

Regular Meeting Minutes September 2nd, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Village Trustee Harold Olson. Roll call was taken, and the following were present: Trustees Kaylee Waldvogel, Pete Filla, Dan Molstad, and Harold Olson, Village Clerk Jane Jensen, and Andrew Dannehy of the Trempealeau Co. Times. President Marc Baures, Trustees Cory Komperud and Dana Stoner were absent.

The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jane Jensen verified that the posting and notification requirements were met.

(10) Minute Open Forum No one was present to speak in open forum.

Report from the Public Works Department

Courtney Kotlarz was not present at the meeting. No Building Permit applications were submitted.

New Business

Jane Jensen presented the application of John R. Seago for an Operator's License. Harold Olson said due to information concerning an alcohol-related traffic offense, a background check should be conducted before the application is considered. A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Pete Filla to deny the application of John R. Seago for an Operator's License. The motion carried 4 to 0.

Jane Jensen presented the board with examples of 5%, 7% and 10% sewer rate increases to consider for 2026. Dan Molstad said that a sewer rate increase should be considered for approval of the entire board. Molstad instructed Jane to place the matter on the November agenda. Harold Olson noted that the financial study indicated that rate increases must be done annually.

Harold Olson asked Pete Filla to report on compensation for Village President and Village Trustees. Pete said that his survey of other municipalities indicated that the Ettrick Board is paid the lowest compensation of any community. He said that some communities pay a flat fee plus a meeting fee. He said that the current compensation is \$50.00 for a regular or special meeting and \$25.00 for a committee meeting. Filla pointed out that no one is hoping to make money serving on the board, but trustees should certainly be compensated for the time spent away from families and other responsibilities. Kaylee said she thinks it is a challenging time to consider pay raises, but she sees the need for it. Jane Jensen noted that State Statute establishing changing compensation for elective office provides that compensation for an elective village office shall be established before the earliest time before the caucus date is determined. The Caucus date is set in October or November to hold a December Caucus. Jane Jensen said she will add it to the next agenda.

Old Business

The board discussed insurance coverage for village properties and vehicles. Harold Olson said that Marc Baures did not get quotes for insurance coverage from any other companies. Jane Jensen said that she was hoping to have a quote from Spectrum Insurance. She forwarded Spectrum's contact information to Marc Baures. Harold noted that the current policy is up for renewal in September with the coverage starting October 1st, so it is too late to consider another estimate. Dan Molstad said that this happened last year, too and he thinks that insurance coverage should be discussed in the spring when there is ample time to obtain comparison quotes. Jane Jensen was instructed to place it on the agenda for the February meeting.

Harold Olson opened discussion on the appointment of a new village attorney. He wanted to know if the village had enough information on the cost associated with this attorney. Pete Filla pointed out that Joseph Veenstra of Johns, Flaherty and Collins was appointed as a judge, making it necessary to appoint a new attorney from the same firm. Jane Jensen said that the contract with Johns, Flaherty and Collins provides legal services at a rate of \$225.00 per hour plus costs for legal work. A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Pete Filla to adopt Resolution #25-04, designating Attorney Brent Smith of Johns, Flaherty and Collins to act as the new Village Attorney. The motion carried 4 to 0.

Jane Jensen presented the board with a copy of the current landfill rental agreement. The 2025 lease was paid on August 20th, 2025, by Matt Freng. The landfill is about 32 acres with 20% of those woods. Mr. Freng had already planted his crops on the land when he paid the lease. Harold Olson said that he and Courtney Kotlarz have been researching sludge disposal options and the need to have village property available for this disposal. Harold asked to have the matter placed on the November agenda.

A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Dan Molstad to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing of the Planning Commission and of the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees held on August 5th, 2025. The motion carried 4 to 0.

A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Kaylee Waldvogel to approve for payment voucher #s 40313-40342 plus 3 EFT's and 1 auto pay in the amount of \$30,733.68 from the General Checking Account and voucher #s 11440-11462 plus 1 auto pay in the amount of \$14,218.97 from the Water/Sewer Checking Account. The motion carried 4 to 0.

A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Kaylee Waldvogel to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of August. The motion carried 4 to 0.

A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Dan Molstad to enter into closed session per WI SS 19.85 at 6:40 p.m. to discuss employee hiring. A roll call vote was taken: Kaylee Waldvogel-yes; Pete Filla-yes; Dan Molstad-yes; Harold Olson-yes. The motion carried 4 to 0.

Jane Jensen
Village Clerk
Village of Ettrick

A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Dan Molstad to come out of Closed Session at 7:30 p.m. The motion carried 4 to 0.

A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Dan Molstad to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.