



REGULAR MEETING BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday–September 9, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.
Webster Community Center
7421 Main Street West, Webster, WI

CALL TO ORDER - President Ed Dedman called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

ROLL CALL - President, Ed Dedman; Trustees, Tom Armstrong; Kelsey Gustafson; Tim Maloney; Jeff Roberts; Bill Summer and Sue Weis. Others present: Public Works Director, Pete Denn; Clerk/Treasurer, Debra Doriott-Kuhnly; Greg Marsten - Burnett County Sentinel; Keith Mogel – Candidate for Representative to the Assembly District 75; Chad Wek – WACC and Russ Burford-Resident. Absent: Police Chief, Stephenie Wedin.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AGENDA, DELETIONS/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL - Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Trustee Roberts and seconded by Trustee Summer. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC INPUT/VISITOR RECOGNITION BY PRESIDENT, ED DEDMAN - Village President Ed Dedman recognized two visitors. Keith Mogel introduced himself as a candidate for Assembly District 75 representing Polk and Burnett County. He explained that he has been visiting school and municipal board meetings across the district for listening, fact-finding and learning about local issues across the district. A second visitor, Russ Burford, was present and indicated he was attending to listen.

OUTSIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Burnett County Supervisor - Charlie Weis. Not in attendance.

Chamber of Commerce – Chamber Member: Chamber representative Chad Wek reported on recent and upcoming events:

Sturgeon Fest & Car Show: The prior weekend's combined event saw strong turnout. The car show attracted 46 vehicles, three to four more than the previous year. Chad noted some traffic congestion along the main corridor through town during the event and indicated he would follow up with Chief Wedin to discuss potential improvements to traffic flow for future events. A suggestion was raised to consider relocating the car show to the elementary school parking lot to improve flow and eliminate the need for participants to cross Highway 35.

Augtoberfest: The event concluded two weeks prior and was reported as a positive draw for businesses in the downtown area.

Sturgeon Park: Work continues at Sturgeon Park, with footings for a second pavilion scheduled to be poured within the week. A permanent wood-framed structure to house portable restroom facilities and a shed is also on order.

Railroad Park: Chad and Ed placed new two-toned picnic tables at the railroad park, which were described as a nice addition.

Truck or Treat: The event is scheduled for October 31st at the fairgrounds, co-hosted with the Chamber.

Community Movie Night: President Dedman mentioned that a private individual has reached out about hosting a free community movie night on the fairgrounds property using a large inflatable screen. No formal request has been received yet, but the Board was asked to keep the concept in mind.

Webster Rural Fire Association – Trustee, Tim Maloney. Trustee Maloney provided a report for the quarter ending July:

- Approximately 131 first responder calls and 89 fire calls were recorded.
- The department has 27 active members, including 2 new additions.
- A \$10,000 grant was received for new radios.
- Firefighter I certification training is being held in-house for the first time in some years, with WITC agreeing to come out given sufficient enrollment from the department and neighboring departments.
- The ladder truck has been restocked with needed equipment to approximately 99% capacity.
- The rescue truck was sold at a favorable price.
- The department's Fourth of July fundraiser was highly successful, generating just over \$9,000 in proceeds.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES - Motion to approve all four sets of minutes (August 12, 2026 Regular Board Meeting; August 13, 2026 Ad Hoc Negotiating Committee Meeting; August 19, 2026 Full Board Finance Committee Meeting and September 1, 2026 Judicial & Personnel Meeting) was made by Trustee Summer and seconded by Trustee Armstrong. **Motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS & RECEIPTS - The board reviewed vouchers and receipts for the period of August 11, 2026, through September 3, 2026. Motion to approve the Vouchers in the amount of \$128,321.16 and Receipts in the amount of \$233,595.46 was made by Trustee Gustafson and seconded by Trustee Roberts. President Dedman highlighted the Austin Lake Landscaping invoice for \$8,430 relates to work at Sturgeon Park and will be applied toward the remaining balance of the WEDC grant upon project completion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

COMMUNICATIONS – None.

REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS

JUDICIARY/REGULATORY COMMITTEE – SUE WEIS, CHAIRPERSON: The police department schedule was previously presented. In Chief Wedin's absence, Weis read the police report. A total of 35 incidents were reported for the month.

The Board discussed the status of the mobile home park license for the property operated by Olena Investments. The license expired June 30, 2026, and discussed granting a retroactive interim license, as advised by the Village Attorney, to allow the park to operate legally while compliance issues are addressed, given that outright closure would displace current residents.

The Board noted that, as a show of good faith, the removal of a non-compliant trailer had been requested at a prior meeting and confirmed that it has since been removed. However, concerns were raised regarding ongoing maintenance deficiencies, including improperly grounded electrical meter sockets in common areas, steps and fixtures in disrepair, and a pattern of the property owner directing tenants to address issues that may actually be the landlord's responsibility. Trustee Bill Summer, drawing on his background as an electrician, expressed concern that common-area electrical grounding issues represent both an electrocution and fire hazard. The Board discussed the possibility of involving the state fire inspector given the nature of the hazards.

The Board discussed the value of scheduling a meeting with tenants to provide clarity on expectations and connect them with potential financial assistance programs for housing repairs or relocation. Dedman will ask the Village Attorney's opinion. Trustee Maloney suggests REM being at this meeting. He has also heard from tenants about their inability to connect with Olena.

The Board's legal counsel had previously advised against direct communications with Olena Investments' representatives, and the Board acknowledged that further directives to the property owner would need to flow through the Village attorney.

The Board agreed that the appropriate course of action is to grant a retroactive interim license effective July 1, 2026, with the license to be reviewed at each monthly board meeting and renewed or denied on a 30-day basis

depending on demonstrated progress. Motion to approve a retroactive interim mobile home park license effective July 1, 2026, to be reviewed and either renewed or denied at each monthly board meeting on a 30-day basis, was made by President Dedman and seconded by Trustee Maloney. **The motion carried unanimously.**

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – JEFF ROBERTS, CHAIRPERSON: Nothing new to report.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE – BILL SUMMER, CHAIRPERSON: Trustee Summer raised a topic not on the agenda regarding the potential installation of credit card payment kiosks at the fairgrounds dump station and water clean-out station. He noted that a significant number of visitors—particularly those living off-grid during summer months—are accessing the water fill station without paying, and that a metered, card-swipe system could capture that revenue. Quotes obtained range from approximately \$1,700 to \$3,000, with options for both offline card capture and live ACH processing-, tied to a flow meter. The system would need to be removed seasonally when the water is shut off for winter. The Board expressed general support for the concept, asking Trustee Summer to obtain additional quotes and information, and it can be considered in the 2027 budget process. Dumping station fee would still be made by donations.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – TOM ARMSTRONG, CHAIRPERSON: Nothing new to report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE – TIMOTHY MALONEY, CHAIRPERSON: Informational - Trustee Maloney provided an update on the ongoing effort to clear the fairgrounds property. Tire removal is underway, with a hauler making periodic pick-ups. The surplus barricades have been spoken for, and arrangements are being made for pick-up. Regarding the large bleachers, President Dedman reported that the school district has expressed continued hesitancy due to liability concerns around disassembly and reinstallation. Trustee Maloney noted that if the school ultimately declines the bleachers, Traci has indicated willingness to offer them to neighboring fair associations such as Pine City or Grantsburg. Trustee Maloney also noted that Public Works has been in contact with Traci regarding items stored in the Village's cold storage buildings, and that process is moving forward.

STREET COMMITTEE – KELSEY GUSTAFSON, CHAIRPERSON: Chairperson Gustafson presented information on rubber speed control devices as a potential solution to speeding concerns on Double F/Hickory Street, following complaints from local residents. Two product types were described and quotes obtained from Traffic Logix range from approximately \$8,000 to \$11,000 for three sets of devices, which would be needed to address the transition from 55 mph to 35 mph to 25 mph along the corridor. Chief Wedin was reported to be supportive of the concept.

The Board raised several practical concerns. First, jurisdiction was questioned, as Double F/ Hickory is a county road, and it was noted that any installation would require approval from the county. Second, the 35 mph zone is within Meenon Township's jurisdiction, meaning only the 25 mph municipal segment may be within the Village's authority. Third, members expressed a preference for prioritizing existing village streets—specifically Elm Street and Bluegill, which currently have unpaved gravel sections—before investing in traffic speed control.

The Board also discussed lower-cost alternatives, including temporary rubber rumble strips similar to those used in highway work zones, and adjusting the settings on the existing radar speed sign, which a member noted does not begin flashing until speeds approach 29 mph rather than at the posted limit. The Public Works Director agreed to look into the sign's configuration, and President Dedman suggested reaching out to the County Highway Commissioner for guidance on both the jurisdictional question and the availability of temporary rumble strips. No action was taken. The matter was deferred to the 2027 budget process for further consideration.

DEVELOPMENT AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE – ED DEDMAN, CHAIRPERSON: President Dedman reported that a meeting was held with a dealer and installer of modular homes who expressed initial interest in the fairgrounds development project but has not followed up since, which Dedman interpreted as a lack of genuine commitment.

Trustee Maloney reported that he contacted Burnett County Administrator Nate Ehalt, who expressed enthusiasm about assisting the Village in drafting a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) for developers. Administrator Ehalt reviewed the terms list previously developed by the ad hoc committee and the Village attorney and indicated it was a strong starting point. He committed to providing a draft with questions by the end of the current week, after which he intends to meet with the Board to develop a polished RFP suitable for distribution to qualified developers—specifically smaller firms large enough to complete the project but appropriately scaled for a project of this size. Trustee Maloney agreed to follow up with Administrator Ehalt. President Dedman also reported that a Teams call is scheduled for the following morning with a representative from WHEDA (Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority) to discuss an infrastructure development loan program offering near-zero-interest financing for projects involving workforce and senior housing. Dedman noted that the program's terms are somewhat general as written and that the call is intended to clarify specifics relevant to the Village's situation.

President Dedman introduced the topic of a potential moratorium on data centers and other large utility users for the Board's awareness and discussion. He noted that the issue is gaining attention statewide and that the purpose of a moratorium would be to provide the Village time to study whether its utility infrastructure could support such uses before being obligated to consider a permit application.

Board members acknowledged that the Village of Webster is an unlikely candidate for a large-scale data center given insufficient electrical infrastructure and land area, but noted that smaller, network-focused data centers could potentially be sited on smaller parcels. It was also noted that battery storage facilities associated with solar farms represent a related concern that could be included in any zoning framework developed.

It was noted that Burnett County is discussing the creation of a new zoning classification (referred to as I-2) that would specifically address high-intensity utility users, with action expected at the county level in the coming weeks. Visitor Keith Mogel clarified that Polk County's moratorium applies specifically to towns that opted into county zoning, and that municipalities with their own zoning—such as the Village of Webster—would need to act independently.

The Board agreed that the moratorium concept warrants further study. It was noted that if a moratorium is to be adopted, it must be done proactively, as it cannot be enacted after a permit application has been filed.

Members discussed coordinating any Village-level zoning response with whatever framework Burnett County develops. No action was taken. The item was retained for continued discussion at the next regular board meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE MEETINGS:

- Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM.
- 2027 Budget Workshop - TBD

ADJOURN - Motion by Trustee Roberts, seconded by Trustee Armstrong, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Doriott-Kuhnly
Clerk-Treasurer
September 9, 2026

***These minutes are subject to approval at next month's Regular Meeting.

President, Ed Dedman

Trustee, Tom Armstrong

Trustee, Kelsey Gustafson

Trustee, Tim Maloney

Trustee, Jeff Roberts

Trustee, Bill Summer

Trustee, Sue Weis

Attest: _____
Clerk-Treasurer