and maintain a presence in their communities. During phase one, Allied will construct two new buildings that will store, mix and allow for delivery of dry fertilizer. The second phase will consist of constructing a new warehouse to store bulk, packaged pesticides, and seed. Commission members asked questions about regulation and licensing, lighting, dust-control, and future-use of the site. Mr. Spinler explained that Allied is heavily regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Allied is open to lighting suggestions, and the fertilizer will now be mixed indoors with the planned new facility, which will reduce dust. The Commission scheduled a public hearing for March 6, 2025, to hear public comment on the Conditional Use Permit Request by Allied Cooperative.

Motion by President Schumacher, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2025, Planning Commission meeting as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Teresa L. DeLong, Village Administrator