REGULAR MEETING
BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday–October 14, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.

Webster Community Center
7421 Main Street West, Webster, WI

VILLAGE OF WEBSTER

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; Police Chief, Stephenie Wedin; Greg Marsten - Burnett County Sentinel; Teresa Anderson-MSA; Bruce Gibbs-Bruce's Towing and Repair; Sherill Summer- Library and Al Tallman-Olena Investments via telephone. Absent: None.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AGENDA, DELETIONS/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL - President Dedman confirmed that public notice of the agenda was provided. He noted that Al Tallman and his wife would call in around 6:15 PM, so the mobile home park item would be taken up when they joined. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Trustee Summer and seconded by Trustee Armstrong. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC INPUT/VISITOR RECOGNITION BY PRESIDENT, ED DEDMAN - President Dedman recognized Teresa Anderson of MSA, who was attending as a visitor. Sherill, who was present regarding the community center fee for a job fair, was asked to wait until that item came up.

Bruce Gibbs said he was interested in purchasing a one-acre lot in the Industrial Park for his towing operation. He described a secure, fenced yard for the tow trucks and a building that would be part heated storage and part office. The board discussed lot locations and the possible need for easements or a future access road so remaining parcels would not be landlocked. President Dedman noted that the matter was on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

OUTSIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Burnett County Supervisor - Charlie Weis. Supervisor Weis was away on county business. President Dedman read his written comments. Supervisor Weis asked who was working on the infrastructure needed under Highway 35 ahead of the road grind and relay scheduled for 2028. Trustees responded that MSA and the Village were working on the water main replacement and that no other pre-resurfacing infrastructure work was known. The Clerk and President Dedman will relay this to him.
Supervisor Weis also stated that he opposed the upcoming election referendum to reduce the County Board from 21 to 15 supervisors. He said the County Board would be redistricting in 2030 after the census, making the change duplicative, and that the cost savings would be minimal.

Chamber of Commerce – Chamber Member: President Dedman, on behalf of the Chamber, reported on Sturgeon Park. A bid was being obtained to replace the temporary meter pedestal with a full-service meter, run power to both pavilions, and add lighting to the permanent restroom building and storage shed. Once complete, the project would be essentially finished, and the Chamber would have time this year to file for the balance of the grant awarded two years ago. Additional items have been placed at Railroad Park. The faux facade of the old train station was postponed until next year, and no new parks are planned for next year.

Webster Rural Fire Association – Trustee, Tim Maloney. Trustee Maloney reported that the association met at the end of September to establish municipal figures. Highlights:

- A second round of fire inspections was starting.
- A $10,000 DNR grant for equipment, radios and turnout gear was approved, requiring a 50/50 match from the Rural Fire Association.
- The Firemen's Unlimited banquet raised $38,000 in profit, and that group plans to buy equipment such as extrication tools and lighting, reducing the burden on the association.
- The 2027 budget moves from $149,814 to $151,384, an increase of just over 1%, which he credited to the firefighters' own fundraising.
- A $10,000 donation was received from a St. Croix Tribal.
- A rescue truck, a utility vehicle and a trailer sold for about $30,000.
- The department has 27 members and 2 juniors under age 18.
- New Chief Wade (Wambolt) was doing well.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES - Motion to approve all three sets of minutes (September 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, October 6, 2026 Full Board Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes, October 7, 2026 Ad Hoc Negotiating Committee Meeting Minutes) was made by Trustee Maloney and seconded by Trustee Summer. **Motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS & RECEIPTS - The board reviewed vouchers and receipts for the period of September 4, 2026, through October 11, 2026. Motion to approve the Vouchers in the amount of $110,851.55 and Receipts in the amount of $40,221.20 was made by Trustee Roberts and seconded by Trustee Armstrong. During review of the vouchers, Trustee Summer raised concern about an invoice from Anderson Towing. Dedman stated that Anderson Towing had a substantial crew and equipment on site. It was also noted that Anderson Towing did deduct $1700 from the invoice. Trustee Summer said Anderson Towing had been unsure whether he would donate the time, and the expenditure should have been presented to the board for approval. President Dedman agreed and noted the concern. Trustee Summer cited the Village's tight finances and recent borrowing, felt the board had been misled. The Hawkins Inc. charges were for alum used at the treatment plant to remove phosphorus. **Motion carried unanimously.**

COMMUNICATIONS – President Dedman reported receipt of a letter from the Polk-Burnett Operation Round Up awards. The Village received a $1,000 grant for Gandy Dancer Railroad Park, and a $1,000 grant for the Chamber of Commerce toward materials for the second, smaller pavilion at Sturgeon Park. He will submit a grant request to Community Bank for both parks before year-end, with awards not expected until about April. Trustee Maloney asked for a final accounting of funds received and spent on the (Sturgeon) park, noting that residents had asked how it was funded. President Dedman agreed to share the figures with the board once the grant report is finalized.

REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS

JUDICIARY/REGULATORY COMMITTEE – SUE WEIS, CHAIRPERSON: Because Al Tallman was on the line, the board took item c. Interim Mobile Home License first. President Dedman reminded the board that the interim license was approved the prior month retroactive to July 1, with monthly review to decide whether to continue it.

Al introduced himself and said he wished to open communication with the board. He has owned the park for about two and half years. He offered his cell phone number. President Dedman reported on the Monday evening meeting with park residents. The purpose, on the village's behalf, was to reassure residents that no one from the village was ready, or wanting, to force them out, and to review each resident's progress on inspection

items. Dan of REM Inspecting attended and met with each resident. Most issues that were the responsibility of the homeowners had been corrected, with a few awaiting parts or scheduling. An updated report from REM was expected by the end of the week. Residents complained they could not reach the owner's company by phone and had mixed success with email and text. Al said tenants have his cell number, corporate contacts and the DoorLoop app for rent payment, questions and work orders. He stated the app remained active, contrary to what residents had said.

Trustee Summer, a former utility service technician, raised concerns about the electrical service. He said the power bank serving three homes had been replaced and was to code, but several other individual stand-alone meter pedestals were out of code, in disrepair, or improperly grounded. He said that under the National Electric Code the utility delivers power to the top of the meter socket and the pedestal belongs to the property owner. He recalled a past case in which a tenant was shocked touching a door. Al said the REM report he received mentioned only landing stairs for the units cited and only three general comments (labeling, pedestal support, general maintenance) on the four-meter bank. He maintained that the authority having jurisdiction (building inspector) typically tells the owner what fails code, and that his company would fix any identified problem but could not act on problems it was not told about. Summer said a licensed master electrician could tell Al what needs to be done to be in code. President Dedman spoke of photos from the inspection files, including a leaning, taped, ungrounded meter base at 26633 and another at 7448. It was noted that some photos may have come from the zoning administrator rather than REM Inspecting. Al said the photos and comments he has do not show or speak to what Trustee Summer is referring to (regarding electrical services/code.) He, again, said if they are told what is wrong, they will get it fixed – they can't address a problem if they don't know what it is. President Dedman committed to reviewing both reports, clarifying with REM and Northwestern Electric, and emailing Al with specific direction. He reiterated that the goal of the village is for the Mobile Home Park to be safe, healthy, and to look as nice as the rest of the Village, Al restated the need for clear communication. He had not yet seen the park in person. He hoped to visit in November or December, though travel was difficult due to his job and a young family. He said the company has a corporate property manager but no on-site manager, as the prior one moved away. Al also said his company buys parks that are older and as tenants leave, they replace the homes with brand new ones from the factory. Al previously asked about rental assistance programs that could help move tenants into newer homes. He noted that the average rent is about $350 per month and that many tenants pay over the course of the month. Residents told the board they stay because it is what they can afford.

Following the call, the board further discussed the mobile home park and interim license. President Dedman reiterated that he will follow up with Dan of REM Inspecting and get back with Al on electrical issues that need to be fixed. He stated he was impressed with the residents working and trying to resolve the issues. A Webb Lake Men's Club contact may be able to provide volunteer help with items such as skirting before winter. Trustee Armstrong said fairness required the electrical deficiencies to be documented specifically so the owner could respond, and that the reports did not appear to do so. Trustee Summer maintained that this was a National Electric Code matter, that the owner was responsible for hiring a licensed master electrician, and that he had raised the same concerns with the company 2.5 years earlier. Trustee Maloney asked who enforces code against the owner. Trustee Summer initially said a licensed master electrician and then said ultimately the utility, Northwestern Electric, has authority to disconnect for hazardous conditions but is reluctant to. Trustee Armstrong added that the state, through the Department of Safety and Professional Services, can order the park operator to request disconnection. Dedman restated that he will talk to Dan of REM and Northwestern Electric to get clarification and, if needed, additional photos – to get these issues fixed. He said that if the issues remained unresolved at the next meeting, it could affect the vote. Motion to approve the interim mobile home park license for another month, with review at the next monthly meeting, was made by President Dedman and seconded by Trustee Gustafson. Trustee Roberts and others asked what options the Village has if a license were revoked and the park kept operating, and whether penalties could be applied. It was agreed to take up that question next month. **Motion carried 5-2.**

Police Chief Wedin read the police report. A total of 55 incidents were reported for the month.

Trustee Maloney summarized the ambulance contract proposal. The Village pays a per-capita charge, currently about $76 per resident (the adopted 2027 budget figure is $52,535, based on a population of about 700). The existing contract runs one more year. The two proposals were developed by a county ambulance negotiating committee with North Ambulance:

- Option A keeps current coverage.
- Option B adds an additional unit of a Power Truck to shorten response times in outlying areas at about $108 per capita.

Neither option changes service in Webster, which has an ambulance garage, staffed crews and a good response time. The Towns Association is seeking a representative to vote on the options at its meeting on Thursday, October 22 at 7:00 PM; Maloney stated he will be unable to attend. President Dedman said he would attend. Motion to recommend Option A (status quo) was made by Trustee Roberts and seconded by Trustee Summer. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – JEFF ROBERTS, CHAIRPERSON: Motion to approve the 2027 employee wage and benefit proposal was made by Trustee Roberts and seconded by Trustee Weis **Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion to approve the 2027 IUOE Local 139 contract was made by Trustee Roberts and seconded by Trustee Maloney. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion to appoint Rachael Peterson as the school representative on the Library Board was made by Trustee Roberts and seconded by Trustee Summer. **Motion carried unanimously.** The board noted the library was still seeking a Village representative.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE – BILL SUMMER, CHAIRPERSON: Trustee Summer said the sewer rates he previously proposed were not approved and he would adjust them and return next month with a new percentage. He noted that Village sewer rates were lower than those of comparable villages he had contacted, in some cases substantially. Trustee Maloney asked whether the estimates from the earlier wastewater project presentation would factor in. Teresa of MSA said those were rough estimates and advised that a stepped increase now would lessen the percentage of a later increase. She said MSA conducts a sewer rate survey every three years, most recently in 2025, which compares communities by size and plant type, and she would email a copy to the Clerk. No action was taken.

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

PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE – TIMOTHY MALONEY, CHAIRPERSON: Sherill explained that the job fair began as a Burnett County effort connected to the library's job pod, and the community center was chosen as the venue. She sought a price to pass along to the organizers, and flyers had already been printed for December 9 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Motion to set the community center rental fee for the December 9 job fair at $75 was made by Trustee Roberts and seconded by Trustee Summer. **Motion carried unanimously**

STREET COMMITTEE – KELSEY GUSTAFSON, CHAIRPERSON: Trustee Gustafson had nothing on the agenda but reported that paving on Elm Street and Bluegill Street had been completed.

DEVELOPMENT AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE – ED DEDMAN, CHAIRPERSON: As he indicated earlier in the meeting, Bruce Gibbs is interested in about one acre for his towing business. A second local business owner, Brett of Legacy Automotive, might want about two acres. Bruce might buy Legacy's current site if Brett built in the new location in the park. About 5.3 acres remain, including a one-acre lot already carved out, and only one true industrial user is in the park. President Dedman suggested the board consider renaming it a business park and asked whether the board was open to commercial use. He noted the

Village Zoning Administrator had opposed spot rezoning. Trustee Roberts clarified that spot rezoning concerns relate to cases like rezoning a single residential parcel, which differs from this situation. Trustee Armstrong cautioned against being left with a 3.3-acre remainder that would be hard to sell and suggested seeking a buyer for the balance. President Dedman said an excavating contractor had previously been interested in the remaining land. Roberts stated that the land had sat as industrial for roughly 40 years, that the Village is not on a main shipping route, and that two former industrial users had become commercial. They also noted that a 5-acre parcel is small for industrial use, that the nearby manufacturer owns substantial acreage, and that new buyers might need sewer and water connections. Trustees stressed that the motion only opened the door to proposals and that rezoning would still be required. Motion to consider opening the industrial park property for proposals from commercial as well as industrial businesses was made by President Dedman and seconded by Trustee Summer. **Motion carried unanimously.**

President Dedman reported that the county had prepared a draft RFP for housing at the fairgrounds using the questions previously reviewed. Dates need updating, county staff will prepare a rough layout map of the phases, and the housing study will be included with the RFP.

President Dedman said he wants to keep the topic of moratorium on data centers on future agendas for continued discussions. Trustee Maloney noted a moratorium is time-limited (one year with a possible six-month extension), that very large facilities may fall under state control, and that the county was considering I-2 zoning the following day that would address large energy uses. Teresa of MSA suggested strengthening existing ordinances, such as a noise ordinance limiting decibels at the property line. Trustees noted the Village's shallow water table and insufficient electrical infrastructure, and that newer ordinances elsewhere require developers to supply their own power and closed-loop water systems. President Dedman will monitor the proposal in Frederic. No action was taken, and the item will remain on the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE MEETINGS:

- Public Hearing: 2027 Budget- November 11, 2026 at 5:45 PM @ The Village Office
- Regular Board Meeting – November 11, 2026 Immediately following the 5:45 PM Public Hearing @ The Village Office

ADJOURN - Motion by Trustee Maloney, seconded by Trustee Weis, to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Doriott-Kuhnly
Clerk-Treasurer
October 14, 2026
***These minutes are subject to approval at next month's Regular Meeting.

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President, Ed Dedman

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Trustee, Tom Armstrong

_____
Trustee, Kelsey Gustafson

_____
Trustee, Tim Maloney

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Trustee, Jeff Roberts

_____
Trustee, Bill Summer

_____
Trustee, Sue Weis

Attest: _____
Clerk-Treasurer