

Village of Soldiers Grove – Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 15, 2026
Regular Board Meeting: 6:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Shayne Chapman, Vicki Campbell, Sarah Kemp, Marla Walsh, and Jill Quandahl.

Public Input

- None

Proposed WWTF Upgrade- Phase 2

- a. **Award of Construction Bid-**Bart, with Delta 3 Engineering, explained that all four bids that came in were 12 percent and over the original estimated project amount. The Village has DNR Clean Water funding that covers the entire project. Due to the DNR and EPA orders the Village is under, the Village does not have a lot of options on choosing what to do regarding the project. Options are to go with Delta 3's recommendation of awarding Portzen Construction for contract #1 without the solar alternative improvements, which is \$3,896,140.34 in total. Bart explained the breakdown of the bid amounts, said that most of the line items like the administrative expenses and miscellaneous cost are estimated higher than what will most likely be used, with that said the total project cost will most likely be lower than what the bid is for. The DNR loan is a zero percent interest loan. Have two options, can do a 20 year loan with annual payments of \$178,650 or a 30 year loan with annual payments of \$119,100. Delta 3 also resubmitted for more grant money for the project to the DNR since the bids have now come in, hoping to get \$350,000 in total grant monies. Bart stated that he has argued with the DNR over the grant portion of the project due to DNR and EPA forcing the Village to be in compliance by April 2028, he expected them to give more grant money than what the Village received. The solar alternative was discussed, Campbell asked if the Village could approve the Contract #1 bid without solar, but down the road after applying for grants for the solar, if that could be added back in. Bart explained that is an option, but the cost may be a lot higher later on rather than now. Chapman stated that the village should focus on the main plan and not worry about the solar because if the village was to add it on, who's to say 10-15 years down the road, they would need to be replaced or cause issues and would cost the village more in the long run. The Village has the grants/loan to cover the entire project, could take out a few things in the project to save money but in the long run it is not worth it.
- Motion: Campbell Second: Walsh to award/approve bid for Portzen Construction Contract #1 without solar in the amount of \$3,896,140.34. All present aye, motion carried. Roll Call.
- b. **Sewer Rate Increase Process/Schedule-** In order to secure the bonds for the DNR loan the Village has to raise the sewer rates. If the Village goes with the 20 year loan

with the annual payment of \$178,650, the estimated monthly increase on sewer charges will be \$62.50. If the Village goes with the 30 year loan with the annual payment of \$119,100, the estimated monthly increase on sewer charges will be \$42. There will be 3 to 4 options the board will get to choose from on how the increase will be split: example more could go toward the base charge and less towards the volume charge or vice versa. The process will consist of Delta 3 presenting the board with the options in either May or June, then at the following meeting there will be a public hearing for the residents to come in and ask questions/concerns, then following the public hearing the board will make a motion on the sewer rate increase. Chapman stated that the increase has to be done so the Village does not have much of a choice.

- Motion: Kemp, Second: Quandahl to approve Delta 3 to start the process of the sewer rate increase. All present aye, motion carried.
- c. **Mike Lepke Excavating Bid for Fence/Grub removal at the Sewer Plant-** This bid is to take out the fence surrounding the sewer plant and removing grub twenty feet away from the fence line.
- Motion: Campbell, Second: Walsh to approve Mike Lepke Excavating bid for \$8,750 to remove chain link fence and grub at the sewer plant. All present aye, motion carried.

Fire Department Report – Chief Jeannette McCormick

- Had last monthly meeting on April 1st.
- Two members that were in the entry level class successfully passed.
- Firefighter Cert 2 class only have the testing portion left to do.
- Engine 16 and Rescue truck lighting has been repaired and is now working properly.
- Did a couple small, controlled burns around town. Have had a total of 8 calls so far this year.
- Asked the board to install a 50 amp breaker on the pole by the ball field, there is already a breaker there, just asking for a bigger one to be placed on it. Board agreed to have a 50 amp breaker to be placed on the pole to upgrade the current one.
- Soldiers Grove Dairy Days: Poker Run Fundraiser will be held May 2nd. Advertisement is out and circulating for Dairy Days.

CDC Report

- Old Oak Inn is no longer behind on Room Tax.
- Campbell stated she will get the flowers for the park again this year, Walsh & Ott will help plant them again.

Public Works Report – Public Works Director Michael Allie

- Been transitioning equipment from winter to summer
- Have one tractor at Tractor Central for warranty work, the fuel gauge has not been working since getting the tractor. It is now complete and ready for pick up
- Got all the roads in town swept
- Stussy's is waiting for the weather to cooperate so they can cut the trees on Pine Street and behind the Lion's Shelter
- The fence behind the Lion's Shelter has been taken down, the new fence will be delivered Friday, April 17. That will go up once Stussy's is done cutting the tree.
- Took the portable generator to one of the lift stations and let it run for half a day just to get it running, plan to do this every couple of months.
- Mike passed his sewer test, so Mike and Jeannette are now both certified in Water and Sewer
- Wallace Heating and Plumbing is waiting on the parts to come in for the coin machines for the park bathroom showers, then he will be getting those in.
- Possibly opening the campground later this week
- Mulch for the park has been ordered and will be delivered in the first part of May
- Need new skid steer tires as the current ones are getting pretty bare from the use on the black top
- Chapman brought up the alleyway that is between Prospect Street and Railway Avenue, it is in rough shape, he mentioned getting recycled black top to build it back up. The rest of the board asked about just graveling it.
- Chapman stated that he will be working on getting bids for the tube replacements on New Well Road.

New Business

Approval of Operator License for Shane DeRutter

Motion: Campbell, Second: Walsh to approve operator license for Shane DeRutter. All present aye, motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes

March 11, 2026 minutes

Motion: Campbell, Second: Kemp. All present aye, motion carried.

Approval of Monthly Bills

- General: \$25,996.42, Fire: \$797.05, Sewer: \$79,332.18, Water: \$1,347.35, and Library: \$6,443.93.
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Motion: Campbell, Second: Kemp to approve paying all bills exempt the Wisconsin Dept of Transportation due to the issues with the road since the construction last year, will not pay until the issues have been resolved. All present aye, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Kemp, Second: Walsh to adjourn at 7:41 PM. All present aye, motion carried.