

VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH BOARD MEETING
April 6, 2026, 6:00pm
130 N. Chestnut St. Lower-Level Boardroom (East Rear Entrance)

Members Present: President Beissel, Trustees Neeley, Bench, Borner, Traynor, and Hines.
Staff Present: Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Roy, Chief Ladwig, Attorney Loberg, Engineer Evenson

Others Present: Kim Beebe, Adam Koopman, Lisa Hofacker, Faye Albarado, Tom Schutz, Pat Patton, Karen Meyer, Renee Hendrickson, Andrew Harrington (press, virtual), Russ Kiviniemi (Cedar Corporation), and multiple citizens in-person and virtually.

MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order at 6pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.
3. Public comment on non-agenda items

Faye Albarado spoke about the East End project raising concerns about the 14' sidewalks and parallel parking on Broadway St.

Gwen Swanson spoke about the installation timing of the speed limit sign on Alexander Avenue, a new stop sign on Alexander Ave., and concerns about parallel parking on Broadway St.

Sean Hall spoke about missing minutes on the Village website, staff responsibility and liability to keep all minutes, and collusion between the Village Board and the Chamber of Commerce.

Tom Schutz spoke about parking on Broadway St., concerns about the Village buying more land, and stated that the Village Board only thinks about the Chamber of Commerce.

Adam Koopman spoke about the parking on Broadway St. and the new parking lot.
Becky Beissel thanked Laurie Neeley for her time on the Village Board.

Consent Agenda – Possible Action:

4. Approve payments and deposits
5. Approve Village Board meeting minutes 3/2, 3/5
6. Approve Salary and Labor Committee meeting minutes 3/10
7. Approve Parks, Recreation, Development Committee meeting minutes 3/10
8. Approve Plan Commission meeting minutes 3/16
9. Approve CDA meeting minutes 3/19
10. Approve Finance, Purchasing, Buildings Committee meeting minutes 3/30
11. Approve Streets and Sidewalks Committee meeting minutes 3/30
12. Approve CSM for Mark Halverson at 336 East Sunset Lane
13. Approve Change of Agent, for Danny Dunn's, Renee Hendrickson
14. Approve a Street Use Permit for the Friends of the Library 5K Walk/Run
15. Approve a Street Use Permit for the American Legion Post 204 Parade
16. Approve the Site Plan for Pierce County Communication Tower
17. Approve the Pierce County Economic Development Corporation membership
MSC Traynor/Bench to approve the consent agenda. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

Announcements/Proclamations/Communications

18. Announcement of the East End Revitalization Initiative being named the 2026 Wisconsin Top Rural Development Initiative Award winner by Wisconsin Rural Partners.
President Beissel read the announcement of the award for the East End Project.

New Business:

19. Discuss/Possible Action on Chamber of Commerce donation to the Façade Improvement Program.

The Chamber of Commerce has submitted a donation of \$2,500.00 to the Façade Improvement Program. **MSC Traynor/Borner** to accept the donation. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

20. Discuss/Approve Class B Beer and Class C Wine Licenses and Dance License, for Roger Kannel, The Poor Farm Event Center, at 760 Crosstown Rd.

The Poor Farm Event Center is requesting a Class B Beer, Class C Wine, and Dance License. **MSC Borner/Hines** to approve the licenses. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

21. Discuss/Possible Action on the East End Reconstruction project bid acceptance
Russ Kiviniemi presented the bid results. Four project bids were received and reviewed by Cedar Corporation. Based on Cedar Corporation's analysis of the bids, the responsive lowest bidder is Haas Sons, Inc

Base Bid Amount: \$3,162,459.36

Base Bid with Alternate #1: \$3,030,959.36

Base Bid with Alternate #2: \$3,258,859.36

The alternates were regarding different lighting manufacturers. Accepting a bid with alternate #1 will not change the project.

MSC Traynor/Bench to accept the Haas Sons, Inc. Base Bid with Alternate #1. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

22. Discuss/Possible Action on an Engineering Agreement with Cedar Corporation for the East End Street and Utility Reconstruction

All the engineering on the East End street and utility reconstruction and the ARIP Grant application for the project have been completed by Cedar Corporation. They have provided an agreement that describes the scope of work and services to be provided for construction services. **MSC Borner/Neeley** to approve the contract with Cedar Corporation for East End construction services. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

23. Discuss/Possible Action on Agreement with Cedar Corporation for File and Loan Management of closed CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Program

Cedar Corporation has always administered the Revolving Loan Fund for the Village. With the program closed, additional file and loan management services are needed.

The proposed contract was presented. **MSC Borner/Hines** to approve the contract with Cedar Corporation for CDBG Revolving Loan Fund file and loan management. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

24. Discuss/Possible Action on Village Hall phone service

AT&T will be eliminating analog phone services at Village Hall. Replacement service options were provided by AT&T, fiber and Voice over IP (VOIP). Quotes for VOIP were also provided by 8x8 and Spectrum. The 8x8 quote was the lowest and recommended by Village IT provider SunnyLink Systems. **MSC Traynor/Hines** to approve the 8x8 quote for Village Hall phone service. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

25. Discuss/Possible Action on the purchase of a Portable air compressor

The 2026 Utilities Budget has money available to replace the village's portable air compressor, which is now unusable. Utilities use this piece of equipment for water and sewer breaks when needed, along with valve replacements and other water and sewer-based jobs. **MSC Traynor/Bench** to approve the air compressor quote with warranty for \$23,650.00. No further discussion. **Five in Favor, one opposed (Hines), Motion carried.**

26. Discuss/Possible Action on water tower inspection and cleaning service

Wisconsin water tower inspections are mandated under Wis. Admin. Code NR 810.14 and required in 2026. Lane Tank has provided the service in the past and quoted the project costs as \$4,200 for the 300,000-gallon tank and \$4,950 for the 400,000-gallon tank.

MSC Bench/Traynor to approve the quotes from Lane Tank for Water Tower inspection/cleaning. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

27. Discuss/Possible Action on a non-represented employee compensation study and employee handbook update

Staff contacted a previous consultant to request a proposal for completing a comprehensive comparison of wages and non-wage benefits. The primary objectives of employee compensation are to attract and retain well-qualified staff, maintain competitive pay levels, and motivate employees to achieve both short- and long-term organizational goals. The proposed comparison will include municipalities with similar population sizes, organizational structures, and geographic proximity to ensure relevant benchmarking. Additionally, the current employee handbook was last updated in January 2023. Since that time, several compliance-related issues have been identified that require updates and additions to ensure the handbook remains aligned with current legal requirements. The costs would be no more than \$3,250 and appropriately split between the general fund and utilities. **MSC Borner/Traynor** to approve the non-represented employee compensation study and employee handbook update. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

28. Discuss/Possible Action on Village Insurance renewal and premium payment

The Village received the MPIC bill for buildings, property, and equipment for 2026/2027. Traditionally the bill has been paid 100% by the general fund. Upon review of the quote, it was determined that significant portions of the bill are for buildings, property, and equipment for the water and sewer utilities. Paying the insurance bills by asset-based or payroll-based allocations will divide the costs appropriately to each fund. **MSC Traynor/Neeley** to approve using asset-based and payroll-based allocation for insurance payments. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

Reports:

29. President's Report. The President's report was presented.
30. Department Head Reports: Reports were presented/provided by Chief of Police, Library Director, Village Engineer, and Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

Closed Session:

31. The Board adjourned to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. **MSC Hines/Neeley** to adjourn to closed session. Roll Call Vote. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

a. CBS Squared contract amendment for Grant and Piety St. project

b. 245 N. Broadway Street property

The Board remained in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

c. Public Works/Wastewater foreman position

The Board remained in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85(1)(g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

d. Sarah Beil claim

MSC Bench/Neeley to reconvene to open session. Roll Call Vote. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

MSC Borner/Hines to approve the CBS Squared contract amendment for Grant and Piety St. project. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

MSC Bench/Hines to terminate the Public Works/Wastewater employee due to an inability to return to work and fulfill the job duties. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

MSC Bench/Hines to fill the Public Works/Wastewater position. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

MSC Traynor/Neeley to disallow the claim by Sarah Beil. No further discussion. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

MSC Traynor/Austin to adjourn. **Motion carried, without a negative vote.**

Respectfully submitted by Brad Roy, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer