

Village of West Salem  
Regular Meeting  
February 3, 2026

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

Public Comment

Travis Key, Associate Transportation Planner for the La Crosse Area Planning Committee, presented the La Crosse Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan that featured information on potential Federal funding through the Safe Streets for All Program, which supports planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injuries on roads and streets.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026, regular meeting as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$191,939.42.

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

Ordinance No. 544

Motion by Trustee Curtis, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve Ordinance No. 544 – Annexation Ordinance for Direct Annexation by Unanimous Approval of Real Property from the Town of Hamilton as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Law Enforcement Committee

Trustee Curtis presented the Law Enforcement Committee meeting minutes of January 20, 2026. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss an Application to Exceed Animal Limit, submitted by Marcy and Matt Stanek, 550 Driftwood Street, who presently keeps a spayed Golden Retriever, spayed Bernese Mountain Dog, and a spayed Labrador Retriever. The Police Department has not received any complaints; however, two letters were received from neighbors regarding dogs barking. The Committee confirmed with the Chief that there is an Ordinance regarding excessive noise from dogs and that if any complaints were received in the future, it may prevent the permit from being renewed. Kevin Hennessey also noted that one of the dogs was 14 years old. The Committee then reviewed an Application to Exceed Animal Limit, submitted by Jared and Brooke Klinger, 324 Lincoln Avenue North, who presently keeps two spayed dogs: Kali, a 9-year-old German Sheppard Mix; Kira, a 5-year-old Border Collie Mix, and two neutered cats: Dash, a 7-year-old, and Blue, a three-year-old, and wants to adopt a puppy. The Committee recommended approval of both Applications to Exceed Pet Limit.

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the Law Enforcement Committee meeting minutes of January 20, 2026, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the Application to Exceed Pet Limit submitted by Marcy and Matt Stanek. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the Application to Exceed Pet Limit submitted by Jared and Brooke Klinger. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved

### Utilities Committee

Trustee Twining presented the Utilities Committee meeting minutes of January 27, 2026. Water Utility Operator Lee Schwier presented a proposed 2026 Water Utility Budget. The 2026 budget includes a meter change-out program, with residential water meters being changed out typically every ten years. The budget also includes \$30,000 for well 4 maintenance, \$5,000 for newly-required PFAS testing, and for a potential water tower/reservoir inspection in the amount of \$13,000. Capital outlay for 2026, in the amount of \$112,552, includes new meters and MXU's as previous years. Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator Robert McDowell introduced the Committee to a new Septage Receiving Policy. The items included in the policy were recommended by WDNR Engineer Katie Jo Jerzak, and allow the Village of West Salem to better regulate the types of septage that are received at the treatment center plant to ensure integrity of the equipment and to maintain and meet all WDNR requirements. Ordinance No. 543 – Amending Chapter 8 Sewer Use Ordinance was introduced to the Committee and includes updates such as further defining “floatable oil”, limiting certain concentrations to 100 mg/l, limiting temperature of septage, and the requirement of haulers to provide additional information on the loads dropped at the waste water treatment plant, as well as requirements for accidental discharges of prohibited items. Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator Robert McDowell presented the proposed 2026 Sewer Utility Budget, which includes an increase of 49% for treatment chemicals, which is directly attributed to inflation. A discussion commenced on new WDNR PFAS testing requirements and when sludge is spread, if the concentration of PFAS is over 20ppb, land-owners are required to be notified. Additional discussion commenced on a recommendation from WDNR Engineer Katie Jo Jerzak to purchase and have available, generators for each of the life-stations to ensure water can still be pumped in the case of a loss of electricity or flooding. Public Works Director Loren explained that currently the department has a mobile generator that has to be moved from lift station to lift station and is very inefficient. The price for a one-phase would be roughly \$15,000, and a three-phase generator being \$30,000. In order to service all of the Village's wells, 1 one-phase and 2 three-phase generators would need to be purchased for a total of \$75,000. Public Works Director Loren Schwier presented the proposed 2026 Storm Water Utility Budget to the Committee. Spot replacing curb and gutters, like what has been done on Van Ness Street, will continue into 2026.

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the Utilities Committee meeting minutes of January 27, 2026, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

2026 Water Utility Budget

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve the 2026 Water Utility Budget as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Septage Receiving Policy

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve the Septage Receiving Policy as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Ordinance No. 543

The Board reviewed for possible public hearing, Ordinance No. 543 – Amend Chapter 8 Sewer Use Ordinance / User Charge System, which would update definitions of waste, includes specific requirements for waste dumped, and includes an increase in unmetered and sewer rates.

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by President Schumacher, to schedule a public hearing on proposed Ordinance No. 543 for Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

2026 Sewer Utility Budget

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve the 2026 Sewer Utility Budget as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

2026 Stormwater Utility Budget

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the 2026 Stormwater Utility Budget as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

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

Ashley M. Bohl, Clerk/Treasurer