

**VILLAGE OF HARTLAND
VILLAGE BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026 * 6:30 PM
BOARD ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 210 COTTONWOOD AVE.**

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

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

Excused: Trustees Wallschlager, Hallquist

Others Present: Village Manager Bailey, Deputy Police Chief DeBarge, Fire Chief Jambretz, Assistant Fire Chief Kajil Sharp, DPW Director Jenson, Sam Blonien Recreation Manager, Clerk Policello

Public Comments

No members of the public came forward to speak during public comments, either in person or via Zoom.

1. Consideration of approval of Minutes for February 9, 2026

Motion by Trustee Pfeiffer, seconded by Trustee Conner, to approve the minutes for February 9, 2026. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2. Items related to vouchers

a. Consideration of Contractor's Application for Payment No. 1 to Mid City Corp., in the amount of \$340,170.06

DPW Director Tom Jensen explained that Mid City Corporation has been working on the Shadow Ridge and Lean lift stations. They have completed most of the work at Shadow Ridge, with some cleanup work remaining at the Arlene Drive and Rustic Lane stations. This represents a partial payment, and both engineers and staff have inspected the work and conducted alarm checks on the completed portions.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Truttschel, to approve the contractor's application for payment number 1 to Mid City Corp in the amount of \$340,170.06.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Consideration of vouchers for payment in the amount of \$652,272.80

Village Manager Bailey noted that the total amount for the vouchers needed to be corrected to \$652,272.80 to include the Mid City payment that was just approved.

Motion by Trustee Truttschel, seconded by Trustee de Boer, to approve the vouchers for payment in the amount of \$652,272.80. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. Actions related to Licenses and Permits

a. Restricted Species Permit – Heather Schmidt, 428 Cottonwood Ave., 3 dogs

Deputy Police Chief DeBarge reported that Schmidt is seeking a restricted species permit to have three dogs at her residence, with two dogs belonging to her and one belonging to Troy. The department responded to the residence in August when one dog had run away, which was later located without issues. There was also a dog bite incident in November 2025 at the Grist Mill where a dog bit a patron who required eight stitches, but this occurred away from the residence inside the bar. DeBarge noted no other issues at the residence itself.

President Pfannerstill emphasized that the dog bite incident occurred away from the home environment, which is different from how animals interact in their home territory, making it a distinct situation from typical residential permit considerations.

Motion by Trustee Pfeiffer, seconded by Trustee Truttschel, to approve the restricted species permit for Heather Schmidt at 428 Cottonwood Avenue for her third dog.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Operator/bartender application - Matthew McKenna

Matthew McKenna participated via Zoom and explained he had been bartending for about four years while attending college in La Crosse. He acknowledged making a mistake one night that he learned from and was now seeking employment while applying for other jobs with his college degree.

President Pfannerstill noted that McKenna had received an OWI with a conviction date of March 19, 2025. He explained that the Village's typical policy requires a one-year waiting period after an OWI before granting an operator's license. However, the Board could approve the license contingent on a background check after March 19, allowing staff to approve the license if the check comes back clean. Village Manager Bailey clarified that McKenna could still work as a bartender during this time as long as someone with an operator's license was present on the premises.

Deputy Police Chief DeBarge confirmed he had no concerns and would work with staff to run the background check on March 19. Village Clerk Policello explained that the background check would be run automatically on March 19, and McKenna could call on March 20 or 21 to check if it was completed and ready for pickup.

Motion by Trustee Pfeiffer, seconded by Trustee Conner, to approve the operator bartender application for Matthew McKenna contingent on background check on March 19 or after and staff approval. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. Review and consideration of an Extraterritorial Certified Survey Map for the Braden property at N30 W29315 Hillcrest Drive

President Pfannerstill explained that as a Village, Hartland has the right to review certified survey maps within a mile and a half of the Village border to ensure they align with future Village plans. Village Manager Bailey confirmed there were no issues with this particular request, and it had passed through the Plan Commission without problems.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Truttschel, to approve the extraterritorial certified survey map for the Braden property at N30 W29315 Hillcrest Drive. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Review and consideration of resubmittal of approved addition for T-Lon at 1110 Richards Road

Village Manager Bailey explained that this project was previously approved, but the applicant returned to the Plan Commission with a slightly smaller version of the addition than originally requested.

Motion by Trustee Truttschel, seconded by Trustee Pfeiffer, to approve the resubmittal of the approved addition for T-Lon at 1110 Richards Road. **Motion carried unanimously.**

6. Consideration of Third Reading of Bill for an Ordinance No. 01/20/2026 "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 30 of the Village of Hartland Municipal Code Pertaining to Court"

Deputy Police Chief DeBarge explained this was the third reading of the ordinance that came about after Palmyra joined the Lake Country Municipal Court. The second reading occurred two weeks prior, and it was moved to a third reading due to small corrections noticed by the City of Oconomowoc, including spelling errors and semantic changes such as renaming it the "Lake Country Municipal Court." No changes had been made in the past four weeks after those initial corrections.

Motion by Trustee Pfeiffer, seconded by Trustee de Boer, to adopt the bill for an ordinance number 01/20/2026, an ordinance to amend chapter 30 of the village of Hartland Municipal Code pertaining to court. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Discussion and consideration to approve the amended Successor Agreement for the Operation of the Lake Country Municipal Court a/k/a Municipal Court for Western Waukesha County

Deputy Police Chief DeBarge noted this agreement accompanies the ordinance changes that were just approved and had been previously voted on, but needed Board approval again with the small changes that were made.

Motion by Trustee Truttschel, seconded by Trustee Conner, to approve the amended successor agreement for the operation of Lake Country Municipal Court, aka Municipal Court for Western Waukesha County. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. Discussion and consideration of amendments to the beer garden agreement

- a. The addition of Wednesdays with adjustment to usage fee
- b. Placement of a food trailer for added food preparation area
- c. Delineation of beer garden area

Stephanie Mercado from Beer Snobs explained several requested changes. She wanted to add Wednesdays to the weekly schedule because opening on Thursdays when they have the concert series is extremely difficult due to it being their busiest day. Having Wednesday operations would provide a full day to prepare for Thursdays. She noted that Sundays are inconsistent in terms of business, suggesting they could either replace Sundays with Wednesdays or shorten Sunday hours to 4 PM instead of the current 8 PM, as there's typically no business after 3 or 4 PM on Sundays.

Regarding the food trailer, Mercado explained it would be wrapped with the Hartland Beer Garden logo and would provide much-needed space to prep and store food. Currently, all food must be made at Beer Snobs' kitchen and brought over due to space limitations. The trailer would be dedicated solely to the beer garden and would remain on-site, eliminating the need to use Beer Snobs' kitchen.

Village Manager Bailey showed the Board where the proposed trailer would be located, noting that a problematic tree and circular area would be removed and replaced with squared-off blacktop. The trailer would take up no parking spaces.

DPW Director Jensen explained the delineation proposal, which would use temporary rope fencing with stakes and eyelets, similar to a campground delineation. This would create clear boundaries for the beer garden area while maintaining an attractive appearance.

President Pfannerstill acknowledged the challenge of balancing the beer garden lease with maintaining a public park atmosphere. The direction of the stage makes delineation more

complex since people naturally gather near the music. He emphasized wanting a "soft approach" that maintains the community feel while supporting the business investment.

Mercado noted problems with people bringing large catered parties into the beer garden area, especially on Sundays when she provided live music. Groups of 20-30 people would bring their own food and drinks, making it difficult for the beer garden to be profitable. She expressed uncertainty about how to handle these situations without knowing the ordinances.

Jensen confirmed that new signage citing the relevant ordinances would be installed at every entrance to Nixon Park, and the rope delineation would require people to walk under an arch saying "Hartland Beer Garden" to enter the area.

Regarding fees, Mercado noted she was already paying \$250 more per weekend this year, bringing the total to \$1,000 per weekend. She indicated a willingness to pay more if the delineation was approved but wanted to maintain current rates if the area remained unprotected.

Trustee Pfeiffer supported the Wednesday addition, noting it made business sense to start the weekend a day earlier and have preparation time before the busy Thursday concert series. Other Board members agreed that people should respect the financial commitment Beer Snobs has made to the space.

Village Clerk Policello read comments from absent Trustee Hallquist supporting the ordinance signs, temporary fencing, and appropriate fees for any additional days.

Motion by Trustee Pfeiffer, seconded by Trustee Truttschel, to add Wednesdays with the adjustment that was already going to happen this year (going up to \$1,000), scale back Sundays to 4 PM and see how that goes, approve the placement of the food trailer where discussed and repave what was the circle into more of a square or rectangle, and approve the delineation of the beer garden area by use of temporary and not aesthetically displeasing rope. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. Discussion and consideration to allow a new Ice Age Trail route through the Cottonwood Wayside property

DPW Director Jensen explained that the northern section of the proposed yellow route is not currently a blazed Ice Age Trail. The proposal would create a trail around the Cottonwood Wayside field, intersecting Village property only at a small corner. An existing informal trail is already being used by hikers, but it would need to be officially blazed.

Jensen's primary concern was the road crossing, noting that technically the Village should install truncated domes for ADA compliance when allowing a trail into the right-of-way. The estimated cost would be several thousand dollars, and the steep ditch would require significant shoulder work to accommodate proper concrete placement.

Chad DeChateau, Field Project Manager for the Ice Age Trail Alliance explained the proposal as a celebration of the investment both the Village and volunteers have made in restoration work. Over three years of restoration work has been completed, with volunteers replacing thousands of feet of boardwalk structures in the Hartland Marsh Preserve. The idea is to bring people off the paved trail into the marsh to better interpret the glacial landscape and showcase the native habitat improvements.

Village Manager Bailey raised concerns about this being one of the Village's last green spaces that could potentially be developed in the future. Once designated as an Ice Age Trail path, it becomes a more permanent commitment that could complicate future development options, including a previously discussed disc golf course.

President Pfannerstill requested time to evaluate other potential uses for the property, including reaching out to those who had expressed interest in a disc golf course. The Board wanted to make the best long-term decision for the property rather than rushing into a commitment.

Chad indicated no time pressure and understanding of the need for proper consideration as partners in the community.

The Board agreed to bring the item back to the first meeting in May to allow time for proper evaluation of all options and consultation with interested parties. No action was taken.

10. Consideration of renewing terms to the Business Improvement District Board for Nick Jensen, Bob Wisniewski and Marilyn Haroldson

Village Manager Bailey explained these are renewals of existing two-year terms for the Business Improvement District Board members who have been continuing since December but need formal approval.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Pfeiffer, to renew the terms of the Business Improvement District Board for Nick Jensen, Bob Wisniewski, and Marilyn Haroldson. **Motion carried unanimously.**

11. Discussion and consideration to award contracts for Public Works projects included in the 2026 budget

DPW Director Jensen presented five different contracts, all of which were budgeted items.

a. Wellhouse work contract to Water Well Solutions in the amount of \$52,626.00
Jensen explained that Well Number 5 requires rehabilitation. He obtained proposals with both best-case and worst-case scenario pricing. While Water Well Solutions was not the lowest bidder (being \$396 higher), their worst-case scenario was \$15,000 lower than the competition, making them the better choice for risk management.

b. Nixon and Bark River Park fence and ballfield restoration contracts to Century Fence and Midwest Athletic Fields for a total of \$91,090.00
This project involves installing a new backstop, raising fences along baselines to 12 feet to protect the canteen area from fly balls, outfield fence repairs, adding a center gate for events, and field restoration work. Fencing prices came in lower than expected compared to recent Penbrook Park work, allowing for additional outfield improvements.

c. DPW garage door replacement contract to Hartland Overhead Door Inc. in the amount of \$69,925.00
The garage doors are original from 1986 and have been extensively repaired over the years. The metal is no longer holding brackets properly, making replacement necessary.

d. Bulk filling station contract to Ferguson Waterworks in the amount of \$43,732.00
This prefabricated building will replace the current fire hydrant system near Well Number 3, providing better truck access and automated billing via credit card or account PIN. Other municipalities with similar systems have seen revenue nearly double from the current \$35,000 over four years. The heated and cooled building will extend the selling season.

e. Sanitary sewer cleaning and televising contract to Visu Sewer for the low bid of .42 per LF for sewer cleaning and \$1.35 per LF for televising

This contract supports the Village's inspection and maintenance program, with televising done a year before utility projects and cleaning on a three-year cycle throughout the Village.

Motion by Trustee Pfeiffer, seconded by Trustee Conner, to approve the contracts for public works projects included in the 2026 budget as read by Tom Jenson, items a, c, d, and e. **Motion carried unanimously.**

12. Discussion of potential guidelines and regulations for chickens at residential properties (Requested by Trustee Wallschlager)

President Pfannerstill noted that Trustee Wallschlager had requested this item but was absent from the meeting. He indicated he personally doesn't see a need for changes to current chicken regulations, as there haven't been any reported problems. Deputy Police Chief DeBarge confirmed no complaints have been received about chickens. Trustee de Boer noted that neighbors have been positive about chickens in her area. Trustee Wallschlager had requested the item be moved to March.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Pfeiffer, to postpone the chicken concerns to March. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13. Announcements

Deputy Police Chief DeBarge announced that the Police Department has a vacancy for a certified police officer position, accepting applications from certified officers or those graduating from the academy by May. Applications are available on the village website or Wilinet.

Fire Chief Jambretz reported working with Dr. Schultz, the new medical director, who will meet with full-time staff to discuss upgrades needed for Schedule 1 medications per state and DEA requirements. The MDCs were returned and will be back in service by the end of the week after IT completion.

Assistant Fire Chief Sharp announced the EMS service director appointment transition from the Fire Chief to himself has been accepted by the State of Wisconsin, streamlining the renewal process for their three-year paramedic agency license.

DPW Director Jensen reported a main break on Valentine's Day that required four staff members working 12 hours to repair due to depth and frost conditions. The department is hiring summer help for individuals 18 or older at \$18 per hour, working 7 AM to 3 PM doing grass cutting and park maintenance.

Trustee Pfeiffer congratulated the United States women's and men's hockey teams for their victories over Canada.

President Pfannerstill noted that the DPW department will be nominated for an award at the upcoming Kudos Awards dinner this Thursday. He emphasized that everything seems to be running well across all Village departments as they prepare for spring elections in April and the upcoming summer season.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Trustee Pfeiffer, seconded by Trustee de Boer, to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandee Policello
Village Clerk