

VILLAGE OF OCONOMOWOC LAKE

35328 West Pabst Road, Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Phone: (262) 567-5301 Web: www.oconlake.com
Fax: (262) 567-7447 e-mail: villagehall@oconlake.com

OCONOMOWOC LAKE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MONDAY, May 19, 2025 Unofficial until approved by the Village Board. Approved as written ☒ or with corrections () on 6/16/25

A meeting of the Village Board of the Village of Oconomowoc Lake was held on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at the Village Hall, 35328 W. Pabst Road, Oconomowoc. Legal requirements for notification as required by law were met. Roll call was taken with the following in attendance:

Present: President Bickler; Trustees: Zimmermann, Sheahan, Fellows, Taylor and Fischer

Absent: Trustee Waltersdorf

Also present: Administrator/Police Chief Janicsek, Zoning Administrator Wiemer, Attorney Macy and Village Clerk, Teri Sayles

ATTENDANCE

Jef Fitch (36048 S Beach Rd); Ed Johnson (N Beach Rd); Chief Matt Fennig (LCFR)

MINUTES

Discussion/action to approve minutes from April 21, 2025 Village Board Meeting

Motion (Taylor/Fellows) to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2025 Village Board Meeting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion (Fellows/Zimmermann) to Open Meeting to Public Comment on Agenda items at 7:01 p.m. Motion carried.

Ed Johnson (N Beach Rd) asked if the reassessment was a village wide blanket reassessment. The answer was yes, all properties in the village were reassessed.

Motion (Taylor/Zimmermann) to Close Meeting to Public Comment on Agenda items at 7:02 p.m. Motion carried.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

President Bickler shared that the items for discussion/action under Fire Department are the result of many hours that he and Village Staff, as leaders, put in to resolve disagreements among member municipalities over the Inter-Municipal Agreement and Fire Department finances.

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

No agenda items

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Discussion/action regarding the funding formula

The proposed funding formula will phase in over two years and have no fixed base. It will be based on 60% call volume, 20% population and 20% equalized value for a 5-year term. Five of seven member municipalities have already agreed to this. Exhibit A shows that the Village of Oconomowoc Lake portion of the overall LCFR budget will go from 3.6% to 3.0% by 2027.

Motion (Sheahan/Taylor) to approve the proposed funding formula. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding the five-year hiring plan

Chief Fennig stated the proposed hiring plan will get the fire department to full staff of 12 on duty 24/7/365. Currently there is a staff of 7-8 per day. The fire department will be able to grow responsibly and attract quality staff with the proposed plan.

Attorney Macy stated the Village Board approved the original hiring plan in 2022 and this is a modification of that plan. This plan will set the budget and be a part of the IMA for 5 years.

Motion (Sheahan/Zimmermann) to approve the five-year hiring plan in concept and to insert the same into the Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA). Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding a change in the IMA regarding governance (Fire Board)

Chief Fennig stated the municipalities pushed for this change and he supports it. Under the current agreement, all decisions require unanimous approval, which is often cumbersome and impractical for the Fire Board. The municipalities agreed to adopt a supermajority voting model which requires five of seven partner communities to approve motions at the Fire Board.

Motion (Sheahan/Zimmermann) to adopt the governance structure revision as noted in Exhibit C. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding a change in the IMA regarding annual budget base increase

The current budget base increase is CPI + 2%, which is cumbersome and has conflicting effective periods. The proposed change is that in 2026-2031 the budget ceiling is set and allows for implementation of the staffing plan. After 2031 there will be a 4% automatically approved budget increase. Any increase of more than 4% would require the unanimous approval of member municipalities.

Motion (Sheahan/Fischer) to approve the budget base increase after 2031 from the current CPI + 2% to a flat 4%. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding Village of Oconomowoc Lake fee proposal for Fire Station maintenance

President Bickler is asking the board to consider approval of contributing a fee payment to other member communities that have working fire stations they support the maintenance costs of. He is also asking for the authority to distribute the same. We do not have such expenses in Oconomowoc Lake. A sample fee schedule is outlined in Item 5 of the memo and is to be run with the 5-year hiring plan and is not a part of the IMA. Examples of maintenance expenses are in Wales, a new roof is needed, Nashotah put dorms in their station or could be something like repairs to overhead doors or replacing a washer/dryer. Chief Fennig stated there is a Building Furnishing account in the budget.

Motion (Zimmermann/Sheahan) to approve the Village of Oconomowoc fee proposal for fire station maintenance in the amounts presented with distribution to communities with a fire station, based on size of building, to be determined by the Village President and Village Administrator. Motion carried.

Chief Fennig thanked President Bickler for his leadership and hard work putting together the above financing and hiring proposals.

Discussion/action regarding an MOU for damage assessment (countywide)

Waukesha County, in this MOU, is asking municipalities to appoint a Damage Assessment Coordinator and a municipal representative to participate in a Countywide Damage Assessment Team for disaster situations. Five of the seven owner municipalities in LCFR have approved Chief Fennig to be the Assessment Coordinator. A municipality is not required to respond if they are experiencing staffing shortage or damage in their own jurisdiction.

Motion (Sheahan/Fellows) to approve the MOU for damage assessment and to appoint Chief Fennig as Assessment Coordinator and Chief Janicsek as representative on the Assessment Team. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR

Discussion/action regarding plowing private driveways

Chief Janicsek shared several options Village staff discussed for plowing private driveways. New trucks will be needed before the next snow season, and it is becoming more difficult to find contractors and meet resident expectations. Trustee Fischer would like to send a letter to residents explaining when, why and how the village plows driveways, which was never intended to be a comprehensive snow removal. Village Board members directed staff to draft such a letter and bring it back to the Village Board for their approval in June.

Discussion/action regarding the village hall remodel

Chief Janicsek received 3 proposals for the remodel and would like some assistance from a couple board members on the final decision. The approved budget for the project is \$80,000.

No action was taken.

Update on Village Capital Projects

Chief Janicsek gave the following updates:

- The garage generator was installed in December 2024.
- The boat launch pier and shack remodel are complete. Internet and cameras will be going in soon and we are looking into an auto-payment option for launch fees.
- The woodlot paving is complete.
- Hewitts Point Road will be paved at the end of June.
- The village hall roof will be done at the end of June.
- Proposals for the village hall remodel have come in and work is expected to be done this summer.

POLICE CHIEF

Police Department Monthly Report for April 2025.

Chief Janicsek reviewed his monthly report stating there were 74 citations, 330 total calls handled, and 6,546 road miles traveled. The new 2025 squad is now on the road.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

No agenda items

PLAN COMMISSION

No agenda items

ATTORNEY

No agenda items

CLERK

Update regarding assessment notices and Board of Review

Property assessments were mailed on May 12th, and the assessor was in the office for Open Book on May 19th. Four residents met with the assessor and 8 contacted him by phone or email. The village received only 2 inquiries about the reassessment. The Board of Review will meet on July 9th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. to review and close the 2025 Assessment Roll.

TREASURER

Discussion/action regarding approval of checks as shown on voucher list and all electronic payments.

Motion (Fellows/Taylor) to approve checks as shown on voucher list and all electronic payments. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding acceptance of donations received from Village residents, as noted on Exhibit A, designated for use toward the fireworks display in July of 2025.

Motion (Taylor/Sheahan) to accept donations received from Village residents, as noted on Exhibit A, designated for use toward the fireworks display in July of 2025. Motion carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Discussion regarding the monthly operating statement for April 2025

Trustee Fischer stated the following:

Line 26: Earnings on Investment continue to outpace the budget estimate for the year.

Line 62: Building permit fees exceed expectations.

Line 64: Police fines are low but usually catch up in summer.

Line 151: Squad repairs are high due to full engine replacement on the squad we are selling.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

No agenda items

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL BOARD (ACB)

Minutes from the April 28, 2025 meeting were in the packet.

COMMUNICATIONS

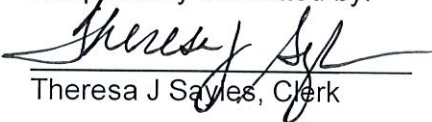
A City of Delafield Public Hearing Notice was in the packet.

A City of Oconomowoc Public Hearing Notice was added to the packet.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion being heard, a motion (Sheahan/Taylor) to adjourn was made at 8:42 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:


Theresa J Savies, Clerk

Approved and ordered posted by:


Michael J Bickler Sr, President