

# *Village of Fall Creek*

## *Minutes for Public Hearing and Regular Village Board Meeting*

*November 11, 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: Trustee Karen Herbison. Staff Present: Village Administrator/Public Works Director Jared McKee, Clerk/Treasurer Renee Roemhild. Also Present: 6 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 (Strasburg/Kaatz) to adopt the agenda. PASSED, without negative vote.
6. **Recognition of Visitors/Citizen Input/Correspondence:**
  - Richard Ziemann, 543 S State St, encouraged the Board to use the resources from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities: their monthly magazine, their regional roundtable meetings, and their monthly food for thought zoom meetings.
  - Dane Zook, 306 E Adams, resident & County Board Supervisor, encouraged the Board to keep open communication with him as he could help the Village out in his position on the County Board and questioned what had been done with Inland Lake.
7. **Approval of Minutes**
  - MOTION (Kleven/Aylesworth) to approve the 10/2/24 Special Board, 10/2/24 Finance, Personnel & Economic Development Committee, 10/14/24 Finance, Personnel, & Economic Development Committee, and 10/14/24 Regular Village Board meeting minutes. PASSED, without negative vote.
8. **Financial Report**
  - MOTION (Aylesworth/Kaatz) to approve the 10/31/24 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 (Kaatz/Strasburg) to approve Pay Request #6 for the Business Park Extension Project in the amount of \$46,040.70 to Tanner Excavating. Roll call vote: Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes. PASSED.
    - MOTION (Mattoon/Kleven) to approve Pay Request #1 for Keller Park Lighting in the amount of \$34,960.00 to NEI Electric. Roll call vote: Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes. PASSED.
    - MOTION (Mattoon/Kleven) to approve the pay request of MWP Recreation/Minnesota Playground in the amount of \$34,084.98. Roll call vote: Raap-yes. Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes. PASSED.
  - B. **Regular Monthly Approval of Bills:**
    - MOTION (Mattoon/Strasburg) to accept the Invoice Listing and Payroll Pay Summary Reports of 10/15/24-11/11/24. Roll call vote: Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes. PASSED.
10. **Report of Village Administrator:** Administrator Jared McKee gave his monthly report highlighting the duties accomplished by each department since the last regular board meeting.
11. **Committee Reports:** None.

12. **Unfinished Business:** None.

13. **New Business**

**A. Inland Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Quarterly Discussion:** Village President Tim Raap opened the discussion by reviewing information from the prior meeting regarding dredging options and related costs. As the costs seemed prohibitive, discussion took place about doing something on a smaller scale. McKee provided a proposal for engineering services to complete a pond hydro-survey & sediment sampling (pre-dredging investigation). Raap stated we've talked about getting a sediment trap upstream and will continue to investigate options for acquiring property for that purpose. Discussion also took place on the Eau Claire County Land Conservation grant application for lake rehabilitation projects.

The Board moved to agenda item 13.D. due to the time.

**D. At 6:30 p.m. - Public Hearing Regarding 2025 Budgets:** Raap reported the public hearing was noticed in the newspaper per State Statutes. No citizens chose to comment. Raap closed the public hearing. The board returned to agenda item 13.B.

**B. Public Hearing re: Sewer Rate Increase:** Raap reported we held an open house on November 7<sup>th</sup> to give residents an opportunity to voice any comments/concerns and get questions answered. This hearing is another opportunity for the same thing. Raap discussed the survey we completed (and have on our website) which compares like-sized, neighboring communities in regard to the municipal revenue generated from residents. This can also be used for residents to compare the municipal cost of living in each community. When considering the revenue a municipality has to work with to provide necessary services, it's important to realize that revenue comes from different sources. The main source being utility bills and property taxes, but other important sources include funds received from grants and state aids. Fall Creek is at a disadvantage when it comes to receiving grant funds, as the Village's high median-household-income disqualifies us from many funding programs. Another disadvantage for Fall Creek is the State of Wisconsin's mechanism for calculating State Aid. Per the survey, you can see that Fall Creek receives the lowest amount of State Aid of all the 21 municipalities surveyed. To understand the significance of that comparison, Fall Creek's state aid in 2024 was only \$360,000 in relation to Augusta's at \$736,000. Like services are needed in both communities but Augusta received more than twice the amount of Fall Creek. Even higher state aid amounts (of over \$800,000 each) were given to eight other communities. The huge disparity between the financial aid given to like-sized communities is not an equitable way to allocate funds. Raap encouraged residents to speak with their State Representatives about this situation, requesting they come up with a better way to distribute State funds fairly. There was no public comment, so Raap closed the public hearing.

**C. Consideration of Schedule of Fees, Including Sewer Rate Increase:** McKee reviewed the fee schedule, highlighting the proposed amendments. He gave a detailed explanation of the proposed sewer rate increase.

- MOTION (Mattoon/Aylesworth) to adopt the amendments to the Schedule of Fees, including the increase in the sewer rates effective 1/1/2025. Roll call vote: Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes. PASSED.

**D. Move to Convene in Closed Session Per Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation or Performance Evaluation Data of Any Public Employee Over Which the Governmental Body has Jurisdiction or Exercises Responsibility, namely, Discuss Individual Employee Performance. At the End of the Closed Session, the Board Will Be Going into Open Session to Conduct Further Business. Roll Call Vote on Motion to Convene into Closed Session.:**

- MOTION (Mattoon/Aylesworth) @ 7:16 p.m. Roll call vote: Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes. PASSED.

**E. Move to Return to Open Session and Action, if Any, on Matters Discussed in Closed Session.:**

- MOTION (Strasburg/Kleven) @ 8:24 p.m. Roll call vote: Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes. PASSED.

**F. Consider Adoption of 2025 Budgets:**

- MOTION (Aylesworth/Kaatz) to adopt the 2025 budgets as follows, including the employee wages as discussed in closed session and as outlined in the budget.

<b>GENERAL FUND (GF)</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Change</b>
Taxes	505,073	517,495	517,495	518,803	
Intergovernmental Revenue	323,687	374,071	373,831	392,080	
Licenses & Permits	14,383	13,299	8,200	13,300	
Fines, Forfeitures & Penalties	6,661	4,413	4,000	4,400	
Public Charges for Services	3,706	2,773	3,000	2,790	
Other Revenue	51,834	29,531	11,080	16,657	
Transfer from Other Funds	4,000	-	-	-	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>909,344</b>	<b>941,582</b>	<b>917,606</b>	<b>948,030</b>	<b>3.32%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
General Government	159,154	171,445	174,260	187,800	
Public Safety	397,590	405,221	401,260	410,070	
Public Works	191,046	117,784	121,150	132,170	
Culture, Recreation, Education	93,685	104,173	104,735	121,690	
Conservation & Development	794	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Minor Capital Outlay	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Transfer to Capital Projects	196,479	113,450	113,201	93,300	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,038,748</b>	<b>915,073</b>	<b>917,606</b>	<b>948,030</b>	<b>3.32%</b>

<b>SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Change</b>
Taxes	9,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
Transfer from GF to Library	70,538	91,715	91,715	104,507	
Intergovernmental Revenue	65,387	73,717	73,777	73,173	
Other Revenue	12,882	72,924	13,900	7,350	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>157,807</b>	<b>248,356</b>	<b>189,392</b>	<b>195,030</b>	<b>2.98%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Operating Expenses	159,565	184,083	189,392	195,030	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>159,565</b>	<b>184,083</b>	<b>189,392</b>	<b>195,030</b>	<b>2.98%</b>

<b>DEBT SERVICE FUND</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Change</b>
Taxes	79,341	82,000	82,000	77,517	
Special Assessments	-	11,873	11,872	8,700	
Transfer from TID Funds	112,392	112,393	112,393	142,200	
Transfer from Enterprise Funds	259,320	269,969	269,969	274,884	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>451,053</b>	<b>476,235</b>	<b>476,234</b>	<b>503,301</b>	<b>5.68%</b>

<b>Expenses</b>					
GF Debt	86,262	94,761	93,872	86,217	
TID Fund Debt	112,392	112,393	112,393	142,200	
Enterprise Fund Debt	259,320	344,969	269,969	274,884	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>457,974</b>	<b>552,123</b>	<b>476,234</b>	<b>503,301</b>	<b>5.68%</b>

<b>CAPITAL FUNDS</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Change</b>
Transfers from Other Funds	196,479	113,450	113,201	93,300	
Special Assessments	158,704	21,600	21,600	13,900	
Other Revenue	953,173	181,565	140,762	91,949	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,308,356</b>	<b>316,615</b>	<b>275,563</b>	<b>199,149</b>	<b>-27.73%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Expenses	625,156	455,703	617,000	208,000	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>625,156</b>	<b>455,703</b>	<b>617,000</b>	<b>208,000</b>	<b>-66.29%</b>

<b>TAX INCREMENT DISTRICT FUNDS</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Change</b>
Taxes	154,172	140,390	157,000	153,450	
Other Revenues	9,189	12,334	2,860	15,645	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>163,361</b>	<b>152,724</b>	<b>159,860</b>	<b>169,095</b>	<b>5.78%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Project Expenses	22,067	593,999	106,740	19,480	
Debt Service Expenses	112,392	112,393	112,393	142,200	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>134,459</b>	<b>706,392</b>	<b>219,133</b>	<b>161,680</b>	<b>-26.22%</b>

<b>ENTERPRISE FUNDS</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Change</b>
Income	1,169,596	925,316	924,430	929,504	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,169,596</b>	<b>925,316</b>	<b>924,430</b>	<b>929,504</b>	<b>.55%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Operating Expenses	481,277	583,884	593,817	626,900	
Non-Operating Expenses	295,444	329,106	300,800	300,250	
Debt Service Expenses	295,320	269,969	269,969	274,884	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,036,041</b>	<b>1,182,959</b>	<b>1,164,586</b>	<b>1,202,034</b>	<b>3.22%</b>

Roll call vote: Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes. PASSED.

**G. Consider Adoption of Village Levy :**

- MOTION (Aylesworth/Mattoon) to set the 2024 levy (to be paid in 2025) for the Village of Fall Creek at \$537,920. This amount includes an adjustment of the allowable levy limit by \$25,500 for debt service levy for general obligation debt authorized after July 1, 2005 (Section D, Line E) (same adjustment as approved last year). Roll call vote: Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes. PASSED.

**H. Authorize Placement of Delinquent Utility, Special Charges and Special Assessments on Tax Roll:**

- MOTION (Kaatz/Aylesworth) authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to place the delinquent utility, special charges, and special assessments on the tax roll. Roll call vote: Raap-yes, Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes, Herbison-yes, Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes. PASSED.

**I. Consider Recycling Special Charge for 2024/Payable 2025 Tax Bill:**

- MOTION (Kaatz/Strasburg) approving the placement of a recycling charge as determined by Eau Claire County on the tax roll. Roll call vote: Strasburg-yes, Aylesworth-yes, Kaatz-yes, Kleven-yes, Mattoon-yes, Raap-yes. PASSED.

**14. Committee Recommendations:** None.

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

**16. Adjournment:** @ 8:47 p.m.

Renee Roemhild, Clerk/Treasurer