

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER.** At 5:30 p.m. Village President (VP) Shannon Berg called the meeting to order.
- II. **ROLL CALL.** Board of Trustee (Board) Members in attendance were Gary Pitts, Paul Blodgett (arrived at 5:32pm), Brad Lotts, Gerid Dodge (arrived at 5:38pm) & VP Berg. There was a quorum in attendance. Staff in attendance were Public Works (PW) Garrett Larson, Treasurer-Deputy Clerk (TDC) Teresa Dachel, Clerk-Treasurer Allison Hamholm, Building Inspector Joe Atwood, Sergeant Andy Clark (arrived at 6:15pm) and Village Engineer Zech Gothum. Public in attendance was Chad Toews, Ilene Moos, Verlyn Motzer and Scott Lofoboro arrived late.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**
- IV. **PUBLIC HEARING: THE DISCONTINUANCE OF A PUBLIC WAY**
 1. Open the Public Hearing. The public hearing was opened at 5:31 p.m. by VP Berg. TDC Dachel let the board know that the village has met its requirement for Class 3 public posting.
 2. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
 3. Board of Trustees Discussion. There were no questions or concerns raised by the board.
 4. Close Public Hearing. The public hearing was closed at 5:32 p.m. by VP Berg.
 5. Action on Resolution 2026-01 Discontinuance of a Public Way. Motion was made by Lotts & seconded by Pitts to approve resolution 2026-01 Discontinuance of a Public Way. 4 In favor, none Opposed. Motion Carried.
- V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.** Ilene Moos with United Methodist Church addressed the board to let them know she was organizing a youth group to help with clean up at the Village Cemetery the first Wednesday in May, 2026. They will work with TDC Dachel on any paperwork needed and PW Larson a list of what needs to be done. Verlyn Motzer addressed Village BI Atwood wanting to know when something would be done about the illegal fence at 234 E Main St. BI Atwood replied that it is on the list and the board approved for this resident to take care of the fence in the spring.
- VI. **CONSENT AGENDA.** There were no questions or concerns with the consent agenda. Motion was made by Lotts & seconded by Pitts to approve consent agenda. All were In Favor, None Opposed. Motion carried.
 1. Announcements, Complaints, Concerns and Communications.
 2. Minutes and Reports.
 - a. Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2026.
 - b. Special Board Meeting on Thursday, January 15, 2026.
 - c. Plan Commission on Tuesday, January 27, 2026.
 3. Board Appointments: Wayne Dachel to the New Auburn Area Fire Department Board.
- VII. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS.**
 1. Public Works. PW Larson went over the written report provided to the board. The WWTP Effluent is currently pumping water now that the slope has been fixed and an air relief valve installed. There are still some concerns with flow. The new pump was installed at Wellhouse #1 and when CTW flushed the well with chlorine, they did let it flush long enough so many residents experienced strong chlorine smells. Over the next several days, PW pumped over 201,000 gallons through the hydrants in order to push the chlorine out quicker. The water tower experienced an issue with the recirculation pump and called Lane Tank in on a Saturday to replace. Wellhouse #2 had an alarm and with the help of CTW, PW was able to fix it.
 2. Public Safety. Sergeant Clark arrived at 6:15 p.m. to give the sheriff's department report. It was noted that they spent 124.5 hours of billable time in the village and 29.25 non-billable hours outside the village. He did note there seems to be some concerns with hours at the New Auburn School District and recommended setting up a meeting with all involved to discuss expectations.
 3. Building Inspector. BI Atwood reported that there has been no movement on any of the properties that remain on the list; Lauterbach, Cole, Rosenbrook, Davis and Larson. He did give final inspection at 326 N Spruce St for occupancy. It was noted that there was a shed being built on N East Street and he has already alerted the owner to come in and fill out paperwork.
 4. Treasurer's Report.

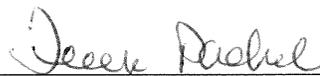
- a. Receipts-Expense Report. TDC Dachel asked all board members if they reviewed the report and had any questions or concerns; there were none.
5. Clerk-Treasurer
 - a. General Code. CT Hamholm let the board know that the Village code books have been updated with all of the 2025 ordinances. She also thanked the board for allowing her the opportunity to work for the Village. She gained some great experience in her short time and a lot of respect for what happens in the Village.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

1. County Hwy SS Work-Morgan & Parmley Presentation. Morgan & Parmley Engineer, Zech Gothum handed out topal mapping for County Hwy SS showing the potential project slated for this summer. This will be done in conjunction with Chippewa County in hopes to address the water run off affecting RW Honey located on the west side of County Hwy SS between the blocks of Pine Street and North Street. The goal is to install a concrete mountable curb and gutter along that area with an inlet and drainage channel just south of North Street. A 5' asphalt apron would be installed on the west side of the curb & gutter and then asphalt on the east side tying into Chippewa Counties removal and replacement. There is an estimated project cost of \$39,295 which included items that could potentially be done by Public Works staff. We will have a clearer picture once Chippewa County sends their estimates on the asphaltting. There will still need to be a discussion with RW Honey regarding easements.

IX. NEW BUSINESS.

1. Consider/Act on 526 S East Street; Village owned property returned by H4H. TDC Dachel asked what the board would like to do with the property returned by Habitat for Humanity. A motion by Dodge and seconded by Pitts to list the property with Blue Diamond Realty. We will allow the realtor to help set the sale price.
2. Consider/Act on Call In pay. TDC Dachel presented a spreadsheet showing multiple options for either Call In pay or On Call pay. Possible Call In pay may stay the same; add a \$20 stipend and normal rate of pay; or paid at 2 hours of overtime regardless of response time. Possible On Call pay included \$20 stipend to carry the phone on non-working days (Friday and Sunday) then response paid at normal rate; second option same as above but paid 2 hours regardless of response time; or paid \$10 stipend for 7 days of On Call then paid at normal rate for response time. It was noted that a few of these options would ultimately change the budgeting of overtime which should be reserved for emergencies.
3. Consider forming joint committee with the School District of New Auburn. TDC Dachel talked about a meeting held with Superintendent Heiss, VP Berg, CT Hamholm and TDC Dachel. There is some interest in possible creating a committee between the school and village staff and/or board to discuss potential volunteer options for Tech Ed & FFA students as well as discussing the possibility of sharing common expenses like the renewing the tennis courts among other things. TDC Dachel did have some concerns about public meeting laws. This discussion was informational and we are waiting until after the school board meeing on 2/16/26.
4. Future Board Meetings:
 - a. Next Regular Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2026.
 - b. Next Park Committee Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2026.
- X. ADJOURN. At 6:27 p.m. a motion was made by Pitts and seconded by Dodge to adjourn. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.



Teresa Dachel, Village Clerk-Treasurer