

Village of West Salem
Regular Meeting
November 18, 2025

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Village President Scott Schumacher. Trustees present: Anderson, Curtis, Lautz, Leicht, and Twining. Excused: Hennessey. Also present: Village Attorney Bryant Klos, Police Chief Scott Alo, Public Works Director Loren Schwier, Village Administrator Teresa DeLong, and Village Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Bohl.

Minutes

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

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$89,714.09.

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

Resolution No. 13.25

The Resolution Authorizing Village Officials to Purchase of Land from La Crosse County and Accept Land from La Crosse County Economic Development Fund, Inc. was presented and reviewed by the Village Board.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining, to approve Resolution No. 13.25 as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Resolution No. 14.25

The Resolution Authorizing Village Officials to Approve Conveyance to Riverland Investments, LLC of Lots 2 and 3 in Block 1 of Waterloo Heights Addition was presented and reviewed by the Village Board.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Curtis, to approve Resolution No. 14.25 as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Finance and Personnel Committee

Trustee Lautz reported on the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting of November 5, 2025. The Committee first reviewed a request from the Hazel Brown Leicht Memorial Library for the annual magazine subscriptions request. A Public Facilities Needs Assessment was reviewed to determine Committee interest. A Public Facilities needs assessment would be used to determine the impact new developments would have on infrastructure and various other Village-provided services. The Committee questioned whether or not this request was included in the budget and Administrator DeLong confirmed it was. A request to replace one of the roof top units that services the Parks and Recreation department at Village Hall was discussed next. The existing roof top unit has a cracked heat exchanger. A proposal from Winona Heating and Ventilation was reviewed in the amount of \$28,940. The Police Department budget was discussed next,

with the Committee deciding the total amount for capital expenses, which includes the purchase of equipment needed for the department. Resolution 12.25 – Village of West Salem Fee Schedule was reviewed. Animal fees for a Permit to Own Chickens was discussed and determined based upon the amount of administrative work that is involved with these permits, the fees would be increased from \$25 to \$50. Library rental and park shelter rental fees were increased for non-residents from \$25 to \$40 for the library and from \$60 to \$75 for park shelters. Parking ticket fees were increased as follows: alternate side parking from \$15 to \$20, alley parking from \$15 to \$20, handicapped parking from \$50 to \$150 (to align with the recently increased State fee), parking in school zone from \$15 to \$20, blocking sidewalk/blocking alley from \$15 to \$50, and no parking zone from \$15 to \$30. An Anti-Trust Class-Action Lawsuit filed by the City of La Crosse against fire truck manufacturers REV Group, Inc., Oshkosh Corporation, and Rosenbauer America, LLC was discussed. Clerk Bohl advised the Committee that the Village of West Salem was officially a class member, as the West Salem Fire Protection District has two potential trucks that would qualify under the class-action lawsuit. The 2026 Operating budget was then discussed as a whole. Salaries, fringes, and department expenditures were reviewed, including capital expenses for the year, for a proposed total of \$441,100. The total proposed expenditures are \$4,675,403, with a proposed levy of \$2,411,517.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the Finance & Personnel meeting minutes of November 5, 2025, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Public Hearing

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Curtis to schedule a public hearing on the 2026 Operating Plan for Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 6:50 p.m. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

West Salem Area Room Tax Commission

Trustee Kat Anderson reported on the West Salem Area Room Tax Commission meeting of November 6, 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss possible uses of the retained room tax funds, as well as remaining quarters of 2025 and future room tax funds to promote and develop tourism. This included specific discussion on downtown bike trail business signs, directional signage about the community, water fountains, a request from the Heider Center, discussion on a grant process for businesses, and consideration of the installation of flat rock steps at the tip of Lewis Point. Jodie Curtis, member of the Heider Center Board of Directors, presented a request to the Commission. Jodie informed the Commission about the types of programs and concerts the Heider Center draws and that all performers utilize AmericInn, meals are provided by Westview, and snacks by Linda's Bakery, helping to stimulate local businesses and economy. The Heider Center, originating in 2004, has a lot of original furnishings and is in need of updating/improving benches located outside the auditorium. The Heider Center is also requesting to be able to purchase booster seats that allow the littlest of audience members to be able to enjoy the show. Chair Stephen Cohen went over the revenues and expenditures and the funds earmarked for the previously approved water fountain installations, downtown bike trail business signs, and directional signs around the Community. It was determined that after the third quarter room tax funds were received, the current balance available is \$14,092.60. Chair Stephen Cohen gave an update on the business sign that will be located by the DNR State Bike Trail head as it

meets Leonard Street into downtown. The directional signs are still a work-in-progress. Two additional water fountains have been earmarked for purchase and they will likely go in Village Park. Discussion began on implementing a grant program that would allow businesses to apply for grant funds to assist with the creation/start-up of local events. The Commission is interested in exploring this further, which includes looking at setting up a procedure for how it will be implemented. Advertising was also discussed, as this seems to be the biggest challenge for holding local events, and even getting information out to the public about the grant program. The installation of flat rocks, or steps at Lewis Point was discussed next. The Public Works department may have some metal cat-walks available that can be modeled and machined into steps, helping to save money. It is expected that there will be a cost for footings and the man power to create and install the steps. The Commission discussed how frequently they should be meeting. With the tourism funds coming in quarterly, it was determined at minimum it should be quarterly, but could be on an as-needed basis.

The Commission awarded the Heider Center \$2,500 to replace benches and purchase booster seats, as well as earmarking up to \$3,000 for steps to be installed at Lewis Point Park, with deferment to Public Works and Parks and Recreation for logistics, including the creation and installation of said steps.

Motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the West Salem Area Room Tax Commission meeting minutes of November 6, 2025, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Law Enforcement Committee

Trustee Lautz reported on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of November 17, 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a new police contract. The Committee met in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(e).

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the Law Enforcement Committee meeting minutes of November 17, 2025, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Ashley M. Bohl, Clerk/Treasurer