

**Village of Fox Crossing Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 24, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Complex – Arden Tews Assembly Room
2000 Municipal Drive, Neenah WI 54956**

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

The meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was called to order by President Youngquist at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Village Clerk Chantel Jaenke conducted roll call and 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, Director of Parks & Recreation Amanda Geiser, Director of Public Works Joe Hoechst, Street Superintendent Brian Bauer, Engineer Lee Reibold, Engineer Zach Laabs, and Attorney Andrew Rossmeissl.

Public Attendance: Two individuals were present.

2. Awards / Presentations

a) President Youngquist

President Youngquist expressed appreciation to neighboring municipalities and their staff who assisted the Village following the tornado. He offered sincere condolences to residents who experienced damage or loss of their homes. He also recognized several Village employees for their outstanding performance and commitment during the tornado response.

b) Village of Fox Crossing Fire Department Re-accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) – Fire Chief Todd Sweeney

President Youngquist introduced Fire Chief Sweeney to present the Fire Department's re-accreditation. Chief Sweeney noted that this is the sixth accreditation the department has received. He explained the accreditation process and the efforts that led to achieving re-accreditation. Chief Sweeney thanked his staff and the accreditation team for their hard work and dedication.

3. Minutes to Approve / Minutes and Correspondence to Receive

Minutes and Correspondence to Receive

- a) August 11, 2026 Partisan Primary Election Results
- b) Planning Commission – July 15, 2026
- c) Park Commission Meeting Minutes – July 22, 2026

Motion: Trustee Van Dyke, seconded by Trustee Raddatz to accept other departmental minutes and correspondence into the record, as presented.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments Addressed to the Village Board

None.

5. Discussion Items

None.

6. Unfinished Business

None.

7. New Business-Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies

a) 260824-1 Certified Survey Map – 803 & 825 Welcome Road

Motion: Trustee Van Dyke, seconded by Trustee Koeppe, to approve the Certified Survey Map for 803 & 825 Welcome Road, as presented.

Discussion: Director Dearborn provided an overview of the Certified Survey Map and noted that the Planning Commission had expressed some concern regarding the extension of the public utility easement but ultimately approved it. Trustee Hanson asked Director Dearborn about fire truck access and whether the Village would be responsible for plowing the roadway. Director Dearborn stated that the easement is large enough to accommodate a fire truck and that, because the roadway is private, maintenance responsibilities, including plowing, remain with the property owners.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

b) 260824-2 Change Order #1 – 2026 Concrete Work Program to Include the Jacobsen Road Overpass Stormwater/Wall Reconstruction Project

Motion: Trustee Van Dyke, seconded by Trustee McQuillan, to approve Change Order #1 for the 2026 Concrete Work Program to include the Jacobsen Road Overpass Stormwater/Wall Reconstruction Project, as presented.

Discussion: Director Hoechst provided an overview of the project and answered questions from the Board. He explained that the bids for the 2026 Concrete Work Program came in under budget, allowing additional work to be completed while remaining within the 15% contract limit required by state statute. He also addressed the retaining wall, noting that DOT requested it not be reattached to the bridge structure. The Village's engineer determined that the wall could stand independently with no design changes or additional costs.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

c) 260824-3 2026 Budget Amendment to Provide Funds for the Police Department K9 Program

Motion: Trustee McQuillan, seconded by Trustee Raddatz, to approve the 2026 Budget Amendment to Provide Funds for the Police Department K9 Program, as presented.

Discussion: Chief Callan provided an overview of the K9 program and explained that the Police Department is looking to continue the program following the retirement of K9 Officer Hans last winter. He noted that sufficient funds are currently available to support the program.

Vote: On roll call vote: 7-0, motion carried.

d) 260824-4 2026 Proclamation for Crash Responder Safety Week

Motion: Trustee Van Dyke, seconded by Trustee Hanson, to approve the 2026 Proclamation for Crash Responder Safety Week, as presented.

Discussion: Manager Sturgell provided an overview of the proclamation and noted that this is a new recognition for the Village. He explained that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is promoting the initiative to increase awareness and safety for emergency personnel responding to crashes, including reminding drivers to move over and avoid cell phone use while driving.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

e) 260824-5 Operator License Applicants

Motion: Trustee McQuillan, seconded by Trustee Raddatz, to approve the Operator License Applicants, as presented.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

f) 260824-6 Expenditures

Motion: Trustee Koepp, seconded by Trustee Van Dyke to approve the expenditures, as presented, without exception.

Discussion: Director Searl noted that the expenditures include annual incentive payments associated with developer agreements within the TID districts, which are typically made at this time of year.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

8. Reports

a) Fire Chief Todd Sweeney – Fire Safety Day will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Fire Station #40, 1326 Cold Spring Road

Chief Sweeney announced that Fire Safety Day will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Fire Station #40, 1326 Cold Spring Road. He encouraged residents and the public to attend.

b) Community Development Director George Dearborn – Village Zoning Code Update

Director Dearborn provided an update on the Village Zoning Code Update following the informational meeting held the previous week. He explained that the current zoning code was adopted from Winnebago County in 2013 and has been amended over time, but the Village is seeking a more flexible and user-friendly code. The update process began in May with a review of the existing code. Director Dearborn noted that key areas being considered include housing affordability, lot sizes and setbacks, and other zoning regulations, while also addressing community concerns such as noise, pollution, traffic, and data centers. He emphasized the importance of public input and the goal of protecting the quality of life for Village residents. Additional information is available on the Village website. The update is expected to be a lengthy process, with Village Board adoption anticipated in April 2027.

c) Village Manager Jeffrey Sturgell – July 27, 2026 Storm Recovery Report

Village Manager Jeffrey Sturgell provided an update on the Village's storm recovery efforts. He discussed ending construction debris collection on September 4, 2026, and proposed the same date for ending vegetation debris collection. He requested input from the Village Board regarding the proposed timeline, noting that much of the larger debris had been collected and that September 4 coincided with the end of the September brush collection week.

Manager Sturgell responded to questions regarding the potential closure of Wittmann Park as a debris drop-off site. He noted concerns regarding illegal dumping and the need to clean up debris that had accumulated at the site since the storm. Following the storm recovery period, residents would return to the Village's normal brush collection procedures or could bring eligible debris to the drop-off site at the Municipal Complex.

The Board discussed properties where larger trees had not yet been removed. Manager Sturgell noted that these trees were located on private property and that continued Village collection could result in costs being borne by Village taxpayers. Director Searl explained that FEMA reimbursement generally focuses on the initial debris removal necessary to clear roadways following a storm. Debris placed at the curb from subsequent private property cleanup may not qualify for reimbursement and could therefore become a Village expense.

Director Hoechst noted that the September chipping program for routes outside of the Thursday garbage routes would continue on a request-only basis. The Thursday route would continue to focus on the heavily affected areas on the east side of the Village.

Manager Sturgell also discussed the challenges associated with larger trees. He explained that many of the trees were being removed by private contractors who were leaving the resulting debris at the curb rather than disposing of it themselves. Superintendent Bauer reported that the Village currently had only two contractors assisting with debris removal. He noted that the chipping program would be starting soon, followed by the leaf collection program in October, which would further strain Village staffing and resources. He also noted that many of the trees currently

being encountered were of a substantial diameter and would require contractor disposal. The size of some of the debris exceeded the Village's chipping requirements and, under Village policy, should be taken directly to the landfill.

The Board discussed the continued use of the tub grinder and the costs associated with processing debris brought to the curb or to Village drop-off sites. Director Hoechst explained that the Village would eventually transition back to its normal chipping and brush collection operations. He noted that outside contractors would likely continue to be needed during the transition, as Village staff would not be able to manage the volume of debris currently accumulated at Wittmann Park.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to extend the debris collection deadline to September 11, 2026, to provide residents additional time to place eligible brush and debris at the curb. It was understood that private contractors would remain responsible for properly disposing of debris generated from their tree-removal work. The Board also agreed that Wittmann Park would close as a storm debris drop-off site on September 11, 2026, and that gardeners would thereafter be allowed access to the park to harvest their gardens.

The Board then discussed the Village's water supply following the storm damage. As previously discussed, approximately 50% of the east-side water supply is currently being provided by the City of Neenah through the City of Menasha's water system. This arrangement was not the original intent of the system and is not considered a desirable long-term solution. Staff is exploring options to provide a more reliable water supply while the Menasha water treatment plant is repaired, which could take several months or potentially close to a year.

Director Hoechst reported that he has been in discussions with the City of Appleton regarding an emergency connection to Appleton's water system and the possibility of establishing the connection as a permanent backup source. He answered questions from the Board regarding the potential impact on Village residents' water rates and the effect of purchasing water from Appleton on Menasha Utilities. He explained that there would be no anticipated increase in water rates for Village residents as a result of the proposed backup connection. A water rate would be established with Appleton based on the rates charged to its other customers and is expected to be less than the current cost of purchasing water from Menasha Utilities.

Director Hoechst noted that making Appleton the Village's permanent primary water supplier could have a significant financial impact on Menasha Utilities, as the Village is its largest customer. He stated that the Commission may not support a permanent change in the Village's water supply arrangement. The current proposal is to establish a temporary connection to Appleton while the Menasha system is repaired, with the intent to return to Menasha as the Village's primary water supplier once the system is operational. The Village would also seek an agreement with Appleton to maintain the connection as a backup source for future emergencies.

Director Hoechst explained that the existing agreement between the City of Neenah and Menasha Utilities provides that if the valve is opened to allow Menasha to receive water from Neenah, Menasha would close its valve supplying water to the Village. Due to the tornado and the emergency circumstances affecting multiple communities, the current arrangement has been allowed to continue. However, concerns remain regarding the reliability of the current configuration, particularly in the event of a water main break within the Menasha system.

Trustees discussed whether the Village should engage in discussions with the PFC regarding a long-term water supply arrangement. The possibility of Menasha rebuilding its system to serve only its own residents was also discussed.

Director Hoechst emphasized that the immediate priority is establishing a connection to the City of Appleton as a backup water source as soon as possible, while ensuring that the connection is designed and completed efficiently and properly.

Additionally, Manager Sturgell reviewed that the non-profits are now conducting any volunteering in storm cleanups and donations. He also stated that staff is still figuring out how any money that has been donated to the communities is being disbursed. And anyone that feels they still need help with resources can reach out to 211. The burn ban and curfew bans have been lifted.

The Board next discussed the Community Center and Fire Station #41, which were damaged or destroyed in the tornado. The fire trucks located at the station are currently being assessed for damage, and the fire station bay has been cleared. The Village continues to use a fire truck borrowed from Grand Chute, which is stationed at Fire Station #40 and is designated for structure fire response. The Village is also using a truck borrowed from Pierce Manufacturing, which is currently located at the former wastewater facility on Airport Road.

The Village is awaiting the insurance company's assessment of the building. Staff reported that the fire station portion is considered a complete loss, while there is a possibility that portions of the Community Center structure, including some of the walls, may remain viable. The Village plans to retain an independent professional to conduct a second assessment of the damaged structures.

Staff advised the Board that future decisions will need to be made regarding the Community Center and Fire Station #41, including whether to rebuild the facilities as they previously existed or consider modifications to the layout and use of the property. Potential changes could include expanding or relocating portions of the Community Center to the west side. Similar discussions will be necessary regarding Palisades Park, which was also destroyed in the tornado. Staff encouraged the Board to begin considering whether the park should be restored to its previous configuration or whether the Village should use the opportunity to develop a different design.

Staff emphasized that decisions regarding the damaged facilities will need to be addressed in a timely manner and encouraged Board members to submit questions and ideas so staff can begin gathering information and developing options.

Director Searl reported that the Village is still awaiting additional information and recommendations from the insurance company. He noted that the Board can begin discussing potential options before final insurance figures are available, although the absence of those figures may make the process more difficult. Village engineers could also develop preliminary cost estimates to assist the Board in evaluating potential options.

The Board discussed insurance coverage and the value of the damaged buildings. Regarding the fire trucks, Director Searl explained that the Village's insurance provides full replacement cost coverage for public safety vehicles, rather than coverage based solely on the original purchase price or repair cost.

Staff reviewed the costs and estimates submitted to FEMA, as well as the Village's Committed Emergency Fund, which currently has approximately \$3.02 million available to help offset storm-related damage and recovery expenses. Manager Sturgell reported that a budget amendment would be presented to the Board at the September 14, 2026 meeting to provide funding for storm recovery expenses and ensure that the related expenditures are properly reflected in the Village budget.

Director Searl noted that the Committed Emergency Fund would provide sufficient resources to cover expenses not reimbursed through insurance or federal or state disaster assistance. Additional financial planning will be addressed during upcoming budget workshop meetings.

Director Searl also reviewed current insurance claims and coverage. Insurance adjusters have inspected the affected areas, and claims have been opened for various storm-related expenses, including temporary fencing for security, providing a second fire truck on the east side, and relocating recreation programs to other facilities. The Village will also submit claims for lost revenues resulting from the storm.

State disaster funding is currently on hold while the extent of federal assistance is determined. Staff has developed preliminary estimates but is awaiting additional information regarding FEMA reimbursement. FEMA is continuing to gather damage information and cost estimates and will make a recommendation regarding federal assistance. If federal assistance is approved, the Village will be able to submit an application, after which an agent will be assigned to review the Village's documentation. Staff noted that this process could take several months, and the Village will utilize the Committed Emergency Fund in the interim.

Staff is also exploring other potential funding sources, including Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grants for tree replacement and other available funding opportunities, to assist with the Village's storm recovery costs.

The Board agreed to schedule a Board workshop for Monday, August 31, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to further discuss the Village's water supply, Palisades Park, and the Community Center and Fire Station #41.

9. Closed Session

None.

10. Adjourn

Motion: Trustee Van Dyke, seconded by Trustee Koeppel to adjourn at 8:01 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, they are subject to revision.