

VILLAGE BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025 · 6:30 PM
BOARD ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 210 COTTONWOOD

President Pfannerstill called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: President Pfannerstill, Trustees de Boer, Truttschel, Pfeiffer, Wallschlager, Conner, Hallquist

Others Present: Village Manager Bailey, Librarian Kristensen, Police Lieutenant Jewell, Fire Chief Jambretz, DPW Director Jenson, Recreation Director Blonien, Clerk Policello

Pledge of Allegiance – Trustee Truttschel

President Pfannerstill opened the floor for public comments, emphasizing that everyone would get a chance to speak whether they had signed up on the sheet or not. He requested that speakers try to limit their remarks to three minutes.

The first speaker was Keith Van De Laarschot, representing Waukesha State Bank. He began by acknowledging the recent significant conversation and speculation about the bank's 3-acre parcel at 550 Hartbrook Drive. Van De Laarschot delivered the bank's official position: "The bank's current position is that if the village decides that this is ultimately the best place for you to build your police station for the protection and safety of the residents of the village of Hartland, and if the bank receives fair and reasonable compensation, then the bank is prepared to respect the process of eminent domain, and we won't take any steps to unduly delay or postpone the process." He emphasized that the bank stood ready to negotiate in good faith with the village to reach a mutually beneficial resolution.

Lori Kaiser of 615 Ray Drive, came with a prepared list of questions that had been raised by community members. She referenced the July 28th meeting and expressed frustration about unanswered questions, particularly regarding whether the village was still considering the land and if the eminent domain process had started. Kaiser inquired about the \$28 million figure mentioned for the police department, village hall, and fire department projects; is that 26% that the taxpayers will have to pay? She never received an answer to this question and requested clarification at some point.

Kaiser said based on the village's comprehensive plan and the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, it looks like Hartland Park should not even ever have been considered. She noted that these comprehensive plans were never discussed in any meeting. They never indicated the park could be used for building. Given recent flooding, she argued it was probably not a good site. She questioned if the park had received any grant funding.

Karen Wartinbee from 602 River Meadow, noted the recent flooding and questioned what more blacktop in Hartbrook Park would do. She emphasized that the current green space absorbs water, yet there was still extensive flooding.

Wartinbee reported on her community outreach efforts, stating that everyone she spoke with supported the police and fire departments but wanted the right location without rushing to take up green space and parkland. She presented petition signatures from senior buildings, noting she had over 50 signatures from one building on Sunny Slope and another 45 from the adjacent building. "Those are a lot of people. There's probably not that many apartments even in those buildings. It's 100 percent," she emphasized. "People use that park and we shouldn't be taking it away."

She concluded by expressing hope that the recent rain served as a wake up call to the village and questioned the need for eminent domain if Waukesha State Bank was willing to work with the village.

President Pfannerstill asked if anyone else wished to speak during public comments, even if they had not signed up. When no one else came forward, he thanked all who had spoken.

1. Approval of Minutes

a. July 28, 2025 CIP

Village Manager Bailey briefly explained that the CIP meeting is where they discuss future road paving and any large future projects.

*Motion (Wallschlager/Truttschel) to approve the July 28, 2025 CIP minutes. All were in favor, abstain – Pfeiffer. **Motion carried.***

b. July 28, 2025 Village Board

*Motion (Conner/Hallquist) to approve the July 28, 2025 Village Board meeting minutes. All were in favor, **motion carried.***

2. Items related to vouchers

a. Consideration of vouchers for payment in the amount of \$700,140.47

Motion (Wallschlager/Conner) moved to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$700,140.47.

Trustee Wallschlager inquired about several items, including a police department speed sign that was grant-funded, the status of mat services contracts expiring in 2026, and a \$7,480 expense for a new air conditioner at the community center. Village Manager Bailey confirmed the speed sign would be reimbursed through grant funding and explained the air conditioning repair was necessary despite potential future relocation plans.

President Pfannerstill noted these types of repair expenses will likely continue due to aging facilities, reinforcing issues identified in the needs study.

*All were in favor, **motion carried.***

3. Review and consideration of items related to Licenses and Permits

a. Consideration of Special Event Application for Pumpkin Party in the Park on Saturday, October 11, 2025

Library Director Kristensen and Jake Zuehl appeared as co-chairs for the Pumpkin Party in the Park event. Kristensen explained this would be the second year for the event, which would feature similar activities to last year including a pumpkin river float, haunted trail walk, hay bale maze, and a new pumpkin catapult. He emphasized the event would raise funds for the children's area remodel at the library in a year or two and thanked the village for their support of last year's successful event.

Kristensen acknowledged the crucial support from DPW and Tom's team. Trustee Hallquist, noting the Park Board had reviewed and approved the event, asked about volunteer sign-ups. Kristensen confirmed that the Rotary would handle volunteer coordination, with additional help from Emily with the Arrowhead School District and Kiwanis.

Village Manager Bailey inquired about food arrangements, confirming that Beer Garden would provide finger foods like charcuterie boards and big pretzels, while Kiwanis would offer meal items including hot dogs, hamburgers, a caramel apple station, and apple cider. When asked about entertainment, they confirmed DJ Doty would provide music and a movie would be shown afterwards.

*Motion (Truttschel/de Boer) to approve the special event application for Pumpkin Party in the Park on Saturday, October 11, 2025. All were in favor, **motion carried.***

b. Consideration of Special Event Application for Arrowhead High School Homecoming Parade on Friday, October 10, 2025

Representatives from Arrowhead High School presented their annual request to host the homecoming parade in the downtown area. They highlighted a positive change from previous years: the elementary school now has a half day, which allows more flexibility in timing and enables the football team to participate in the parade again. The speaker noted, "Last year, we didn't have our football team as a part of it because we had to start a little earlier to navigate the traffic issue."

Per the Board's request from last year, they confirmed they would continue sending postcards to community members in the vicinity of the parade to notify them of any disruption to traffic flow. The closure would be brief, taking only about 15 minutes for the parade to pass through. They confirmed that students would line up near the school and that DPW would continue to place concrete barriers for safety.

*Motion (Hallquist/Conner) to approve the special event application for Arrowhead High School Homecoming Parade on Friday, October 10, 2025. All were in favor, **motion carried.***

The clerk confirmed the Village will send a list of affected addresses to the school for their mailing.

c. Consideration of Special Event Application for Back to School Bash by Hartland-Lakeside Education Foundation on Friday, September 12, 2025

Sam Blonien, Recreation Director, appeared on behalf of Mallory Kaul from the Hartland Lakeside Education Foundation (HLEF). She explained that HLEF had shelter number 4 reserved for their back to school bash and were looking to have two food trucks - Kona Ice and possibly a taco truck. Blonien noted this had been approved by the Park Board pending that the food trucks would be parked in the designated food truck area.

When asked if this was the first year for the event, it was clarified that this was the first year at Nixon Park. Trustee Hallquist confirmed that approval had also been obtained from the Beer Garden operators.

*Motion (Conner/de Boer) to approve the special event application for Back to School Bash by Hartland Lakeside Education Foundation on Friday, September 12, 2025, with the provision that the food trucks are parked in the authorized area. All were in favor, **motion carried.***

President Pfannerstill interjected with guidance for future applications, stating that while he didn't have questions for this particular event, he wanted to emphasize that applicants should appear in person rather than having staff speak on their behalf. He noted that if board members had questions that couldn't be answered, the item would need to be postponed to another meeting.

d. Consideration of Special Event Application for Fall in Line 125 Run by Tydish Running on September 19th and 20th

Nicole Diedrick from Tydish Running presented the application for the Fall in Line 125 run. She explained that despite its name, the race is actually 132 miles long, starting in the northern kettles and extending to the end of the southern kettles with 10 aid stations along the way. Centennial Park would serve as one of these aid stations.

The event would require use of the park from 9:00 PM on September 19th to approximately 1:45-2:00 AM on September 20th. Diedrick emphasized this would be a quiet event: "We are a no cowbell, no alcohol production, so it is not a party scene." She noted that at most 5 people would be present at once, possibly as few as 2, with only about 15 runners signed up for this inaugural year. "You won't really even notice we're there," she assured.

Diedrick noted this would become an annual event, and in 2-3 years they plan to flip the course for a 265-mile run, which would require using Centennial Park twice within a week.

President Pfannerstill requested that she coordinate with the Police Department to ensure safety measures, even with small numbers of participants given the late hours. Diedrick confirmed that her DNR permit requires alerting all medical staff when they're in the village, and noted they're at the mercy of weather conditions - if there's 2 or more inches of rain or National Weather Service warnings, the event would be cancelled.

*Motion (Truttschel/Conner) to approve the special event application for Fall in Line 125 Run by Titus Running on September 19th and 20th. All were in favor, **motion carried.***

Diedrick requested confirmation that she would receive a copy of the permit via email since she had submitted a paper copy. Staff confirmed they would both mail and email it to her.

4. Announcements

Library Director Kristensen reported that the library had just finished another successful summer reading program and was currently in recovery mode. They were gearing up for the pumpkin event in October. They are fully staffed.

DPW Director Jenson provided an extensive report on the recent flooding event. Hartland had 11.91 inches over the last two days. He acknowledged the assistance from police and fire departments along with DPW staff who worked around the clock.

Jenson detailed multiple challenges: they diverted water around collapsed basement walls in Hilger Farms, the Arlene lift station experienced significant trouble with I&I (inflow and infiltration). Any little crack or joint that we had was pumping water into the sanitary sewer, which you don't want. He emphasized the inefficiency this creates for pumping and wastewater treatment.

Despite the challenges, Jenson proudly reported that Hartland did not have a sanitary sewer overflow. A lot of places in the local surrounding area were forced to.

Additional incidents included a tree falling on one of their well houses and multiple false alarms for water main breaks that were actually water in basements. The Hilger Farm subdivision suffered the worst damage due to lack of storm sewers, with

Jenson noting this was "definitely over the hundred year flood mark." He mentioned potential future solutions involving collection systems during paving projects.

Jenson concluded by praising R&M's stormwater design and engineering in new subdivisions; it's very important for these events, and usually it's looked at as kind of a pushback from the village, so I appreciate their efforts. He noted they were still cleaning up trees along the river and behind Ray Drive along the path.

Village Manager Bailey added clarification about a social media post showing flooding at the quarry project, explaining it was actually a retention pond working how it is intended to. He praised the site design, noting that despite 11 inches of water, everything is dry there today.

Recreation Director Sam Blonien announced that summer camp and t-ball programs had wrapped up successfully. The department was switching gears to fall programming. She highlighted the success of National Night Out, specifically thanking police, fire, and DPW for their help, noting the Black Hawk that the Police Department scheduled was a huge hit.

Fire Chief David Jambretz provided details on the department's response to the flooding. The department responded to multiple calls until about 1:30 AM.

A lightning strike at 450 Sunny Slope knocked out their alarm system, requiring their maintenance staff to provide fire watch. By the next day, a temporary system was in place with full repairs expected to be completed the following day.

Chief Jambretz issued strong safety warnings to residents: We want to stress to the citizens to not walk through standing water by the river, do not attempt to kayak in the river.

Police Lieutenant Robert Jewell reported that WISN had featured their department in a piece about a July 22nd vehicle pursuit, focusing on the dangers police face with pursuits.

Lieutenant Jewell announced that Chief Misko had been appointed to the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association representation to the Wisconsin Department of Justice Bureau of Training and Standards Tactical Skills Advisory Committee, which covers all the training standards for firearms, defense and arrest tactics. I think we're kind of on the cutting edge of the tactical response. We take training seriously.

He reported that Waukesha County had been hit with the annual string of vehicle break-ins. Despite efforts to warn residents via Facebook, Hartland wasn't immune, with Hilger Farms subdivision experiencing 6 entries. The department was actively investigating in cooperation with other affected departments.

Lieutenant Jewell concluded by noting he attended National Night Out as a visitor and his kids had a blast. Village Manager Bailey added that Chief Misko was absent because he was "bailing out his basement."

Trustee Rick Conner echoed the praise for National Night Out, noting he saw new faces attending. He thanked everyone involved, particularly DPW and the fire department for their weekend response to flooding calls.

Trustee Ann Wallschlager also praised National Night Out, specifically thanking Sam for distributing water and again thanked everyone for bringing the helicopter.

President Jeffrey Pfannerstill began his announcements by thanking everyone involved in cleanup efforts and reiterated praise for National Night Out, calling it

"absolutely wonderful" and noting it was great to see so many people coming together.

He then provided several important updates to address community concerns and emails received. First, he reported on his Friday meeting with executives from Waukesha State Bank, describing it as going very well and they are a wonderful organization.

The President announced the building needs information sessions scheduled for August 13th and 20th (the next two Wednesdays), noting postcards had been sent to all residents and information was available on the website. He stressed that those unable to attend could schedule individual meetings for tours of PD, fire department, or village hall to get their questions answered. "Feel free to reach out to any of the trustees or call the village hall.

Regarding the resolution of necessity, Pfannerstill explained it was being drafted and, per legal guidance, would be used for any property purchase.

Addressing recent criticism, the President confronted claims made by a former trustee who had posted on Lake Country 411 and sent emails alleging illegal activities in Hartland. He characterized these as "a hit piece" and someone saying something to sensationalize, noting that the posts themselves acknowledged actions would be legal if proper procedures were followed. We would never do something illegal.

President Pfannerstill encouraged anyone with questions to call the village or board members to set up meetings, emphasizing transparency and willingness to share information about different areas examined during the planning process.

Trustee Pfeiffer added a reminder about the street dance on August 23rd.

5. Adjourn

Motion (Pfeiffer/Wallschlager) to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.