

Regular Meeting Minutes
January 6th, 2026

The meeting was called to order 6:06 p.m. immediately following the Village Caucus by Village President Marc Baures. Roll call was taken, and the following were present: Trustees Cory Komperud, Kaylee Waldvogel, Pete Filla, Dan Molstad, Harold Olson, Dana Stoner, President Baures, Village Clerk Jane Jensen, a virtual report from Brian Roemer and Peter Meidal of Ehlers Public Finance Advisors, CCF Bank representatives Tammy Johnson and Joy Tabbert and Andrew Dannehy of the Trempealeau Co. Times.

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

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

New Business

Cory Cantlon could not attend the meeting.

Tammy Johnson and Joy Tabbert of CCF Bank gave a presentation on fraud protection for the village accounts. Joy Tabbert said the fraud protection will cover all village accounts at a cost of \$90.00 per month. Tammy Johnson presented folders outlining various methods of fraud. She noted that consumers have typical fraud protection, but municipal funds are not protected in the same way. She said without protection, the village would only have 24 hours to report fraud, which means that the accounts would have to be monitored daily. She said the most common fraud practice is check washing where a check is stolen and the name changed and the check cashed before it can be detected without daily monitoring. She said the service will flag any unusual activity and CCF Bank will notify the village immediately. She said that the process for the village to monitor and administer the fraud protection service takes only a few steps and can be done daily by village employees. Kaylee Waldvogel asked if the village could try the service and evaluate the time necessary to administer the service. Tammy told her yes. The village could sign up for the program and cancel it if it is not feasible. The board thanked them for their presentation and the left the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Marc Baures introduced Brian Roemer and Peter Meidal of Ehlers Public Municipal Finance Advisors, attending the meeting virtually. Brian said the Public Service Commission regulates water rates and Public Fire Protection. He said to convert the PFP charge to consumer funded, a request must be made to the Public Service Commission. He said a Full Rate Case study must be done before making this application. The application must then be presented for public view at a Public Hearing. He noted that the PSC will do an audit of accounts back to 2017. Marc Baures asked if it is possible to start with a percentage increase. Roemer said yes, but a rate study will be necessary for each increase. He said all parcels will contribute to the PFP even if they do not have water/sewer service. Multiple, adjacent parcels will be treated as 1 parcel, so only one PFP bill is generated. Dan Molstad asked if there will be dollar amounts included to present to the public. Brian said yes and it will show what the rate will be. Dan asked if this fee could be added to the tax bill. Brian said because it is governed by the PSC, it has to be on the water bill. Marc asked if the board wanted to move forward with conducting the study. Brian said the study would have to move forward now so that the application can be approved at the May meeting. The approximate cost of the study is \$15,000.00. Brian told the board that tonight's discussion was a good start, and they are moving in the right direction. Harold Olson thanked them for their presentation, and they left the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Dan

Molstad said that the goal should be set in February and move forward quickly. He said the only other option is to drastically cut the budget.

Old Business

The board held a discussion on options for leasing the village farmland. Marc asked the board if they want to open the bids up for hunting and for agriculture. Pete Filla said that there should be a stipulation in the lease that prohibits sub-leasing. Dana said the best option would be to lease the land for hunting land and disposal of village sludge. A motion was made by Pete Filla to have the Village Attorney draft a lease agreement for the lease of agricultural or hunting land, with no sub-leasing, and the village retains the right to dispose of sludge for one (1) year, with an option to mutually agree to a 2nd year. The village reserves the right to accept or reject all bids. Dan Molstad seconded the motion. The motion carried 7 to 0.

A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Cory Komperud to approve the minutes of the Budget Hearing and of the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees held on December 2nd, 2025. The motion carried 7 to 0.

A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Pete Filla to approve for payment voucher #s 40444-40510 plus 5 EFT's and one auto pay in the amount of \$50,336.16 from the General Checking Account and voucher #s 11547-11570 plus 1 auto pay in the amount of \$11,400.19 from the Water and Sewer Checking Account. The motion carried 7 to 0.

A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Harold Olson to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of December. The motion carried 7 to 0.

Dan Molstad said that Courtney Kotlarz and Robert Kotte have been doing a great job plowing snow. Dana Stoner asked that Robert be invited to the next meeting.

A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Dana Stoner to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Jane Jensen
Village Clerk
Village of Ettrick