

VILLAGE OF SOLDIERS GROVE, CRAWFORD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting held June 10, 2025. Meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Roll Call: Present: Shayne Chapman, Vicki Campbell, Marla Walsh, and Sarah Kemp. Not Present: Harrison Heilman.

Public Input: Phil Carey introduced himself to Marla & Sarah. He stated that July 2024 was the first time he brought issues to the board, asking why he was not placed on the agenda. Stated the willow thicket and deadfall in the creek was not removed as stated it was, he went in and removed it all, said it could not be brush hogged, so he had to rent a machine to pull it all out. The Village attorney told the board not to engage in discussion during public input, she said to cease discussion, and the board will determine if this needs to go onto another meeting. Phil said that he spoke with Jerry Moran, which stated there was a right of way on the levy. Fortney's are opposed to the abandonment of 3rd Street. End of the discussion, the board will decide after the meeting is adjourned if they will hold a special meeting.

Swamp Project People: Randy Swiggum spoke on behalf of the group. Asked if they can continue the work on Myrtle Lake. Campbell asked about the funds as they do not add up on the proposal the group gave the board in May. Asked who is all apart of the group. Randy stated that Justus Benson is the president, Dan Swiggum is the vice president, they do not have a treasurer. Stated they would be happy to share their bank statements. Campbell stated that this project has been going on since 2020 and what they gave the board is a 10-year plan, what happens when the next 3-4 floods come through and take it back to where it began. Also, it was asked what has been done in the past years since they started this project. Randy stated that things were put on hold in 2024 since the board stopped the work. Stated they did have a DNR permit, but it has expired and needs to be renewed. They need permission from the Village to continue to work on clearing the weeds, then to add the aeration. The plan is to put up dewatering bags that would be used for landscaping and flood mitigation. Campbell stated that this project has been tried and tried since she was a little girl and thousands of dollars have been wasted. It was asked where the dewatering bags would go, Randy stated they would be placed in the park for landscaping. Chapman stated the bags will not be placed in the Village park. The Village is designed so the flood water drains out in that corner of the park. Chapman stated he is not for allowing them to continue work, Campbell agreed. Campbell stated that it is not that the Village is against it, it is because the flooding will take it back to what it originally was. It was asked if there are permits to drain Myrtle Lake. Campbell asked what would happen when and if the money runs out, Randy stated that all the money goes to the project not to the people doing the work. Chapman gave an example of the flooding, the Village was looking at putting a chain link fence in the ball field, but as soon as a flood comes through, it would ruin the fence. Campbell said the flood water goes over the dike when it gets high enough, that it cannot be stopped. Randy stated their plan is to deepen the swamp with the dewatering bags, building a dike around it. Randy stated they are not asking the Village for money. Kim Anderson spoke up asking what the harm is if they are not asking for money from the Village. Campbell asked for a more detailed plan and for the group to show the board what they exactly want to do. It was asked about grants, Randy said they have not tapped into looking for grants as of now. It was asked again about permits. Arleena Stanley came and spoke, suggested the board to review it and sit down with the group to ask questions to better understand their vision and project. Arleena stated this is a process, the fundraisers were to bring people and make them aware. Motion by Campbell, second by Walsh to approve to sit down with the group and look at the whole project, science, and money part. All present aye, motion carried.

Driftless Art Festival: Kimberly Anderson introduced herself, she is a new resident in the Village and is now the head of the Art Festival. She mentioned that Dale Klemme mentioned to her about the Fire Department possibly putting the fence up for the festival. Chapman failed to bring that to the Fire Chief, Jeannette. Jeannette stated that she will have to bring it up at their next fire meeting in July and see what all the fire members say. Campbell asked if there are any changes to the art festival this year. Kimberly stated that there is no Gala, and there will be changes in the future but not this year. Campbell stated that the Village appreciates that they continue to have the Art Festival in Soldiers Grove.

Fire department: Crows nest is pretty much complete. A few small cosmetic things to wrap up and it will be done. Have a new member that joined, currently have 22 members. Have had 26 calls this year since January 1, Jeannette stated the number of calls is more than average. Had their Scott SCBA packs tested last week, 6 out of the 8 passed. Wrapped up the last Dairy Days meeting June 2nd, the band that was booked had to cancel due to health issues, so now have a DJ lined up, other than that just getting ready for the eventful weekend ahead.

CDC: Motion by Walsh, second by Chapman to approve payment to Vicki Campbell for park flowers in the amount of \$754.33. All present aye, motion carried.

Public Works: Continuing to mow, BMW weekend went good, been assisting the County with the projects they are doing around town, got a bunch of dirt hauled down to the slough where the trees were removed, storm drain flaps have been cleared out, boat landing is clean and clear, the tube extension on Dull Road is complete, almost finished with the construction with the hole in the road by the horse arena, and getting park ready for Dairy Days. Highway 131/Church Street: they were informed of some things that the village is responsible for preparing for the construction of the road. We need to move curb boxes back on the right-hand side of the road, the fire hydrant by Cemetery Street needs to be moved back about 12 feet. Pine Street construction was also noted that will most likely happen this fall. Park Showers: the showers are supposed to be for the campers, but we have more residents and local people coming in using them, we are losing money down the drain allowing this to happen. The bathrooms are unlocked 24/7, talked with Brent Swiggum, he said that is a way we can charge for the water. Coin machines are \$550 each, we need two of them. Motion by Campbell, second by Kemp to approve purchasing coin machines for the two park showers and installing them. All present aye, motion carried. Water Disconnections: There are many reoccurring people that continue to fall behind. The big one should be paid in full by a certain date. Require 25% of the past due upon the deferred payment arrangement. Motion by Kemp, second by Campbell to require 25% due upon the DPA and the big amount that is past due to be paid in full by a certain date. All present aye, motion carried. Tube for ballpark: ditch ended up being deeper than originally planned. Want to put in a 18-inch tube by the river with a flood gate, this will keep the water from coming up. \$800-\$1000 expense. Motion by Campbell, second by Walsh to approve purchasing a tube for the ditch in the ballpark. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Campbell, second by Kemp to approve picnic license for the Lion's Club for June 13th, 14th, & 21st, 2025. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Campbell, second by Walsh to approve Liquor License renewals. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Walsh, second by Kemp to approve Operator License renewals. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Kemp, second by Walsh to approve Cigarette/Vape License renewal. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Campbell, second by Walsh to approve donation of \$400 to Gays Mills Fire Department for Fireworks. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Campbell, second by Walsh to approve minutes of the May 6th & 8th, 2025 meetings. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Campbell, second by Walsh to approve bills General \$15,349.18, Fire \$794.46, Sewer \$6,548.20, Water \$748.49, and Library \$6,901.17. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Walsh, second by Campbell to adjourn meeting at 8:01 pm. All present aye, motion carried.