

Village of West Salem
Public Hearing
2026 Operating Plan
December 2, 2025

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: David Hundt, Village Attorney Bryant Klos, Police Chief Scott Alo, Public Works Director Loren Schwier, 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 2026.

David Hundt, 434 Youlon Street, spoke before the Board and encouraged consideration of updating the budget to include the repaving/maintenance of more roads within Village limits.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to close the public hearing at 6:54 p.m. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ashley M. Bohl, Clerk/Treasurer

Village of West Salem
Regular Meeting
December 2, 2025

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: Dawn Hougom, Kevin Hoyer, David Hundt, Justin Happel, Jenna Happel, Don Numsen, Taylor Helgersen, Village Water Superintendent Lee Schwier, Village Attorney Bryant Klos, Police Chief Scott Alo, Public Works Director Loren Schwier, Village Administrator Teresa DeLong, and Village Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Bohl.

Public Comment

Justin Happel, Holmen Pumping, spoke before the Board concerning an invoice he received from the Village for reimbursement of charges incurred due to the testing of a septic load that was dumped at the Village's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Happel advised the Board he would not be paying the invoice.

Don Numsen, Bill's Pumping, also spoke before the Board concerning an invoice he received from the Village for reimbursement of charges incurred due to the testing of a septic load that was dumped at the Village's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Numsen advised the Board he would not be paying the invoice.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2025, regular meeting as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$172,894.55,

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

Annexation Agreement

Kevin Hoyer, Town of Hamilton Chairman, appeared before the Board and in support of the request from the Town of Hamilton to modify or forego condition no. 3 of the Annexation Agreement dated October 13, 2005, between the Town of Hamilton and the Village of West Salem to allow for a real estate sale closing to be completed while annexation is in progress. Mr. Hoyer explained issues with the Certified Survey Map are holding up the closing.

Village Attorney Bryant Klos explained to the Board that by modifying this condition, it would place the requirement of filing the petition for annexation on the owners, who would not be the Town of Hamilton. There is no guarantee the new owners would agree to the original agreement for annexation. Mr. Klos went on to say that the easiest way to overcome this issue and close in a timely manner would be to have the Certified Survey Map updated and the Town of Hamilton approve an updated annexation request that includes the corrected Certified Survey Map.

Fluoride Additives

Water Superintendent Lee Schwier presented the Board with information regarding fluoride additives in the Village's water supply. Recently, six municipalities have passed resolutions discontinuing the addition of fluoride to their water supplies. The presentation included the cost of adding fluoride to the water supply, as well as the future requirement of housing chlorine and fluoride separately, per the DNR, and its potential cost to separate them.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to schedule a public hearing on Discontinuing the Addition of Fluoride to the Water in the Village of West Salem Water Utility for Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 6:50 p.m. in Village Hall.

2026 Operating Plan

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the 2026 Operating Plan, which calls for total expenditures of \$4,709,932, and a levy of \$2,422,446. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Resolution No. 12.25

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Curtis, to approve Resolution No. 12.25 – Village of West Salem Fee Schedule as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Resolution No. 15.25

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve Resolution 15.25 – Authorization for Short-term Promissory Note Borrowing and Tax Levy for Village Borrowing as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Law Enforcement Committee

Trustee Lautz reported on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of November 18, 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss an Application to Exceed Animal Limit, submitted by Deb and Mike Muleski, to adopt a 16-week-old Terrier to join a spayed Chihuahua and spayed Mini Poodle Mix. The Police Department has not received any complaints, nor were there any neighbors to speak for or against the request. The Committee recommended approval of the Application to Exceed Pet Limit to the Village Board.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the Law Enforcement Committee meeting minutes of November 18, 2025, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the issuance of a permit to exceed the pet limit to Deb and Mike Muleski as recommended. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Buildings and Grounds

Trustee Curtis reported on the Building and Grounds Committee meeting of November 19, 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussion of the planning and design for a public safety building on Industrial Drive. At the last Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting in May, River Architects had presented a design plan on an alternate parcel because the La Crosse County Board had decided none of the County-owned land was for sale at that time. The Village and County have now passed approving sale resolutions, and a closing date has been scheduled in December. Administrator DeLong shared emails from Representative Van Orden and Senator Baldwin stating the Village community projects funding grant request was approved by Congress and signed into law on November 13, 2025. The Public Safety Building Improvements project was awarded \$2,500,000 in the final Bill. Committee Member John Lautz stated he had requested that Administrator DeLong prepare a document outlining considerations for constructing a new building for all Village operations versus a new building for police department only. From that document, Mr. Lautz prepared a functional needs list for cost calculations to build one new facility to house all departments and cost calculations to add on and remodel the existing Village community center for the Administration and Recreation Departments. The Committee discussed the need to estimate costs for expanding and renovating the Village Hall. The renovation would need to accommodate administration, elections, recreation, building inspection, Village Board functions, public spaces, IT requirements, and building security. It must also address electrical, plumbing, HVAC systems, and comply with current building codes. The Village also needs to know if the functional needs of the rest of the departments will fit on the present parcel. Mr. Adler stated construction and addition and renovating the present community center building would be classified as an Alteration Level 3 which would require the entire building meet the newly-adopted State building codes.

The Committee directed River Architects to:

- Revise the design plans for the Industrial Drive parcel for police department construction only;
- Prepare a proposal for a building addition and renovation of the present community center to meet the needs of all the remaining Village departments; and
- To estimate the costs of constructing an addition to and renovation of the Village Hall.

Mr. Adler stated this would not need to be an elaborate design study but more of a test fit for the programming needed and then estimated construction costs. Once this work is completed, Mr. Adler will contact Administrator DeLong, and the next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting can then be scheduled to review the proposal, test design, and estimated costs.

Motion by Trustee Curtis, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting minutes of November 19, 2025, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Ashley M. Bohl, Clerk/Treasurer