

Village of West Salem  
Regular Meeting  
July 15, 2025

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Village President Scott Schumacher. Trustees present: Anderson, Hennessey, Lautz, Leicht, and Twining. Excused: Curtis. Also present: Duane Kneifl, Booker Ferguson, Dave Tauscher, Justin Mattie, Dorothy McClintock, Lynette Ender, Jenna Hickerson, Parks and Recreation Director Tony DeGaetano, Police Chief Scott Alo, Public Works Director Loren Schwier, Village Attorney Bryant Klos, Village Administrator Teresa DeLong, and Village Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Bohl.

Greene Park Update

Lynette Ender of the Lions Club of West Salem reported that phase one of the Greene Park remodel will be complete on July 17, 2025, and includes an open-air shelter. Of the total \$47,915 raised, \$11,000 was raised through applying for grants. An additional \$16,500 has been pledged after January 2026. To date, expenses have totaled \$10,046. The playground equipment (phase 2) can be purchased at a discount of 50% if the expense is paid as a deposit; with an estimated \$160,000 needed to complete this. Without the discount, the total rises to \$190,000.

West Salem First Responders

Booker Ferguson spoke on behalf of the West Salem First Responders and explained that there has been a decrease in the number of active volunteers (7 current members, with only 4 active). Recruitment has been difficult and recently a training class had to be canceled because not enough people signed up. The team is doing the best they can to respond to calls as they come in.

Duane Kneifl expressed his wanting to continue volunteering on the team, even with his recent retirement.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2025 regular meeting as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$90,365.30.

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

Special Event Permit

Motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the Special Event Permit submitted by the West Salem Police Department and the West Salem Business Association to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out on August 5, 2025, in Village Park, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

### Finance and Personnel Committee

Trustee Leicht reported on the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting of July 2, 2025. The Committee reviewed updated proposals for property assessment and revaluation that included 5-year terms with the cost spread out over the full five years, with Chimney Rock being the only proposal that included a 10-year option. Accurate Appraisals and Catalis both recommended only a market update. Chimney Rock recommended a full market revaluation due to the fact that they have not physically visited any parcel within the Village and would want to ensure the data they are using is accurate and up-to-date. The Committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages doing a full revaluation versus a market update. Because the Village is out of compliance with the Department of Revenue and just had a market update in 2023, it was determined a full revaluation was the best option. Discussion continued on whether or not a 5-year or 10-year contract would be most beneficial to the Village. The 10-year contract saves the Village \$4,600 a year and guarantees the cost of assessment services to be \$31,000 each year for ten years. The Committee unanimously approved recommending to the Board to award a contract for property assessment and full revaluation to Chimney Rock on a 10-year contract for \$31,000/year, with a clause that allows for either party to terminate the contract free-and-clear, regardless of the number of years remaining.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Lautz to approve the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting minutes of July 2, 2025, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve awarding a contract for property assessment and full revaluation to Chimney Rock on a 10-year contract for \$31,000/year, with a clause that allows for either party to terminate the contract free-and-clear. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Police Chief Scott Alo reported that National Night Out is ready to go, with eight bikes being given away this year along with coupons for helmets, lights, and maintenance. Donations of 500 brats, hotdogs, and buns, and 100 pizzas have also been pledged. The Ft. McCoy Smokehouse will also be there to teach fire safety.

Parks and Recreation Director Tony DeGaetano reported that the fall and winter brochure is still being created and that the revenue budget, including budgeted carryovers from the last few years for new playground equipment for Village Park, is close to having enough to fund new equipment.

Public Works Director Loren Schwier reported that City Loop should have stripes painted on July 24, 2025, including having cracks filled, shoulders completed and the installation of guard rails.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to convene in closed session at 7:47 p.m. pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, investment of public funds, and transfers of public properties, to-wit: negotiating the purchase of public properties. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Anderson to reconvene in open session at 8:03 p.m. Motion approved by voice vote.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Ashley M. Bohl, Clerk/Treasurer