

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Oakfield Village Board
Oakfield Community Center
130 N. Main Street Oakfield, WI 53065
Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Dan Redman.

Roll call found the following trustees present: Al Kamenski, John Cedar, Chris Cook, Julie Franke, Owen Stoppleworth and Jim Eckberg. Also in attendance: Joe Ciesielczyk, Lee Martin, Brad Winger, Linda Alsum-O'Donovan, Renee Schuster and Miriam Thomas.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Chris Cook, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of June 11, 2025, regular board meeting and approve them as written. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comments: Joe asked if there has been any progress on the sidewalk ordinance. John stated he has been reading through all the ordinances he has received and is compiling info between them and state statutes. There is lot of information to read through. He would like the process of drafting the ordinance to go through the Public Works Committee first.

Chris Cook said Renee had put out a public call for help to get a fence put up around a resident's yard to keep a dog from being removed from the village. He was very impressed with the way the community, and those outside of the community, showed up to help. It took around forty people about a hour to get the fence up and keep the dog with the owner.

Public Works:

Water: Nothing to report.

Sewer:

Wastewater project update: Shane joined remotely to provide an update on the progress at the treatment plant. Both clarifiers are poured. The excavation for the larger new structures is done; soil samples were again satisfactory. Staab will continue pouring concrete for the structures through July. The next structure to be built is the sludge storage tank.

Staab Pay Request #5: The pay request is for \$545,789.25 and is mostly concrete work cost.

Motion: Jim Eckberg, seconded by Owen Stoppleworth, to approve Pay Request #5. Motion carried 7-0.

Staab Change Order #1: The total increase of the change order is \$33,476.00. Shane explained how a contingency amount is worked into the project bid and change orders are absorbed, to a degree, from the contingency money. The first part of the change order is for replacing the lines to the sludge bed. It was not included in the original design and they need to be replaced. The sludge storage tank requires less metal so the reduction in material is a reduction in the cost as well. The \$6,973 cost of the change order is for grouting the channels in the clarifier.

Motion: Dan Redman, seconded by John Cedar, to approve Change Order #1. Motion carried 7-0.

Sewer plant road easement discussion: Dan told the board the neighboring farmer has asked for an easement to use the treatment plant road to access the field to the northwest of the plant. He would also like the extra fill from the structure excavations to build a road along the north side of the treatment plant fence. John suggested the whole topic go to the Public Works Committee for discussion first. There was confusion about what the farmer was looking for permission for and what the land renter was looking for. Several board members didn't think agreeing to anything right now was a good idea as much of the area is considered a wetland and the DNR would need to be involved, but that none of the research was the village's responsibility to seek out.

Public Safety: Chief Schuster is in the middle of Department of Justice audits. The county has been doing speed grants again but not the quantity in the past. No issues were reported on the Fourth of July.

There was some illegal dumping reported at the village garage in the village's dumpsters. After talking to the individual, Renee will be issuing a citation.

There are close to 300 migrants working right now with about 280 of them housed in Oakfield. There have been six drug arrests and several workers have been fired with drug-related charges. Renee met with management at Seneca and had copies of most of the ordinances that are violated in English and Spanish posted around the camp so all employees can be aware. A suggestion was made to have a meeting with Seneca representatives and the village board to help the board be more aware of their hiring and firing practices and the way things are run during the canning season so Renee isn't having to deal with everything all by herself.

Speed radar sign: Brett Handschke, a county deputy and member of the Public Safety Committee, has access to the county's radar trailer and can get the village on the waiting list to use it. Owen had a spreadsheet prepared with research on three different radar trailers and pointed out the pros and cons of each of them and what he'd learned from looking into recent law changes regarding speed radar signs. After a brief discussion, more questions need to be answered regarding battery replacement cost and longevity of each unit. The Public Safety Committee should look at the options and make a recommendation to the board.

New Business:

Monthly check approval: The monthly approval sheet was passed around and signed.

Community Center board: Linda Alsum-O'Donovan, library director, explained a quote received from Signarama to replace the library's message board with a new electronic board. She has been working with Jim Eckberg to come up with a solution to allow both library and village events to be put on the board and a draft from Signarama was looked at. The sign header needs to be finalized in regards to what the wording on it will be. The proposal is to split the cost of the new sign, which is approximately \$40,000, between the library and the village. Linda told the board preliminary figures show there should be enough in their contingency fund to cover half. The sign will need to go through the Plan Commission for final approval. Once a final draft is created, it will again be presented to the board.

Operator's license: Two operator's licenses were submitted for approval for Monika Thapa and Jaime Ehlert. Renee reported there are no concerns with issuance.

Motion: Jim Eckberg, seconded by Al Kamenski, to approve both operator's licenses. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Jim Eckberg, to adjourn the board meeting at 8:23 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam Thomas, Clerk/Treasurer