VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

President Stalewski called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:
Present: Trustee Greenfield, Trustee Ragonese, Trustee Edgar, Trustee Schuettke, Trustee Schaefer, President Stalewski
Excused: Trustee Hill

PUBLIC HEARING
No public hearing

CITIZEN COMMENTS
Village President John Stalewski noted that two citizens had submitted requests to speak and invited each to the podium.

Resident Jerry Sormrude – 1230 South 45th Street addressed the Board with a series of observations and suggestions. He opened by thanking the Board for addressing the alleys, noting that many residents on his block were pleased that work would be taking place.

He then offered the following comments and requests: Mr. Sormrude suggested that the Department of Public Works consider removing the “No Parking” signs in front of Saint Florian's Church, observing that the signs are routinely ignored and are, in his words, "useless right now." He asked if monthly police reports, crime reports, and CDA meeting minutes could be posted to the village website, calling it "food for thought."

Mr. Sormrude noted that Notre Dame School is doing an excellent job managing traffic, Mr. Sormrude suggested that when alley work is scheduled, crews should also address Scott Street parking. Mr. Sormrude reported that three (3) of his neighbors had independently informed him of rat sightings near 1252 South 45th Street. He acknowledged that no one currently lives there but expressed concern given the multiple reports.

Mr. Sormrude identified several properties he described as overgrown or neglected, specifically: 1220 South 46th Street, which he called "still an overgrown jungle"; 4623 West Scott/Beloit; and the old Rexnord property, particularly along Mitchell Street, where vegetation appeared to be approximately waist high as of the prior week. He also expressed concern about the Ogden Apartments, noting that while some areas maintained by tenants look well-kept, much of the property features dead landscaping. He remarked, "It's surprising because they used to take such good care of that property." Additionally, he noted that a porch at the second house behind 4623 W. Scott/Beloit Rd had no railing. He stated he had heard through the grapevine that the village had discontinued its practice of systematically inspecting a section of the village each year. He said that this would be a mistake and suggested proactive inspections, residents will not consistently report violations and conditions will deteriorate. He submitted written materials to the Board for reference.

The Village President acknowledged Mr. Sormrude comments and indicated the list of issues would be forwarded to the appropriate staff.

Resident Susan Stalewski – 1237 South 54th Street, a 30-year resident of West Milwaukee, requested and was granted five (5) minutes rather than the standard three (3) to address two topics. She indicated she would submit written comments for inclusion in the minutes. She opened by commending the Department of Public Works for their quality work in maintaining the village, praising their garbage collection as professional, timely, and efficient.

Mrs. Stalewski stated that she is deeply interested in strengthening community engagement in the village but expressed significant concerns about the process used to establish the recently created temporary Community Ambassador position and the goals of that position.

She argued that transparency is essential when new Village positions are created, and that residents should be able to understand the need that prompted the position, how the duties were developed, how the position was authorized and filled, and why the need is characterized as temporary. She expressed particular concern that when temporary

positions are filled administratively, especially with former village employees, the process must be open and transparent "to maintain public confidence."

Mrs. Stalewski stated her belief that a community ambassador initiative "should be built with the community," and suggested that residents should have had an opportunity to identify what would strengthen community connections and what an ambassador program should accomplish. She asked that residents be given meaningful roles going forward such as volunteers, neighborhood ambassadors, captains, event participants, and community partners.

She further asked what outcomes are expected from this temporary position: "What would be different at the end of this appointment? How will we know if the goals have been met?" She articulated a vision that the position should leave West Milwaukee with stronger resident connections, greater participation, new opportunities for community involvement, and a foundation that can continue even after the temporary position ends. She expressed hope that the initiative would "be a catalyst for resident participation and not a" substitute for it.

Mrs. Stalewski stated that she has participated with the Historical Society on and off for two (2) years and expressed concern about Village oversight of the organization. She noted that the society uses the West Milwaukee name, stores collections in Village facilities, and is promoted on the Village website; circumstances that, in her view, create "a reasonable Village interest in the governance and stewardship of the collection."

She reported that the most recently documented bylaws she was able to locate were approved by the membership in 1984, and that those bylaws require a Board of Directors, annual elections, regular board meetings, and meaningful voting rights for members, as well as requirements for maintaining tax-exempt status and properly caring for the historical collection. She noted that amendments to those bylaws require a two-thirds membership vote, and that while she and others have been told the bylaws have changed, no documentation has been produced showing when and how those changes were approved. She raised questions about whether a functioning board currently exists, when elections were last held, whether organizational records have been properly maintained, and whether required filings are current. Mrs. Stalewski asked the Village to request basic accountability before continuing to provide facility storage and public association to the organization. Specifically, she requested: current bylaws and a record of their approval; current officers, directors, and dates of election; confirmation that required nonprofit and Wisconsin Historical Society filings are current; and information about the inventory and long-term stewardship of the historical collection. She concluded by stating, "West Milwaukee's history belongs to the community," and that the organization entrusted with it "should be stable, transparent, and open to meaningful community participation." She submitted written comments for the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Motion by Trustee Edgar, seconded by Trustee Ragonese, to approve the Village Board Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

Roll Call:
Ayes: Trustee Schaefer, Trustee Edgar, Trustee Greenfield, Trustee Ragonese, Trustee Schuette, President Stalewski
Excused: Trustee Hill

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND PURCHASES, Chairperson John Ragonese

Motion by Trustee Ragonese, seconded by Trustee Schuettke, to approve the commercial vouchers and wire transfers dated September 10, 2026, through and including September 21, 2026, check numbers 35986 through 36031 in the amount of $427,603.01.

Roll Call:
Aye: Trustee Greenfield, Trustee Edgar, Trustee Schaefer, Trustee Ragonese, Trustee Schuettke, President Stalewski
Excused: Trustee Hill

Motion by Trustee Ragonese, seconded by Trustee Schuettke, to approve the bi-weekly payroll dated September 18, 2026, in the amount of $132,268.04.

Roll Call:
Aye: Trustee Schuettke, Trustee Schaefer, Trustee Edgar, Trustee Greenfield, Trustee Ragonese, President Stalewski
Excused: Trustee Hill

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT, Chairperson Steve Schuettke
No report was given.

PUBLIC WORKS, RECYCLING AND UTILITIES, Chairperson Dominic Greenfield
No report was given.

LICENSES, ZONING, PARKS, AND BUILDINGS, Chairperson Craig Schaefer
Motion by Trustee Schaefer, seconded by Trustee Edgar to approve a license to serve fermented malt beverages and intoxicating liquors for Sierra Clerc, Nicole Kinder, Jason Schabel, and Amanda Alvarado.

Roll Call:
Aye: Trustee Greenfield, Trustee Edgar, Trustee Ragonese, Trustee Schuettke, Trustee Schaefer, President Stalewski
Excused: Trustee Hill,

HEALTH, HOUSING, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND RECREATION, Chairperson Jane Edgar
Chairperson Edgar reported that the Board of Health has its next meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2026, and meetings are held in either Greenfield or West Allis.

PERSONNEL AND PUBLICITY, Chairperson Todd Hill
No report was given.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, Chairperson John Stalewski
No report was given.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
President Stalewski reported that he attended a Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) workshop the prior Wednesday to discuss transit options in anticipation of an expected 25 percent reduction in transit budget dollars over the next two years. He described brainstorming discussions around alternatives including changing routes, reducing routes, and changing frequency of service which is aimed at maintaining the optimum level of service given the budget constraints ahead. He noted that a follow-up email had already been received and that he has materials with colored charts detailing potential route changes, which he offered to share with any interested board members.

President Stalewski announced that the county budget hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23rd, at the Zablocki Library at 37th and Howard, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM, for those interested in attending.

President Stalewski wished to put some observations on the record regarding the Beer Garden. He identified a lack of publicity as the primary issue with the event's attendance, noting that no flyers, signs, or banners were distributed and that awareness was essentially word-of-mouth. He shared that he had personally been asked by a resident whether a Beer Garden was happening, and that the resident later responded they had not seen any information about it. He acknowledged that weather was also a factor but stated, "we could have done better,".

WMCDA REPORT, Chairperson Craig Schaefer
WMCDA Chairperson Schaefer reported that he was not present at the most recent meeting, in August. Village Administrator Egan confirmed that the meeting did occur and that an Strong Neighborhood application was approved. Administrator Egan indicated there were no new applications at this time and nothing further to report for the current month.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS
No department heads were present.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

On behalf of Police Chief Randolph, Village Administrator Egan reported that the accreditation review process begins this week, with Chiefs from other agencies will review all policies within the police department. The date for Shop with a Cop has been set for Saturday, December 12th, from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. This year, the event will include Breakfast with Santa.

The Village Administrator noted that work on the budget is ongoing and that more detailed updates will be provided at the next board meeting. She stated Nothing Bundt Cakes: A new business at 1403 Miller Parkway in the building adjacent to KFC has received occupancy.

Village Administrator Egan summarized a heavy agenda from the Plan Commission meeting the prior week, which included two public hearings. The following items were addressed:

- JM Wrap Studios at 4810 West Greenfield was approved for window tinting on vehicles
- Bueno Beef was approved via conditional use permit as a new drive-through restaurant at the former Taco John's location at 2172 North Parkway. An outdoor patio and sign waiver were also approved, with the signage modification adding descriptive wording.
- West Village Apartments on Miller Park Way and Westchester will be receiving two new monument signs.
- Mister Carwash is also undertaking exterior changes, including the removal of windows.
- 3800 West Lincoln — An exterior remodel to remove an overhead door was approved.
- Global Power received approval for all signage as well as site plan amendments involving changes to driveways.

Village Administrator Egan advised the Board that Global Power will appear at the October 5th Village Board meeting to request approval of a traffic signal at their main employee entrance and exit on Burnham Street. Notably, Global Power has indicated a willingness to pay all costs associated with that signal installation.

NEW ITEMS FOR FUTURE COMMITTEE DELIBERATION
Chairperson Schaefer raised the question of whether the resident concerns raised during Citizen Comments, particularly the list of property maintenance addresses submitted by Mr. Sormrude and the concerns expressed by Mrs. Stalewski, should be formally distributed to staff. Village President Stalewski agreed this was a good idea, and Village Administrator Egan confirmed that Mr. Sormrude list of addresses would be forwarded to the appropriate staff for follow-up.

Regarding Mrs. Stalewski concerns about the Community Ambassador position, Chairperson Schaefer noted he was not personally pushing back on the position itself but, having missed relevant meetings, was asking questions and seeking clarity. He asked whether the Board should refer the matter to the Personnel Committee or handle it at the Tourism Committee. Village Administrator Egan clarified that the position was approved by Tourism Commission and explained that the position was created as temporary to allow the job description to evolve before being formalized. She offered to share the existing job description with the Board. She stated this position is to build relationships with the business and to help promote tourism and help with event planning.

Chairperson Ragonese indicated that the appropriate course of action may ne to bring the matter back to the Tourism Committee meeting, ensuring sufficient advance notice so all interested parties can attend and participate. He acknowledged the validity of the resident point, stating he wanted to move something forward "that everybody had said was a good idea" and that all concerns could be aired at the upcoming Tourism meeting. It was agreed that Mrs. Stalewski written comments would be made available at that meeting so her concerns can be addressed directly.

Upcoming Meetings
The following meetings were announced:

- Monday, September 28th at 6:00pm ……. WMCDA Meeting
- Monday, October 5th at 7:00pm …… Village Board Meeting
- Tuesday, October 13th at 6:00pm …….. Plan Commission Meeting

Adjournment
Motion by Trustee Edgar, seconded by Trustee Schaefer, to adjourn at 7:28 PM. Motion carried unanimously by voice.

Respectfully Submitted,

Administrative Assistant
Ann Olson