



Village of Fox Crossing Board of Trustees
Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 2, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.
Municipal Complex – Arden Tews Assembly Room
2000 Municipal Drive, Neenah WI 54956

1. **Call to Order**

The special meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was called to order by President Youngquist at 5:00 p.m.

Village Clerk Chantel Jaenke recorded the following Village Board members as present: President Dale Youngquist and Trustees Michael Van Dyke, Kris Koeppe, Tim Raddatz, Kate McQuillan, Deb Swiertz, and Barb Hanson.

Also Present: Village Manager Jeffrey Sturgell, Director of Finance Jeremy Searl, Director of Community Development George Dearborn, Fire Chief Todd Sweeney, Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Bordeaux, Police Chief Tim Callan, Police Captain Corey Haag, Director of Parks & Recreation Amanda Geiser, Director of Public Works Joe Hoechst, Street Superintendent Brian Bauer, and Director of IT Tim Plagenz.

2. **Fox Crossing Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) Status**

Director Hoechst reviewed the current Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) ratings for Village roads and provided an update on their overall condition. He noted that the ratings were completed in 2025 and submitted to WisDOT as required every two years. The University of Wisconsin Madison provides the guidelines for rating road conditions on a scale of 1 to 10. He presented a map of the Village showing the condition of each roadway and noted that most Village roads are rated 4–5 or better, which reflects the Village’s continued investment in road infrastructure. He stated that plans are underway to address some of the lower-rated roads as part of the 2026 Crack Seal and Road Resurfacing Program. Director Hoechst also answered questions from the Village Board. No action was taken.

3. **Future of East Side Water Supply**

Village Manager Sturgell provided an update on the future options for the East Side water supply. He summarized the findings of the McMahon and Associates study evaluating alternatives for serving the East Side system, including continued purchase of water from Menasha Utilities, connecting the West Side and East Side systems, and purchasing water wholesale from the City of Appleton. He noted staff will continue to explore the feasibility of a potential connection to the Appleton Water Utility as a future option.

Director Hoechst added that water rates are fully regulated by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC), and the Village will be completing a rate case later this year. He explained that although the Village operates two separate water systems, the PSC views them as a single utility for rate-setting purposes. As a result, the lower-cost production on the West Side subsidizes the higher-cost East Side system. He noted ongoing challenges with East Side water production related to water quality at Wells #5 and #7 and the higher cost of purchasing wholesale water from Menasha Utilities. He also reported that the long-term viability of the East Side wells is limited.

Staff answered questions from the Board regarding the different possibilities and potential outcomes. No action was taken.

The Board recessed at 6:03 p.m. for a brief break. The meeting reconvened at 6:10 p.m.

4. **Discussion of New Police Department Building**

Village Manager Sturgell noted that the discussion surrounding the need for a new Police Department has been ongoing since a space study was completed in 2019. He provided background on the Municipal Complex and explained that while the construction of the Storage Building in 2020 addressed some immediate space needs, it was only a temporary solution. The study concluded that the Police Department has outgrown its existing space and identified several facility needs. Over the past several years, staff have reviewed multiple options, including

expanding the current Municipal Complex, purchasing and renovating existing buildings within the Village, and constructing a new Police Department facility on Village-owned property. He reported that funds were budgeted in 2025 to develop a concept plan for a new facility, and Chief Callan worked with McMahon & Associates to prepare a proposed design. Regarding potential locations, the recommended site is the Village-owned property at the intersection of East Shady Lane and Irish Road.

Chief Callan explained that, unlike some other communities, the Village does not have an existing building that could reasonably meet Police Department needs or that is located appropriately for a police facility. He noted that the department has continued to grow since the 2019 space study, increasing from 26 sworn officers to 31. He presented the concept plan for the new Police Department building, noting that the design focuses on essential needs while remaining fiscally responsible. Key features include an indoor parking garage to protect squad vehicles from extreme temperatures, updated evidence storage to address current safety and environmental concerns, and improved workspace, locker rooms, meeting rooms, and training areas.

Director Hoechst noted that the East Shady Lane and Irish Road site would require stormwater and roadway upgrades to support a new facility. He added that the Woodland Prairie Park site at the northeast corner of County Highway CB and East Shady Lane may be more suitable from a public works standpoint.

Staff answered questions from the Board regarding cost, potential future expansion options, building layout variations, and possible funding sources such as grants or referenda. No action was taken.

5. Ongoing Operations Discussion (to focus on staffing and levy impacts)

Village Manager Sturgell provided a high-level overview of the Village's long-term financial position and discussed several emerging financial challenges. He noted that the largest concern is operational funding, as the only way to increase the operating levy under current State levy limits is through a referendum. He summarized upcoming financial pressures, including the potential construction of a new Police Department building and future staffing needs for the Fire Department, which could have significant budget impacts. Early estimates indicate that a new Police Department may add approximately \$1 million per year to the debt levy, and fully staffing a fire engine around the clock may require about \$500,000 annually.

Manager Sturgell emphasized that while the Village remains in strong financial condition with the highest available financial rating, rising costs, slowing economic growth, and levy constraints have contributed to a growing structural deficit. He noted that the Village operates at a lower cost level than many surrounding municipalities, making the issue more revenue-related than expenditure-related.

Director Searl reviewed the referendum process and shared what has been successful in other municipalities, including the use of media consultants.

Staff answered questions from the Board regarding cost projections, future needs, funding options, and potential referendum considerations. No action was taken.

6. Adjourn

Motion: Trustee Raddatz, seconded by Trustee McQuillan, to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Chantel M. Jaenke, CMC, WCMC
Village Clerk

Note: These minutes are not considered official until acted upon at an upcoming meeting; therefore, are subject to revision.