

**Village of Fox Crossing Board of Trustees
Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 31, 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.

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, Director of Parks & Recreation Amanda Geiser, and Director of Public Works Joe Hoechst.

Public Attendance: No individuals were present.

3. Open Session

Discussion Regarding the July 27, 2026 Tornado Response and Recovery Efforts. Discussion regarding the future of the rebuild/relocation of Fire Station #41 and the Community Center will occur.

Discussion: Director Searl provided an update from his conversation with the insurance adjuster, noting that some walls appear structurally sound and the insurer advises the building may not need full demolition. The Village will obtain an independent third-party opinion through Keller. Discussion occurred regarding the history and insurance valuation of the building.

Manager Sturgell provided an overview of staff's recommended direction for reconstruction. Staff would like decisions made soon so design work can begin and east-side fire protection can fully return. Staff proposes rebuilding Fire Station #41 at its current location, as response data supports its continued effectiveness for east-side calls. Short-term Fire Station accommodations currently include a temporary bay on Airport Road and potential rental space for an additional apparatus.

Staff also recommends expanding the Fire Station footprint and reducing the Community Center footprint to include a couple of rooms and a separate kitchen area. Director Geiser shared data regarding rental and program needs showing demand on both sides of the Village and noting the east-side facility's continued importance as a polling location. Data shows that over 40% of Community Center renters are west-side residents, approximately 15% east-side residents, over 30% non-residents, and about 5% City of Menasha residents. Staff noted that west-side rental demand supports creating additional Community Center space on that side. With a new Police Station needed, a smaller Community Center space may be incorporated into the new Police building. Manager Sturgell presented an updated diagram showing the potential Community Center addition.

Director Geiser summarized community feedback regarding the current Community Center layout, particularly concerns about the small kitchen located inside the main room. She recommends a kitchen on both the east and west sides, with exterior access as used in other communities.

Trustees asked about the future of the current Police Department area at the Municipal Complex once a new station is built. Manager Sturgell explained the potential plan to relocate Parks & Recreation and Streets into that space due to significant existing limitations. The hallway leading to their current offices would be closed. Further discussion will occur as department needs and building flow are evaluated.

Trustees asked about safety concerns with locating a Community Center adjacent to a new Police Station. President Youngquist expressed concerns and suggested a standalone west-side Community Center. Chief Callan

and Director Geiser stated they do not view the adjacency negatively and noted it could improve past issues and foster positive interactions with Police.

Chief Sweeney provided an overview of fire and EMS call data for the east-side and emphasized that the current location of Station #41 remains optimal for response times. He stated the rebuild would remain a satellite station and requested additional workspace, storage, sleeping quarters, a training room that could serve as an east-side EOC and polling location, and drive-through bays while maintaining three apparatus bays.

Discussion took place regarding insurance reimbursement differences if the Village elects not to retain walls deemed structurally sound. Director Searl explained that insurance will cover the cost to rebuild what previously existed, and if the Village chooses to remove those walls, the Village would be responsible for paying the additional cost beyond the insurance reimbursement. More information is expected following Keller's review.

Director Geiser reiterated that the rebuild provides an opportunity to address prior issues with program space, storage, renter access, and facility layout.

Trustees expressed interest in maintaining the size of the east-side Community Center while expanding the Fire Station. They noted that insurance and cost estimates are needed for a full picture and emphasized planning for both current needs and future growth. Director Searl noted Keller is prepared to move quickly once the independent review begins.

Manager Sturgell stated the goal is straightforward, functional buildings and responsible use of funding. He requested board direction on proceeding with preliminary design work and on whether staff should move forward with clearing the remainder of the site once Keller completes its assessment. Discussion occurred regarding finances, including a potential future operational referendum. Rebuild costs will be covered by insurance and additional borrowing, not a referendum. Director Searl noted that future borrowing for the Police Station or additional rebuild costs would increase the mill rate.

Following discussion, the Board provided nonbinding majority consensus guidance as follows:

1. Establish a west-side Community Center; planning for the rebuild will assume Community Center space on both the east and west sides.
2. Authorize staff to work with McMahon on developing preliminary concept drawings for the east-side Community Center and Fire Station #41, with the understanding that the existing walls will be removed. Staff may also work with McMahon to incorporate west-side Community Center space into the new Police Department building plans.
3. Direct staff to wait on demolition of the remaining structure until Keller's assessment is received; however, staff may begin obtaining cost estimates for razing the remainder of the building.

Director Hoechst provided an update on PFC and water facility matters on the east-side. A meeting with the City of Appleton will occur in coming weeks to explore an expedited connection to Appleton's system, which may reduce risk compared to pursuing an emergency connection.

4. **Adjourn**

Motion: Trustee Van Dyke, seconded by Trustee Swiertz, to adjourn at 7:11 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.