

Regular Board Meeting

September 2, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Manthei. Trustees present: Engel, Hanson, Hoffman, Leicht, and Wehrs. Excused: Harold. Also present: Police Chief Charles Ashbeck, Brad Bryan, Martin Severson, Christine Severson, Danielle Langel, Rich Norman, Public Works Director Scott Halbrucker, Paul Kaiser, Joel Jansky, Eric Jansky, Roger Plesha, Jim Schuster, Bill Kowalski, and Village Administrator Teresa Schnitzler.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Engel, seconded by Trustee Leicht, to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2008, Regular Board meeting as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Claims

Claims from the following funds were presented for payment:

<u>General Fund:</u>	\$33,420.59
<u>Water Utility:</u>	\$140,457.74
<u>Sewer Utility:</u>	\$9,899.08
<u>Stormwater Utility:</u>	\$12,921.00

Motion by Trustee Engel, seconded by Trustee Hoffman to approve the payment of all claims as listed. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Long-Range Plan for LaScher's on Leonard

A presentation was made by Eric Jansky setting forth future plans for LaScher's on Leonard. Roger Plesha spoke highly of LaScher's and the Janskys' purchase of the building and their progress in restoration. Jim Schuster stated LaScher's should be granted a liquor license. Mr. Schuster stated LaScher's plans to begin Thursday night old movies nights. Bill Kowalski recently rented the establishment and spoke in favor of the business. Martin Severson stated the business could be a real draw for West Salem, and that it is more than just a bar.

2007 Financial Statements and Auditors Report

Tostrud & Temp Auditor Danielle Langel presented the Village Board with West Salem's 2007 Audited Financial Statements. The Government Accounting Standards Board modified the manner in which municipal financial statements are prepared, and the statements are now shown much like a business financial statement. Mrs. Langel presented a designated fund balance spreadsheet comparing designations from 2006 to 2007, and the Board felt this spreadsheet should be included in future financial statements.

Motion by Trustee Hoffman, seconded by Trustee Wehrs to accept the audited financial statements for 2007. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Change Orders 1 and 2 – Iron/Manganese Filtration Project

Foth Infrastructure presented two change orders for the iron/manganese filtration project. Change Order No. 1 adds a number of items to the Schedule of Values, including foundation walls water proofing, a filter room floor drain, deletion of an outdoor generator, generator connection modifications, extra site work, asphalt paving, Well No. 2 base plate assembly, an additional flow meter, replacement of a lockset for the door at Well No. 3, and deletion of the engineer's field office, all for a total net reduction of \$33,348.23. Change Order No. 2 decreases the Schedule of Values by \$300,000 due to the Village paying for the horizontal pressure filter directly from the vendor.

Motion by Trustee Hanson, seconded by Trustee Engel to accept Change Orders No. 1 and 2 as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Resolution 11.08 – Coulee Region Joint Municipal Court

The Board reviewed financial statements to date from the Coulee Region Joint Municipal Court, the 2009 proposed municipal court budget, and Resolution 11.08 to continue participation in the Joint Municipal Court through December 31, 2009.

Motion by Trustee Hanson, seconded by Trustee Wehrs to approve Resolution 11.08 Coulee Region Joint Municipal Court. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2003, the Village of West Salem entered into an Agreement for the Establishment of a Joint Municipal Court by and between the City of Onalaska, the Town of Campbell, Town of Shelby, Village of Bangor, Village of Holmen, Village of Rockland, and the Village of West Salem; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2003, the Village of West Salem effected Section 1.25 Joint Municipal Court of the Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Village of West Salem Board of Trustees has determined it is in the best interests of the Village to continue to participate in the Joint Municipal Court through December 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees has reviewed estimated 2009 Joint Municipal Court participation costs as estimated by the City of Onalaska Finance Director;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village Board of the Village of West Salem that through December 31, 2009, the Village of West Salem shall, in addition to court costs retained by the Court as per Section 7(b) of the Agreement, fund any net operating expenses after application of the local share of court costs based upon each municipality's percentage of the total annual filed cases as per Section 7(c) of the Agreement.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that through December 31, 2009, the Village of West Salem shall fund the Court annual Americorp allocation based upon each participating municipality's percentage of the total annual filed cases.

DATED this 2nd day of September, 2008.

/s/

 Dennis Manthei, Village President

(VILLAGE SEAL)

/s/ _____
Teresa L. Schnitzler, Village Administrator

Resolution 12.08 – 2008 Tax Referendum

The West Salem Fire Protection District has requested additional funding from the Village of West Salem, Town of Hamilton, and the Town of Barre in order to fund an 18-month operating budget and to retire all of its existing debt. In order to meet the funding request of the Fire District, the Village would have to exceed the State levy increase limit of 2 percent.

Motion by Trustee Engel, seconded by Trustee Wehrs to approve Resolution 12.08 with a revision to move the phrase “by twelve (12%) percent” to a more understandable section of the Resolution on page two. Roll call vote: Hanson and Hoffman – nay; remainder of Board – aye. Motion approved.

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has imposed limits on town, village, city and county property tax levies for 2007 and 2008 under Wis. Stat. Sec. 66.0602; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. Sec. 66.0602 limits the increase in the 2008 local property tax levy to no more than the greater of 2% of last year’s levy or a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to new construction less improvements removed, which for the Village of West Salem is 1.806%; and

WHEREAS, the West Salem Volunteer Fire Department governing body the West Salem Fire Protection District does not have any taxing authority of its own and receives the majority of its funding under the Amended West Salem Fire Protection Agreement from the Village of West Salem and the Towns of Barre and Hamilton; and

WHEREAS, the West Salem Fire Protection District is changing from a fiscal year to a calendar year budget in 2008 and has made a request for funding sufficient to fund the 18-month operating budget and retire all of its existing debt; and

WHEREAS, the Village of West Salem Board of Trustees believes it is in the Village’s best interest to exceed the State levy limit by a percentage greater than two (2%) percent and instead increase the 2008 levy by twelve (12%) percent, which would increase the Village levy by \$116,343 over last year’s levy so as to be able to meet its share of the funding request of the West Salem Fire Protection District and yet continue funding its normal operations at current levels; and

WHEREAS, the Village of West Salem levy was \$969,527 for the tax levy in 2007 (collected in 2008); and further, whereas, the State two (2%) percent limit would restrict the increase to \$19,391 for a total allowable Village tax levy of \$988,918; and

WHEREAS, a rough estimate of the impact on taxpayers (based on 2007 assessed value) of a \$19,391 increase would be \$7 per \$100,000 of assessed value and of a \$116,343 increase would be \$42 per \$100,000 of assessed value (noting the actual effect on taxpayers will be based on 2008 assessed value which will not be available until after the November 4, 2008 election); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of the Village of West Salem hereby supports an increase in the Village tax levy for 2008 and which increase would apply on an ongoing basis thereafter to exceed the State two (2%) percent levy limits.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees directs that the question of increasing the Village tax levy by twelve (12%) percent for 2008 and which increase would apply on an ongoing basis thereafter, which would increase the Village levy by \$116,343 over last year's levy for a Village tax levy of \$1,085,870, shall be submitted to the electors in a referendum at the November General Election to be held on November 4, 2008.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of September, 2008.

/s/ _____
Dennis Manthei, Village President

(VILLAGE SEAL)

/s/ _____
Teresa L. Schnitzler, Village Administrator

Public Works Department Update

Public Works Director Scott Halbrucker updated the Board on the West Franklin Street reconstruction project, the new library storage building construction progress, equipment and vehicle repair needs, Storm Water Utility implementation progress, the Mark and Lewis Street park development progress, and the sidewalk repair program status.

Police Department Update

Police Chief Ashbeck updated the Board on grants applied for and received for security improvements and traffic safety enhancement and progress on the investigation of the break in and robbery at the Village Garage.

Finance and Personnel Committee

Trustee Hoffman reported on the August 27, 2008, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. Michelle Czerwan presented spreadsheets of 2007 programs offered, participant numbers in each program, revenue generated, and participant numbers from the Village, School District, and outside the School District. The Committee requested copies of the 2007 and 2006 year end reports and expenses matched to each program. The Committee requested the first proposed Recreation Department budget be completed by September 15, 2008. Trustee Hoffman requested Chief Ashbeck and Public Works Director Halbrucker submit their department budgets to the Village Administrator by September 20, 2008.

Motion by Trustee Hoffman, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2008, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Utilities Committee

Trustee Engel reported on the August 27, 2008, Utilities Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review options for stormwater management at the Faye Drive stormwater ditch. The Committee convened in closed session for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specific public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(e).

Motion by Trustee Hanson, seconded by Trustee Engel to approve the Utilities Committee meeting minutes of August 27, 2008. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Utilities Committee

Trustee Engel reported on the Utilities Committee meeting of September 2, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to review options for stormwater management at the Faye Drive stormwater ditch. The Committee convened in closed session for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specific public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(e). In open session, the Committee reviewed an August 4, 2008, Memorandum from Foth Infrastructure & Environment providing an explanation for the Village's water rate. In calculating the estimated rate increase, the Village's mill rates and labor cost allocations were estimated for the test year 2009. The need for a rate increase is driving by three factors: Capital cost of the iron removal plant and the water storage tower; the increase in equivalent tax payments to the added value of the iron removal plant and the water storage tower; and a reallocation of labor costs to the Water Utility and normal increases in expenses. Public Service Commission regulations require that a return on the water utilities investment in facilities used to provide service should be paid for through water rates. For ratemaking purposes, facilities paid for by impact fees and TIF are considered contributions to the water system. Relying on 100 percent contributed funds to fund the utility projects may cause a shortfall in revenues if the projected growth fails to materialize. If growth does not occur, this would mean that the utility would have to fund capitalized interest payments. The Committee recommended a Public Service Commission water rate increase application for a 7 percent rate of return with 80 percent contributed impact fee funds.

Motion by Trustee Engel, seconded by Trustee Hoffman to approve the Utilities Committee meeting minutes of September 2, 2008. Roll call vote: Hanson – nay; remainder of Board – aye. Motion approved.

Operator's License Application

Police Chief Ashbeck recommended the license application received for Peggy Ann Ekern be denied for lack of proof of completion of the alcohol awareness course.

Motion by Trustee Hanson, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the operator license applications for Caitlin S. Arentz and Christine A. Severson. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Motion by Trustee Engel, seconded by Trustee Leicht to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Teresa L. Schnitzler, Village Administrator