

Regular Board Meeting

October 16, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Manthei. Trustees present: Engel, Hanson, Harold, Hoffman, Leicht, and Wehrs. Also present: Police Chief Charles Ashbeck, Public Works Director Wade Peterson, County Board Supervisor Ray Ebert, and Village Administrator Teresa Schnitzler.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Engel, seconded by Trustee Harold to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2007, Regular Board meeting as written. Trustee Hanson commented on the public hunting grounds item in the October 2 meeting minutes. Trustee Hanson suggested Chief Ashbeck contact the La Crosse County Facilities Director regarding rules and the status of public hunting on the County land now that it has been annexed into the Village. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Claims

Claims from the following funds were presented for payment:

<u>General Fund:</u>	\$84,569.64
<u>Water Utility:</u>	\$17,916.50
<u>Sewer Utility:</u>	\$47,888.92

Motion by Trustee Hoffman, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the payment of all claims as listed. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting

Trustee Hoffman reported on the October 10, 2007, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed the library staff's requests for 2008 budget consideration. Of the total \$3,091.79 budget requests, the Committee would recommend funding \$2,627.00 of those requests from the fundraised aluminum can money. The remaining items would be 2008 budget considerations. The staff has suggested several items for future consideration, including grass reseeding, touch up and repainting of several interior walls, display cases, upholstery cleaning, additional lighting, movie display racks, and shelving needs. The Committee directed library staff to estimate costs for the items suggested. The Village was notified of a sizeable bequest made to the library, and the Committee recommended a portion of the estate bequest be used to relocate the children's service desk and to construct an on-site storage building. The Committee directed Ms. Schnitzler to contact the West Salem High School Technical Arts Instructor for suggestions on a storage building. All Village Department budget requests were included in a first draft 2008 narrative proposed operating plan. Proposals in the budget include an increase in park shelter rental rates, increase hourly wages to election clerks, increase salary for the Village assessor, and an increase in appliance disposal fees. The Committee discussed the purchase of a new street sweeper and requested information on four and five-year leasing options. In

addition, more information was requested on two used sweepers Mr. Peterson located. Stormwater Utility funding in 2008 was discussed. Mr. Manthei requested further research be done regarding a possible offset of real estate taxes in the first year of the Utility. The Village recently purchased a pre-owned generator for use as back up power for the West Salem Community Center. Approximately \$13,000 is budgeted to install the generator, and the Committee requested additional information regarding portability and power. The Village Board recently voted to refer motion and infrared security lighting for the Lions Shelter and the Village Park to the Recreation Committee. Estimates on the costs to purchase and install such lighting have been requested and will be included in the 2008 Parks budget. The 1st Responders 2008 budget proposals have yet to be submitted, and Ms. Schnitzler will contact the organization regarding this. Mr. Manthei requested information on 2008 wage and salary considerations, and the Committee will review same at a later date.

Motion by Trustee Hoffman, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2007, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting

Trustee Hoffman reported on the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held October 11, 2007. The Committee continued its review of the 2008 proposed operating plan. Discussion regarding leasing a new street sweeper, purchasing a used sweeper, or reconditioning the present sweeper resulted in a recommendation to pursue a five-year lease on a new street sweeper for \$30,500 per year. Health insurance renewal rates are expected by the end of October, a proposed storm water utility budget is being prepared, and an update on present Village investments was requested. The Committee discussed a future closed session meeting date of either Tuesday, October 16 or Wednesday, October 17.

Motion by Trustee Hoffman, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the October 11, 2007, minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Resolution 13.07 – West Salem Electronic Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling

Motion by Trustee Harold, seconded by Trustee Engel to approve Resolution 13.07 regarding West Salem Electronic Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling. Roll call vote: Hanson – nay; remainder of Board – aye.

WHEREAS, discarded computers, televisions, and other consumer electronics contain lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polyvinyl chloride, brominated flame retardant, and other toxic materials that pose hazards to human health and the environment if improperly disposed of at the end of their useful life; and

WHEREAS, discarded computers, televisions, and other consumer electronics are omnipresent in modern society and comprise one of the fastest growing waste streams in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the total extent of the problem of discarded computers, televisions, and consumer electronics in Wisconsin is largely unknown, though

2002 estimates report as many as half a million obsolete computers and televisions ended up in Wisconsin landfills alone; and

WHEREAS, the reuse, repair, and recycling of televisions, computers, and other electronic devices protects public health and the environment by reducing the potential for the release of heavy metals and mercury from landfills and municipal waste combustors into the environment, provides jobs and business opportunities for State and local residents, recovers valuable components and materials, reduces energy consumption, air and water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and conserves valuable landfill space; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of West Salem believes a system of producer responsibility for the collection and recycling of computers, televisions, and other covered electronic devices is the most effective and equitable means of keeping toxic waste out of landfills and alleviating the full financial and physical burden placed on the Village for handling electronic waste; and

WHEREAS, the La Crosse County Hazardous Materials program has begun a recycling program for unwanted and discarded computers, televisions, and other covered electronic devices.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that beginning January 1, 2008, the Village of West Salem will no longer collect the following electronic devices during regularly scheduled large article pickups:

Printers, fax machines, photocopiers, computer monitors, CPU's, laptop computers, keyboards, mice, disk drives, circuit boards, computer accessories, telephones, televisions, cameras, VCR's, DVD players, cable and satellite equipment, stereos, walkmans, iPods, MP3 players, CB or Ham radios, computer gaming items, or any other electronic items, whole or in part;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all Village residents desiring to discard any of the above-listed electronic devices will be required to transport these devices to a proper recycling facility or the La Crosse County Hazardous Waste Facility located at 6502 State Road 16, La Crosse, Wisconsin, and make the required payment per pound of item to said facility;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Administrator transmit copies of this Resolution to the La Crosse County Hazardous Waste Facility, present and future waste haulers contracted by the Village of West Salem, local newspaper media, and other interested parties having a role or interest in the collection, reuse, and recycling of covered electronic devices.

DATED this _____ day of October, 2007.

VILLAGE OF WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN

/s/ _____
Dennis Manthei, Village President

/s/ _____
Teresa L. Schnitzler, Village Administrator

Resolution 14.07 – Opposition to the Passage of H.R. 811

Motion by Trustee Engel, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve Resolution 14.07 re Opposition to the Passage of H.R. 811, Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

WHEREAS, the Village of West Salem is in compliance with all State of Wisconsin approved voting system requirements; and

WHEREAS, the current version of H.R. 811 proposes a number of changes that will significantly affect Wisconsin elections, and the Village of West Salem has serious concerns about the feasibility of a number of aspects of the Bill with respect to the State of Wisconsin and Village of West Salem; and

WHEREAS, following the 2002 Help America Vote Act, the State of Wisconsin spent more than \$18 million dollars on new electronic voting equipment to improve the accessibility, security, reliability, and transparency of the entire elections process, and the Village of West Salem itself spent considerable tax dollars and spent an enormous amount of time and energy in support of this effort to improve all aspects of elections; and

WHEREAS, the current voting system equipment was purchased using Federal dollars with the Village of West Salem spending considerable dollars on long-term maintenance contracts, and H.R. 811 as drafted underestimates the amount of Federal dollars needed to upgrade and maintain the proposed new equipment, and that the new voting system equipment required is not even currently available and will likely not be developed and tested within the Bill's timelines; and

WHEREAS, the current voting system in place at the Village of West Salem has not outlived its useful life of seven to ten years and is a gross misallocation of taxpayer funds to replace that equipment before its useful use cycle; and

WHEREAS, the public perception in implementing new voting system equipment is considered a waste of taxpayer dollars due to the fact the equipment proposed to be replaced has been used successfully; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin is well ahead of election administration requirements, including key areas that are the focus of H.R. 811, such as a voter-verified paper audit trail; comprehensive, required electronic voting equipment security procedures and pre-election testing requirements to protect the dependability of the voting equipment; and post-election audits to assess the performance of electronic voting equipment;

WHEREAS, the H.R. 811 Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007 as drafted puts a great deal of burden on local governments to adequately meet the new requirements as mandated by the Federal government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of West Salem urges Congressional Leaders to oppose the passage of provisions that would provide undue hardships to local governments of H.R. 811 Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Congressman Ron Kind and United States Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold for their consideration in voting on the proposed Bill.

DATED this 16th day of October, 2007.

VILLAGE OF WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN

/s/ _____
Dennis Manthei, Village President

/s/ _____
Teresa L. Schnitzler, Village Administrator

Operator's License

Motion by Trustee Wehrs, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the issuance of an operator's license to Mark Johnson. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Accumulated Sick Time at Retirement Proposal

Trustee Hanson presented an accumulated sick time at retirement proposal. Those non-bargaining employees who retire with at least 87 points (age + years of service) will be credited with sixty (60%) percent of accumulated sick leave at the time of retirement from the Village. This credit can be applied toward payment of a monthly health insurance policy or to a retirement account. The value of the accumulated sick leave shall be computed at the regular hourly rate in effect at date of retirement, excluding any other additions to the regular hourly rate. In no event shall cash payment be available. Trustee Hanson stated he had contacted other municipalities and sixty percent credit of accumulated sick time is common. In order to ensure the benefit is actually payable, he proposed a choice of health insurance or retirement, and no cash payment would be available. Trustee Hanson stated two public works department employees have worked for the Village for over 25 years and are now considering retirement and should be shown appreciation for their time.

Motion by Trustee Hanson, seconded by Trustee Wehrs to approve the accumulated sick time proposal as presented. Roll call vote: Engel, Harold, Hoffman, and Manthei – nay; Hanson, Leicht, and Wehrs – aye. Motion failed.

Motion by Trustee Engel, seconded by Trustee Leicht to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Teresa L. Schnitzler, Village Administrator