

Village of Soldiers Grove – Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 13, 2026

Regular Board Meeting: 6:30 PM

Board Members Present:

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

Public Input

- Kim Anderson spoke regarding the idea she and the Soldiers Grove Library has for a Library event on the last Sunday of June, July, and August this year. They are wanting to have a family friendly music event in the courtyard behind the Village building that is fully funded by the Library. She wanted to make sure that the Village Board was okay with the event and that no approvals were needed. Since it is a Library event and it is no different than the story route the Library does each summer, no approval is required.
- Diane Coleman asked about the mosquito survey that had been sent out to residents, asking if it would affect the water/sewer bills. Kemp informed her that the survey was informational only and that spraying for mosquitoes is separate from the water/sewer so it will not affect the monthly bills. The survey is just asking the Village taxpayers if they would like Village to hire a company to come in and spray for mosquitoes since it is illegal for the Village workers to do so. Coleman also asked about the status of the coin machines for the bathrooms in the park. It was stated that they have been ordered but there is no update as to when they will be installed.

Madison BMW Club-Approval of Project

- The BMW Club is wanting to give back to the Village. They want to sand and repaint the gazebo in the park. It was discussed that it was unsure if the Village would be purchasing the paint and what color, more information will come for this project.

2026 Driftless Area Art Festival

- Kim Anderson introduced herself, she has been the lead of the Art Festival for two years now. She wanted to thank the Village for the continued support each year. The Art Festival is September 19-20, 2026, with the reception on September 19th in the evening and welcomed the board to join and if anyone from the Village Board wanted to speak, they are more than welcome to. She stated that this year they had the most artists to apply, they had a total of 101 applied and 84 have received spots. New this year they will be having full demonstrations and workshops to allow more hands-on experience for the festival goers. They will also have spots in the middle of the area for sponsors so post things for their businesses to support their sponsors better. Also new this year, they will have professional sound for the music. Kim asked if there were any new trees that they needed to be aware of—there are not.

She also asked about recycling as the Lion's Club will be serving beer cans instead of cups this year.

Fire Department Report – Chief Jeannette McCormick

- Had last monthly meeting on May 6th.
- All members that attended Fire Cert 2 class passed, as well as 3 members that took the EMT course passed. McCormick stated that this is the most certified members the Fire Department has ever had, she is very proud of the Department and how the members continue to want to grow their education.
- June Dairy Days sponsor letters have been sent out. Advertisement posters have also been posted all over. Have 4 roadside banners to put up and also ordered 4 more so that they can be put up all around the area.
- McCormick Electric has installed the 50 amp breaker in the park.
- McCormick stated that she is going to start looking into grants for structure gear. Gear is good for 10 years and this is year 10. The cost for one set of gear is ten thousand dollars, and they need 24 sets so they would like to get a grant to try to cover most of that cost.

CDC Report

- No bills and all businesses are current on Room Tax.

Public Works Report – Public Works Director Michael Allie

- Water has been turned on at the campgrounds and park bathrooms
- New water heater has been installed in the park bathrooms, still waiting for the coin machines to be delivered. Also replaced the elements in the water heater at the Lion's Shelter
- Trees behind the Lion's Shelter have been taken down, the ones on Pine Street did not come down, the two trees on Pine Street will be discussed after the Village Attorney gives her response
- Installed the new chain link fence above the ball field and the new wooden fence behind the Lion's Shelter. The wooden fence will be painted in about a month, it has to weather
- Keeping the burn pile burnt as needed
- Repaired the sink hole in the parking lot by John's TV, repaired the Bob Burn's bench by the Bank. Kaitlynn will be staining the bench

- Doing lawn mower maintenance as needed, mowing 3 days a week, every week
- Started mulching around town, Allie asked how come Kaitlynn could not help mulch anymore as she has helped the past few years. Its nice to have an extra hand mulching so it gets done quicker as they have a ton of other things that need to be done. Quandahl stated that there are three options, either let Kaitlynn help mulch, hire Kory full time, or hire another part time person to come in and help. She stated it is better for the board to support the workers than fighting them. It was stated as long as it does not affect Kaitlynn's work and there is a note on the door, then it is okay for her to help the Public Workers when needed. Coleman spoke up and stated that she has heard a lot of complaints about the Public Workers just standing around not doing anything. Kemp informed Coleman that if people had complaints they need to come to the board meetings and express their complaints or fill out a complaint form for the board to review.
- Road signs have been ordered
- Will be doing repairs to the alleyway by Prospect Street soon
- The ditch mower is over at Swiggum's shop for repairs

New Business

Cemetery Signs

- Got two quotes: Signs by Shawn for both signs is \$550 each totaling \$1,100.00 and Proline Printing with a total of \$1,085.19.

Motion: Campbell, Second: Quandahl to approve purchasing the cemetery entrance sign and rules/regulation sign from Proline Printing in the amount of \$1,085.19. All present aye, motion carried.

Bids for New Well Road & Plane Street Projects

- Received 6 bids for each project. The reasoning for the Plane Street project is due to the hillside by the river is washing out and the Village has a storm sewer drainage on the hillside. Chapman stated that it is something that needs to be fixed. For the New Well Road Project, the Village will receive half of the cost back for bridge aid.

Motion: Campbell, Second: Walsh to approve the bid from Crawford County in the amount of \$3,565.05 with the extra cost of the tube and bands of \$1,256.70 for the New Well Road Project. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion: Campbell, Second: Kemp to approve the bid from Eric's Excavating in the amount of \$2,082.00 for the Plane Street project. All present aye, motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes

April 15, 2026 minutes

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

Approval of Monthly Bills

- General: \$20,978.81, Fire: \$1,295.75, Sewer: \$12,449.64, Water: \$4,663.21, and Library: \$12,842.76.
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Motion: Campbell, Second: Walsh to approve paying all bills. All present aye, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Kemp, Second: Walsh to adjourn at 7:06 PM. All present aye, motion carried.