

Village of Washburn

September 8th, 2025

Monthly Board Minutes

Mayor

Steve Forney

Village Clerk

Deidre Guy

Village Treasurer

Heather Hare

Water/Sewer/Street Departments

Tim Strauch

Caden Blew

Board of Trustees

Kevin Burdette

Kris Hammond

Steve Prather

Ginger Humphrey

Randy Knoblauch

Becky Schupp

Zoning Officer

Merle Guy

Steve called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken with everyone present excluding Heather. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Kevin made a motion to approve August minutes seconded by Ginger. Steve Prather made a motion to accept the bill from September second by Kris.

Guest Speaker:

1. Tinsley Guy and Heather Minton approached the Village Board regarding sponsorship to their travel softball team, 10u River Valley Swipers. They explained to the board their contribution would go towards tournament fees and team equipment. Randy made a motion to donate \$250 for sponsorship to the 10u River Valley Swipers seconded by Kevin.
2. Gretchen Strauch brought forward suggestions to the Elias Memorial Park – she brought forward that Tim was going to help remove mulberry bushes as well as trees and see what was left. She suggested making a permanent spot for the benches that Elias's mom donated, cleaning it up, placing rock, and planting things that require little up-keep such as lilies and irises. She suggested a pollinator garden, sunflowers, butterfly weeds and lavender. She also mentioned that the side by the Fire Department parking lot washes out with heavy rain and suggested some kind of a drain. She brought forward the loose brick on the wall and suggested reinforcing it. Board suggested some kind of a work party and volunteer time versus Tim and OT. It was discussed that updates will start in Spring, more to come on who will be responsible for picking out/up plants.
3. Rebecca Minton inquired and brought forward concerns of the Washburn Festival being in Grant Park. She brought forward that the Thrift Store, Mudd Puddle, and Legion all had less foot traffic that weekend. She inquired about having it on the side streets. It was explained to her that the Village was not who decides where it's

located and requests the closure of Rt. 89. It was also explained to her that the Village and Festival Committee plan to convene in January and start discussing FY26 festival plans.

4. Jaunita Areans was present tonight to discuss the Beautification Committee she has started, that she has spoke with and observed Kris Mullins wife from Benson. This committee is to build up downtown, bring in help from those requiring community service hours, and help those that are unable to maintain up-keep of their properties.

STREETS:

1. Sidewalk to Dollar General update – work will start first week of October and projected to be done by end of October. Will start at Grant Park entrance (4ft from the bridge with ADA pad) to Dollar General.
2. Clean up day – Jesse from Varna, \$360/dumpster, 15 yard (roughly 2 tons) dumpsters , anything over is an extra \$60. He can bring 5 dumpsters at a time and can do as early at 9/27 from 7a to 2p. Estimate was roughly \$1845. GLF was \$600/dumpster but 30 yard dumpsters. Wanted to drop off early and have Village monitor until pickup.
3. 1 ton truck salt box – Time would like new salt box on 1 ton this winter. Est \$10,475.00 (Blunier Implement), Ginger made a motion to purchase new salt box seconded by Becky.
4. Main Street Sidewalk bid – 668 linear foot at \$22,712 by Steve Baker. Ginger made a motion to accept bid of \$22,712 for 668 linear foot of sidewalk work on Main Street.

WATER AND SEWER:

1. Flushed hydrants
2. French drain is in by Grade School – boil order has been cleared
3. Hydrant on Parkside with box has a bad valve but will be looked at in October

POLICE:

1. Report reviewed
2. Trunk or Treat in Grant Park on Saturday October 4th. There will be a movie in the park (Hocus Pocus 2). Kris to get with Heather for candy and do a ‘booth’.

FINANCE, INSURANCE, & TIF:

Splash Pad at Grant Park – Steve has been talking with Deer Creek, theirs is small and nice. Questions of winter was brought forward – 1 item is permanent and gets RV fluid, other items bolt down and are removable. Theirs does not continuously cycle water, only when a button is activated and operates Memorial Day through Labor Day. Splash pad will need a

meter as there will be an increase use of water and textured concrete. Deer Creek reports no water pooling, theirs is roughly a 40 foot area and did recommend for Washburn to make theirs slightly bigger. Steve will have to collaborate with Grant Park Board as they will have to be the insurance holders.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

NA

ZONING:

3 solar permits

1 garage permit

Merle to pursue on rubble and clean-up now that Village has new clean-up day set

Houses on Magnolia and Adams have cleaned up their weeds around their houses

Concern brought forward regarding house on corner of Main Street and Hillcrest (the one the tree fell on), nobody living in it but garage is full of trash, attracting rats/mice. Will start with a complaint letter to the owners.

PARKS:

Elias Memorial Park maintenance – by Caseys – complaints on up-keep. Village owns it, will make it part of Park Committee responsibility (within it is walking path, labyrinth, new bench purchased by family)

Old Business:

Ordinance updating – Colt brought forward that is would be considered a comprehensive revision – can remove or renumber what want, reference some and reorganize as needed.

Charlie Kennell Update – No updates have been reported from EPA but the tractor has been removed. There is another status date set, Village still not happy as property is not how it was agreed on, not seeded and complete. Would like to gain reimbursement for \$125 application to EPA and \$250 for cleanup of asbestos.

New Business:

NA

Randy made a motion to Adjourn the meeting seconded by Kevin.

