

*Village of Fall Creek*  
*Minutes for Regular Village Board Meeting*  
*September 9, 2024*

1. **Call to Order:** 6:00 p.m., Village Hall Meeting Room, 122 E Lincoln Ave., Fall Creek
2. **Roll Call:** Members Present: Village President Tim Raap, Trustees Ryan Aylesworth, Bryan Kaatz, Josiah Kleven, Matt Mattoon, Curt Strasburg. Members Absent: Karen Herbison. Staff Present: Village Administrator/Public Works Director Jared McKee, Clerk/Treasurer Renee Roemhild. Also Present: 3 citizens.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Certify Open Meeting Law Requirements Have Been Met:** A notice of the meeting and the agenda was posted at the three public places and local newspapers were notified.
5. **Adopt Agenda:**
  - MOTION (Mattoon/Kleven) to adopt the agenda. PASSED, without negative vote.
6. **Recognition of Visitors/Citizen Input/Correspondence:** None.
7. **Approval of Minutes**
  - MOTION (Mattoon/Aylesworth) to approve the 8/12/24 Regular Board and Inland Lake Annual meeting minutes. PASSED, without negative vote.
8. **Financial Report**
  - MOTION (Mattoon/Kaatz) to approve the 8/31/24 Budget Comparison report. Roll call vote: Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes. PASSED.
9. **Approval of Bills**
  - A. **Contractor's Pay Request:**
    - MOTION (Aylesworth/Kaatz) to approve Pay Request #4 for the Business Park Extension Project in the amount of \$102,081.61 to Tanner Excavating and approve Change Order #3 in the amount of \$24,504.12 for storm structure patching. Roll call vote: Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes. PASSED.
    - MOTION (Kaatz/Mattoon) to approve Pay Request #1 for the Keller Park Ball Courts in the amount of \$63,907.62 to Tanner Excavating. Roll call vote: Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes. PASSED.
    - MOTION (Mattoon/Kleven) to approve Pay Request #1 for the Miami Ave Reconstruction Project in the amount of \$49,071.50 to Tanner Excavating. Roll call vote: Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes. PASSED. Discussion took place on which funds would be used for these pay requests and the various capital projects.
      - MOTION (Mattoon/Aylesworth) to use the Ziemann Bequeath for the playground equipment in Keller Park and to use ARPA money for the park ballcourts projects. Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes. PASSED.
      - MOTION (Aylesworth/Mattoon) authorizing President Raap and Administrator McKee to sign any easements and rights-of-ways for the Bloomer Broadband project. PASSED, without negative vote.
  - B. **Regular Monthly Approval of Bills:**
    - MOTION (Aylesworth/Mattoon) to accept the Invoice Listing and Payroll Pay Summary Reports of 8/13/24-9/9/24. Roll call vote: Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes. PASSED.
10. **Report of Village Administrator:** Administrator Jared McKee gave his monthly report highlighting the department duties accomplished since the last regular board meeting.
11. **Committee Reports:** None.
12. **Unfinished Business:** None.

### 13. New Business

- A. Consider Appeal re: Denial of Bartender Operator License:** The appeal was reviewed by the Board, along with the letter from Police Chief Mumford stating his recommendation for denial per Village policy to deny if applicant has a felony conviction.
- MOTION (Aylesworth/Kaatz) to deny as recommended. PASSED, without negative vote.
- B. Police Staffing Study:** Police Chief Colin Mumford reported on staffing needs for the Village of Fall Creek, reviewing a comparison of staffing levels at other police departments in the State which have municipal populations of 1300-1500.
- C. Contract for Prochnow Assessing:**
- MOTION (Aylesworth/Strasburg) approving the contract with Randy Prochnow for assessing services for the years 2025-2027 at a cost of \$5,500 annually. Roll call vote: Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes. PASSED. As a point of info, Raap stated the contract for audit services with Clifton, Larsen for audit services for year-end 2024 was signed by himself and Administrator McKee.
- D. 2025 Preliminary Budget Discussion:** McKee gave an overview of how the budget numbers were coming in, asked if the Board had any requests or recommendations for the budget, and reviewed a municipal cost of living survey that we recently completed. The survey compared like-size municipalities in Eau Claire County and counties surrounding EC.

The Village of Fall Creek compared as:

- 14<sup>th</sup> cheapest out of 21 for water/sewer rates and
  - 4<sup>th</sup> cheapest out of 21 when comparing the municipal share of property taxes.
  - Overall, when combining both factors to estimate an average annual municipal cost of living, Fall Creek ranked 8<sup>th</sup> cheapest out of 21.
  - To take the analysis further, factors were looked at like median household income because that is used by many funding agencies when determining whether they will give out grant money. Municipalities with a higher median household income are deemed not as needy and therefore are less likely to be awarded grant money. Fall Creek had the highest median household income of the 21 municipalities, greatly reducing our chances of being awarded a grant from most funding programs.
  - State aid was also compared, and Fall Creek received the 19<sup>th</sup> lowest aid out of 21.
  - Receiving less aid and having a lower chance of being awarded grants means there is more pressure on utility and tax rates to cover the necessary costs for running the municipal government.
  - An analysis was then calculated to show the efficiency of use of funds, taking a per capita basis with estimating an average household size. Fall Creek was rated as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most efficient municipality out of 21.
- E. Appointments:** President Raap appointed John Mason to the Plan Commission to complete the term of Heather Glassman.
- MOTION (Mattoon/Strasburg) approving the above appointment. PASSED, without negative vote.

**9. Possible Assignment to Committee:** None.

**10. Committee Recommendations:** None.

**11. Adjournment:** @ 7:44 p.m.

Renee Roemhild, Clerk/Treasurer