

Village of Soldiers Grove – Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 8, 2026
Regular Board Meeting: 6:30 PM

Board Members Present:

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

Public Input

- Erika Guthrie introduced herself and asked about changing the parking on Pine Street in the winter months to alternate side parking rather than no parking as their backyard is had to park in as it is always wet and just collects water. Also stated that Dairy Days was awesome and thanked everyone for the event.
- Phil Carey apologized to Public Works Director, Mike Allie, for wrongfully accusing him of having officers deliver a parking notice for no parking on Pine Street in the winter months. Phil also stated that a package will be delivered to the Fire Department next week with six active shooter kits for their safety vests.
- Kim Anderson stated that the Art Festival sign will be placed in the park on July 20th and asked for Kaitlynn to put the Art Fest on the Electric Sign.

Approve Sanitary Sewer Rates' Increase

- The Board reviewed the sewer rate study, and the revised Sewer Charges, Fees, and Penalties schedule dated July 8, 2026. The proposed rates include an overall thirty seven percent increase, of which seventy percent of the increase allocated to the monthly base rate and thirty percent of the increase allocated to the monthly volume charge, effective August 1, 2026. No additional comments or concerns were made by the board.

Motion Campbell, second: Quandahl moved to approve the revised Sewer Charges, Fees, and Penalties scheduled dated July 8, 2026, including an overall increase of thirty seven percent, of which seventy percent of the increase allocated to the monthly base rate and a thirty percent of the increase allocated to the monthly volume charge, effective August 1, 2026. All present aye, motion carried. Roll Call Vote.

Fire Department Report – Chief Jeannette McCormick

- Thanked everyone who came out and enjoyed Dairy Days, will continue to have monthly meetings on the event to make it better every year
- Had the fire meeting last week, it was discussed about having the fire station building repainted as well as the fire department sign redone. Campbell stated to get

pricing on what they would like to have done and bring it back to the board. Jeannette stated that appearance goes a long way.

- Jeannette also stated that the fire department has started a TikTok page helping promote the fire department to the younger generation, it will be used as an informational platform as well as making it fun and including all the fire members
- Kemp asked about fundraising for the fire department, and stated that it is not a bad idea to do more than one a year

CDC Report

- Room Tax Discussion: Kim Anderson has written a letter to the board regarding the room tax donation to the Art Festival, in that letter they are asking CDC for an annual allocation of four thousand dollars. Campbell stated that she has been on the CDC for many years now, stated that the room tax amount goes up and down each year, so it is hard to give an annual allocation amount, because say next year room tax only brings in eight thousand, that would not leave much money in the room tax monies for the other expenditures the money is used on. Seventy percent of the annual room tax goes to the CDC, and thirty percent goes to the Village for advertising. Currently the only places bringing in room tax is Country Gardens and the Tobacco Warehouse, and in all honesty, it is unsure if the numbers they provide are actual/true as CDC has never audited the motels. The only way to make sure they are being true on their numbers is to do an audit. The room tax money is used for more than just tourism. Kim asked what brought the change, Campbell stated that now Dairy Days is back in the picture and it would not be fair to give money to the Art Festival and not Dairy Days as they both are a community event that bring in tourism. Kim stated that a solid number each year is easier for them to budget with and losing money is hard for them to cover costs. Campbell also made the comment that the Village pays for the security for the Art Festival weekend which is roughly one thousand dollars each year. Phil Carey spoke up and stated that they are willing to make up the difference if the CDC only gives the Art Festival twenty five percent of the room tax. Campbell stated that the numbers can change each year, so if the room tax goes up next year, then the percentage may go up too, the number can change each year it does not have to be a set percentage. Phil also asked about the Kickapoo River Trail sign in the park, if they could have Roddy Dull go in and redo the wording on the sign as it is in bad condition.

Motion Campbell, second: Kemp to allocate twenty five percent of the 2025 room tax income to the Art Festival and twenty five percent to Dairy Days for this year. All present aye, motion carried.

Public Works Report – Public Works Director Michael Allie

- Made a drain ditch off Sunbeam Blvd by Solar Meats for water to drain off the roadway
- Added screening to the ball field, and made some modifications to the pitcher's mound
- Ball field sponsor banners are up, working on a way to find a way to straighten them up and secure them better so the wind does not blow them around
- Cleaned up all the stumps that got ground up around town
- Cleaned and reorganized around the Lion's Shelter as well as put recycled blacktop down so the ground does not get tore up
- Finished reconstruction the alleyway between Manning Avenue and Karl Avenue
- Made repairs to one of the basketball hoops in the park
- Cut low hanging branches from trees around town
- Added more sand to the sandbox
- Working on some clean up from the flooding that happened last week, cleaned multiple road tubes, reconstructed the walking path by the trailer court, repaired washouts in the parking lot by the Village Office
- Trying to stay caught up on the mowing
- Upcoming items to get done: continue necessary repairs from flooding, clear road tube and ditch Karl Avenue to Tavern Road, Clear road tube along Tavern Road above Prospect Street, put guards on the rain gutters at the shelter, make repairs to corner post by the library, continue replacing necessary road signs when they come in, WRWA rep will be coming down to assist with new sampling required that has never been done before, and get the water/sewer marked out and located at the old school property

New Business

Appointment of Village Plan Commission Members pursuant to Village Code 6-2

Motion Walsh, Second: Kemp to confirm the Village President's designation of Trustee, Vicki Campbell, and the appointments of Marty Herbst, Anthony France, Brian Campbell, Dave Riemer, Nicole Nelson, and Adam Marx to serve on the Village Plan Commission Committee pursuant to 6-2(B)(2) of the Village Code. All present aye, motion carried. Campbell abstained.

Approval of Previous Minutes

June 10, 2026 minutes

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

Approval of Monthly Bills

- General: \$26,327.00, Fire: \$2,088.41, Sewer: \$6,065.92, Water: \$1,734.64, and Library: \$6,765.99.
- Campbell asked for an ad to be put in the paper regarding the sponsors of the ball field. Jeannette stated that the Legion Ball coach is also trying to get sponsors. Put a banner up for Stussy's Tree Service as a thank you for helping with getting the banners up.

Motion: Campbell, Second: Walsh to approve paying all bills. All present aye, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Kemp, Second: Quandahl to adjourn at 7:10 PM. All present aye, motion carried.