

MEETING:	REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
DATE AND TIME:	Wednesday, October 8, 2025 6:30 PM
LOCATION:	Germantown Village Hall Board Room N112 W17001 Mequon Road

MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** *This meeting has been given public notice in accordance with Section 19.83 and 19.84, Wis. Stats, in such form that will apprise the general public and news media of subject matter that is intended for consideration and action.*

Village President Bob Soderberg called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

II. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Trustee Robert Warren, Trustee Meg Cutts, Trustee David Baum, Trustee Jan Miller, Trustee Kristen Borst(via WebEx), Trustee Jolene Pieper(in-person and via WebEx), Trustee Rick Miller, Village President Bob Soderberg

Also Present: Administrator Steve Kreklow, Finance Director Matthew Uselding, Police Chief Patrick Merten, Fire Chief John Delain, Park and Recreation Director Gil Standridge, Public Works Superintendent Scott Anderson, Public Works Director Matthew Mortwedt, Library Director Trisha Smith, and Chief Deputy Clerk Kasie Miller

Excused: Trustee Terri Kaminski

- III. **CITIZEN INPUT:** *(Please be advised per 19.84(2) that information and comment will be received from the public. It is the policy of this municipality that public input be limited to a four (4) minute period per person with a time extension granted at the discretion of the Chairperson. Be advised that there may be limited discussion of the information received but no action will be taken under public comments.) Comments that may be injurious to village personnel or other individuals will not be allowed.*

Lynne Bednarz (W163N11461 Pawnee Ct) spoke regarding the Village budget and the tax rate.

Melanie Smythe (N140W17938 Cedar Ln) spoke regarding Village projections and forecasting.

Scott Hefle (W159N10514 Old Farm Rd) spoke regarding the Village budget.

IV. **MEETING MINUTES:**

- A. October 15, 2024, Minutes (ACTION)

Motion: Approve as presented

Motioned By: Rick Miller
Seconded By: Robert Warren

Motion to Amend: Include the account number for New Business Item B - Outstanding Items.

Motioned By: Jan Miller
Seconded By: Meg Cutts

Yes: Robert Warren, Jan Miller, Kristen Borst, Bob Soderberg

No: Meg Cutts, David Baum, Jolene Pieper, Rick Miller

Abstain: None

Motion to Amend Failed By Voice Vote (Yes 4, No 4, Abstained 0)

Results of Original Motion:

Yes: Robert Warren, Meg Cutts, David Baum, Jan Miller, Kristen Borst, Jolene Pieper, Rick Miller, Bob Soderberg

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed by Voice Vote (Yes 8, No 0, Abstained 0)

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2026 Budget - GGF Committee Overview & Recommended Changes (ACTION)

Finance Director Matthew Uselding provided a summary of the General Government and Finance Committee meetings that took place on 09/15/2025 and 09/23/2025. The Committee reviewed the budgets for Administration, Clerk, Finance, Special Revenues, TIDs, Community Development, Recreation, and Library. The Committee put forth a recommendation to increase the Board Professional Development budget from \$500 to \$2,000. Uselding advised that funding could be allocated from State Shared Revenue or State Transportation Aid. Village Board members discussed the recommendation, but no motion was made to approve it. Administrator Kreklow advised that since no motion was made to accept the recommendation, the Board Professional Development budget would remain at \$500.

B. 2026 Budget - PWHC Overview & Recommended Changes (ACTION)

Finance Director Matthew Uselding provided a summary of the Public Works and Highway Committee meetings that took place on 09/03/2025 and 09/23/2025. The Committee reviewed the budgets for Engineering, Highway, Parks, Buildings and Grounds, Water Utility, and Sewer Utility. The Committee put forth a recommendation to increase Highway Privatized Services from \$5,000 to \$6,500 to allocate funding to

install a pump at Weidenbach Pond. Uselding advised that funding could be allocated from State Shared Revenue or State Transportation Aid.

Motion: Approve the recommendation to increase Hwy Privatized Services from \$5,000 to \$6,500 to install the pump at Weidenbach Pond, with the additional \$1,500 funding coming from the State Transportation Aid

Motioned By: Rick Miller

Seconded By: Jolene Pieper

Yes: Meg Cutts, David Baum, Jan Miller, Kristen Borst, Jolene Pieper, Rick Miller, Bob Soderberg

No: Robert Warren

Abstain: None

Motion Passed by Voice Vote (Yes 7, No 1, Abstained 0)

C. 2026 Budget - Public Safety Committee Overview & Recommended Changes (ACTION)

Finance Director Matthew Uselding provided a summary of the Public Safety Committee meeting that took place on 09/30/2025. The Committee reviewed the Police and Fire Department budgets. While no recommendations for changes were made, the Committee requested additional information regarding Police Communication and IT budget lines, as well as a more comprehensive assessment of their Capital requests. Police Chief Patrick Merten and Fire Chief John Delain were present to provide comments and address questions related to the Sheboygan Warning System (tornado sirens).

Motion: Remove the \$9,000 Sheboygan Warning Systems budget line

Motioned By: Jolene Pieper

Seconded By: David Baum

Yes: Robert Warren, David Baum, Jolene Pieper, Rick Miller

No: Meg Cutts, Jan Miller, Kristen Borst, Bob Soderberg

Abstain: None

Motion Failed by Roll Call Vote (Yes 4, No 4, Abstained 0)

D. 2026 Capital Budget Project Review (ACTION)

Finance Director Matthew Uselding advised that historically, the Village has budgeted ~\$3.5 million worth of capital projects, with the majority of funds going towards roads and heavier DPW equipment. The 2026 budget includes an additional \$13.87 million in capital projects, with the total estimated borrowing being \$17.37 million. This includes \$3.0 million for Division Road that was approved in the 2025 budget and \$500,000 for a new ambulance that was approved in the 2024 budget. To structure the debt, minimize the tax impact, and limit the interest expense, Village staff recommends various 5, 10, and 20-year note sizes for the 2026 Capital Projects. The

Village Board members discussed each of the note sizes and associated projects separately. Police Chief Patrick Merten, Public Works Director Matthew Mortwedt, Public Works Superintendent Scott Anderson, Park and Recreation Director Guilford Standridge, and Library Director Trisha Smith provided comments, addressed questions, and discussed their Department's Capital Budget projects. The Village Board recessed from 9:25 PM to 9:29 PM for a break.

5-Year Note Projects:

Motion #1: Remove the 25 Rifle Lights(\$10,500), 5 Rifles(\$8,100), and Drone(\$7,000) from the 5-Year Note Projects

Motioned By: Jolene Pieper

Seconded By: David Baum

Yes: Robert Warren, Meg Cutts, David Baum, Jan Miller, Kristen Borst, Jolene Pieper, Rick Miller

No: Bob Soderberg

Abstain: None

Motion #1 Passed by Roll Call (Yes 7, No 1, Abstained 0)

Motion #2: Remove the Enclosed Snow Blower(\$50,000), DPW Scissors Lift(\$25,000), Trailer Air Compressor(\$30,000), and the Additional Hanging Baskets on Mequon Rd(\$4,000)

Motioned By: Jolene Pieper

Seconded By: Jan Miller

Motion to Amend Motion #2: Retain the DPW Scissors Lift(\$25,000) in the 5-Year Note Projects

Motioned By: Rick Miller

Seconded By: Bob Soderberg

Yes: Robert Warren, David Baum, Rick Miller, Bob Soderberg

No: Meg Cutts, Jan Miller, Kristen Borst, Jolene Pieper

Abstain: None

Motion to Amend Motion #2 Failed by Voice Vote (Yes 4, No 4, Abstained 0)

Second Motion to Amend Motion #2: Retain the DPW Scissors Lift(\$25,000) and Remove the Police Annex Office Doors(\$6,000) and Truck #408 Hydraulic Lineset(\$8,000) from the 5-Year Note Projects

Motioned By: David Baum

Seconded By: Robert Warren

Yes: Robert Warren, David Baum, Kristen Borst, Rick Miller, Bob Soderberg

No: Meg Cutts, Jan Miller, Jolene Pieper

Abstain: None

Second Motion to Amend Motion #2 Passed by Voice Vote (Yes 5, No 3,

Abstained 0)

Results of Motion #2, as Amended: Remove the Enclosed Snow Blower(\$50,000), Trailer Air Compressor(\$30,000), Additional Hanging Baskets on Mequon Rd(\$4,000), Police Annex Office Doors(\$6,000), and Truck #408 Hydraulic Lineset(\$8,000) from the 5-Year Note Projects

Yes: Robert Warren, Meg Cutts, David Baum, Kristen Borst, Jolene Pieper, Rick Miller, Bob Soderberg

No: Jan Miller

Abstain: None

Motion #2 As Amended Passed By Voice Vote (Yes 7, No 1, Abstained 0)

10-Year Note Projects:

Motion #1: Reduce the Sidewalk Tractor from \$272,000 to \$150,000, reflecting a \$122,000 reduction to the \$344,000 overall cost

Motioned By: Rick Miller

Seconded By: David Baum

Yes: Robert Warren, Meg Cutts, David Baum, Jan Miller, Kristen Borst, Jolene Pieper, Rick Miller, Bob Soderberg

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion #1 Passed By Voice Vote (Yes 8, No 0, Abstained 0)

Motion #2: Remove the Street lighting fixture replacement(\$114,000) from the 10-Year Note Projects

Motioned By: Jolene Pieper

Seconded By: Meg Cutts

Yes: Meg Cutts, Jan Miller, Jolene Pieper

No: Robert Warren, David Baum, Kristen Borst, Rick Miller, Bob Soderberg

Abstain: None

Motion #2 Failed by Voice Vote (Yes 3, No 5, Abstained 0)

Motion #3: Remove the Senior Center AV Upgrade(\$22,500) from the 10-Year Note Projects

Motioned By: Jolene Pieper

Seconded By: David Baum

Yes: Robert Warren, David Baum, Jolene Pieper

No: Meg Cutts, Jan Miller, Kristen Borst, Rick Miller, Bob Soderberg

Abstain: None

Motion #3 Failed By Voice Vote (Yes 3, No 5, Abstained 0)

Motion #4: Remove the \$50,000 Trail Improvements from the 10-year Note Projects and pay for the Trail Improvements with Impact Fees

Motioned By: Meg Cutts

Seconded By: David Baum

Yes: Robert Warren, Meg Cutts, David Baum, Jan Miller, Kristen Borst, Jolene Pieper, Rick Miller, Bob Soderberg

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion #4 Passed by Voice Vote (Yes 8, No 0, Abstained 0)

Motion #5: Remove the Library Study Pods (\$10,000) from the 10-Year Note Projects

Motioned By: David Baum

Seconded By: Bob Soderberg

Yes: David Baum

No: Robert Warren, Meg Cutts, Jan Miller, Kristen Borst, Jolene Pieper, Rick Miller, Bob Soderberg

Abstain: None

Motion #5 Failed By Voice Vote (Yes 1, No 7, Abstained 0)

20-Year Note Projects:

No motions were made regarding the 20-Year Note Projects.

E. Allocation of Additional 2026 State Aid Revenues (ACTION)

Finance Director Matthew Uselding provided a memo with staff-recommended allocation options for the ~\$170,000 of additional State Transportation Aid.

Proposed allocations:

- Village Board Professional Development \$1,500
- Install Pump at Weidenbach Pond \$1,500
- Move Interest to Capital Reserve \$109,000
- Recreation Program Supplies \$11,060
- Library Program Supplies & Expenses \$6,000
- Library Gutter Seam Repair \$20,000
- Village Hall Water Heater \$10,000
- 5 Rifles (5-Year CIP) \$8,100

Motion: Amend the proposed 2026 Budget to reflect the changes recommended by staff in the provided State Transportation Aid Allocation Options Memo to include the

approximate changes to the Capital Borrowing program accordingly, and to remove the \$1,500 for Village Board Professional Development

Motioned By: David Baum

Seconded By: Jolene Pieper

Yes: Robert Warren, Meg Cutts, David Baum, Jan Miller, Kristen Borst, Rick Miller, Bob Soderberg

No: Jolene Pieper

Abstain: None

Motion Passed By Voice Vote (Yes 7, No 1, Abstained 0)

F. Public Hearing Notice Publication (ACTION)

Finance Director Matthew Uselding advised that if there are no additional actions for the 2026 Budget, the Public Hearing Notice could be published in the newspaper and for final Village Board review and adoption on November 17, 2025. Additionally, the October 14, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting would be canceled.

Motion: Approve the publication of the Public Hearing Notice

Motioned By: Rick Miller

Seconded By: David Baum

Motion Withdrawn; Trustees requested additional 2026 Budget discussions related to the General Fund.

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be October 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Village President Bob Soderberg adjourned the Committee of the Whole meeting at 10:02 PM.