

Village of West Salem
Regular Meeting
May 19, 2026

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: Stephen Cohen, Judah Cohen, Axel Cohen, Lisa Brickl, Adrionna Bayer-Grant, Fire Chief Greg Hutson, Greg Weber, Jeremy Weber (7:11 p.m.), Village Engineer Joe Pingel, 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 Twining to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2026, Regular Board meeting as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$127,285.41.

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

American Legion Poppy Princess

American Legion Auxiliary President Lisa Brickl introduced the 2026 Poppy Princess Adrionna Bayer-Grant and presented a Memorial Poppy Proclamation for Village President Scott Schumacher to sign.

Special Event Application

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve the request from Justin Stakston/June Dairy Days Association for the Annual Fun Run 5k and Two-Mile Run on June 6, 2026, starting from the Panther Den and ending at 601 Mark Street North. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Ordinance No. 546

The Village Board reviewed proposed Ordinance No. 546, which, if adopted, will Amend and Recreate Chapter 6 of the Village of West Salem Code of Ordinances to Amend Ordinance Relating to Bicycles, Electric Bicycles, Electric Scooters, and Electric Skateboards.

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Curtis to schedule a public hearing on Ordinance No. 546 for Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 6:45 p.m. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Finance and Personnel Committee

Trustee John Lautz reported on the May 12, 2026, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review for recommendation to Village Board, a new 10-year Axon Contract. Police Chief Scott Alo gave an overview of the existing Axon contracts. Currently, there are multiple contracts with varying durations of time remaining. Items currently under contract include tasers, fleet cameras, body cameras,

and interview room cameras. The new contract would combine all of the equipment together into one 10-year contract. Chief Alo advised the Committee that recently Detective Sergeant Nate Ganrude and Records Specialist Dana Einer test-piloted newly upgraded and enhanced software and transcribing software. Records Specialist Dana Einer explained the process that she is currently using in order to redact camera footage for open records requests. Currently, Dana must redact the video footage frame-by-frame, which is a very time-consuming task and not efficient. The new software would allow Dana to input what it is that needs to be redacted (such as keywords, or by identifying items within the frame that need to be redacted). The software previews the footage and redacts the specific object in each frame, while allowing the user to view the redaction in real-time, allowing for oversight and compliance. This alone has saved time and made the process much more efficient. Detective Sergeant Nate Ganrude explained the current process to draft police reports is inefficient, as officers must type the reports word-for-word. Draft One is a program that transcribes the audio from bodycam footage and allows an officer to add greater detail to the police report. The bodycam footage is then reviewed with both the transcription and the police report that is generated to ensure accuracy, oversight, and compliance. Chief Alo presented the Committee with a return-on-investment calculation showing the average amount of time saved with the usage of the proposed software and how that will potentially impact expenditures in relation to overtime wages. The estimated yearly savings is \$133,770, with an estimated savings of \$1,337,700 over the term of the contract. The annual cost for the upgrade in contract for 2026 is \$35,000; \$99,000 for 2027, and \$125,243.83 for years 2028-2035. This includes a steep negotiated discount of over \$469,481.24. The current annual cost is \$51,886. The increase in contract cost will potentially be offset by savings in overtime, allowing the budget to absorb the additional cost. The Committee agreed the upgrade and enhancement in software will be extremely beneficial for the Police Department by strengthening compliance, promoting efficiency, and allowing our officers more time for patrol. The Committee recommended the Village Board approve the new 10-year Axon contract as presented.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting minutes of May 12, 2026, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining authorizing the Chief of Police to enter into a new 10-year contract between the Village of West Salem and Axon as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Finance and Personnel Committee

Trustee John Lautz reported on the May 18, 2026, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review for possible recommendation to Village Board, an estimate or proposed contract to purchase a new fire truck for the West Salem Fire Protection District. The Committee reviewed the information provided by the West Salem Fire Protection District. The new fire truck will cost \$1,113,242.00, of which the West Salem Fire Protection District will be paying \$235,150.00, the Town of Barre will be paying \$130,329.15, the Town of Hamilton will be paying \$279,419.14, and the Village of West Salem will be paying \$468,343.71. The truck will be built and delivered in the fall of 2028. At that time, the funds are due, with the Village looking to borrow the funds to

complete the purchase. The Committee recommended the Village Board approve the purchase of the new fire truck.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting minutes of May 18, 2026, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Lautz to approve the purchase of a new fire truck for the West Salem Fire Protection District, with the Village of West Salem's share being \$468,343.71. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Motion approved by voice vote.

Ashley M. Bohl, Clerk/Treasurer