

VILLAGE OF NEW AUBURN

Village Board Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

The Village of New Auburn Village Board met for a Special Board Meeting at the New Auburn Village Hall, 130 E Elm St, New Auburn, WI 54757.

I. CALL TO ORDER. At 5:00 p.m. Village President (VP) Berg called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call. Trustees in attendance were Paul Blodgett, Allan Anderson, and Brad Lotts. At 5:14 p.m. Trustee Gary Pitts arrived.

Public in attendance were Bonnie Halberg, Roxanne Gravunder, John Knight, Jackie McCracken, Ilene Moos, Sue Fankhauser, Brenda Driscoll, Leonard Boehm, Cindy Larson, Duane Hackney, Sandra Hackney, Melissa Marek, Amanda Stewart, Thomas Torgerson, Rogelio Sanchez, Swift Sanitation Michael Lendeman, and Waste Management (WM) Representative Randy Ott.

Staff in attendance were Village Administrator-Clerk-Deputy Treasurer (VACDT) Bradley Hanson, Village Treasurer-Deputy Clerk (VTDC) Teresa Dachel, Village Attorney (VA) Chris Gierhart, and CBS Squared (CBS2) Engineer Tyler Hastings.

III. Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS. VACDT Hanson advised that comments for Curbside Collection, Water rates, and the Capital Improvement Plan will be held during those agenda items. There were no other public comments.

V. UNFINISHED & NEW BUSINESS.

1. ******* PUBLIC HEARING ***** Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Forced Main Replacement.**
 - a. *Open Public Hearing.* At 5:01 p.m. the Public Hearing was opened by VP Berg. Village retained engineering firm CBS2 Engineer Hastings presented information regarding the project regarding the WWTP effluent forced main to the two seepage cells south of the plant and adjacent to County Highway (CH) AA.
 - b. *Forced main replacement plans.*
 - c. *Cost estimates and funding mechanisms.* Project to cost the Village estimated at \$775,000 with plans to apply for low interest funding, Principle Forgiveness, and other grants possibly.
 - d. *Proposed plans public input.*
 - e. *Public questions answered.* The public asked questions regarding proposed timeline, future growth potential within plans, deduct meter possibility, principle forgiveness explanation, and how long this has been worked on so far.
 - f. *Close Public Hearing.* At 5:26 p.m. was closed by VP Berg.
 - g. *WWTP Forced Main Replacement board action.* No action taken by Board.
2. **Resolution 2024-15 A Resolution of the Village of New Auburn Village Board Adopting the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan.** Motion by Pitts and seconded by Anderson to approve.

Public input received from attendees included comments about Pickleball and Basketball Courts needed and Disc Golf Course unwanted. Further they asked about the grant match and when the project would be completed.

VACDT Hanson advised this was a plan for budgeting purposes and every year the Board can approve or deny any project request, and the public is welcome to attend those meetings as well as the Park Committee to provide their input to them. The CIP indicates the project will be completed in 2026, with grant mandatory completion in the spring of 2027, giving the Park Committee time to raise the funds necessary for the match, which includes cash, work in kind, or materials. Working with two potential work-in-kind matches as of today and have already raised about 9+% of the required match.

Motion carried.

3. Waste Garbage and Recycling Collection:

- a. *Curbside Collection Request for Proposals (RFP) review, possible award, or other direction.* Motion by Anderson and seconded by Blodgett. VADCT Hanson provided the below information regarding why the Village was recommended to move to Curbside Collection for the current central collection site:

	Republic	WM	Swift	Lowest Cost
64 Gallon				
Garbage Retail	\$23.18	(w/ recycle) \$33.24	\$23.34	Republic
Garbage Bid	\$19.04	\$15.75	Not Received	WM
Savings	\$4.14	\$17.49	\$23.34	---
96 Gallon				
Garbage Retail	\$34.68	(w/ recycle) \$37.83	\$30.00	Swift
Garbage Bid	\$22.85	\$16.75	Not Received	WM
Savings	\$11.83	\$21.08	\$30.00	---
Recycle Retail	\$28.14	Included in Above Pricing	Not Offered	Not Compared
Recycle Bid	\$4.91	\$5.95	Not Received	Republic
Savings	\$23.23	\$5.95		---
Total 64 Retail	\$51.32	\$33.24	Not Applicable	WM
Total 64 Bid	\$23.95	\$21.70	Not Applicable	WM
Savings	\$27.37	\$11.54	Not Applicable	---
Total 96 Retail	\$62.82	\$37.83	Not Applicable	WM
Total 96 Bid	\$27.76	\$22.70	Not Applicable	WM
Savings	\$35.06	\$15.13	Not Applicable	---

- Clarifications on bids
 - Whoever, is awarded, it will be a five-year agreement.
 - Only two bids were received: Republic & WM. Staff made two email requests and three phone conversations with Swift staff / owner requesting a proposal from them. One of the conversations occurred after the bid closing date in case the Board wanted their consideration, but nothing was received in writing as requested from Swift. During our conversation they advised they do not do Curbside recycling, however they would have been willing to work with Barron County to achieve that, but again nothing in writing was received.

- All taxes are included with the above rates, but if new or increased taxes or fees are implemented, those costs will be passed on to the consumers.
- Annual increases are included from year to year, with both received bids indicating 5% or the Consumer Price Index 12 month rolling average published by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics is for Water, Sewer, Trash (WST) – whatever is greater.
- Seasonal (Spring) Cleanup: WM includes one free roll-off, Republic charges additional fee to the Village per roll-off needed.
- Fuel Surcharge: WM 2% over \$4.00 price per gallon and 1% for each additional \$0.25 above \$4.00.
- Bullet points from current staff were created to hopefully help alleviate concerns, and printed multiple copies for all – also, was part of your packets at your seats today.
- Village has been debating this move for over 10 years.
- Questions about Curbside Collection that still need to be answered – most likely over the next or next few Board meetings:
 - Do you want to accept a fuel surcharge by WM as that was not included within the RFP?
 - Do you want to allow an opt out of the group rate offering: If so:
 - How much would you charge and what kind of evidence do Village staff need to approve an opt out?
 - If properties opt out, will they be allowed to participate in the annual spring-cleaning events?
 - Will you still charge residents the monthly fee, as it may impact those that participate with the group rate offering – this will have to be answered by WM.
 - Administrative fee of \$1.00 per month added to cover unforeseen costs such as, but not limited to, and decided by the Board when necessary:
 - Illegal dumping within the Village
 - Persons not paying their garbage / recycling fees
 - Special events recycling and garbage needs
 - Considering an annual increase based on costs

Public Comments included a resident petition to not go Curbside Collection handed in by resident Gravunder with over 100 signatures. The main concerns heard from residents included increased costs passed on to them, property taxes reduced amounts, why would the property taxes be limited to the 2013 cost levels, their convenience of bringing it to the dump, concerns with too many trucks on Village roads, and local business concerns. VA Gierhart provided the answers to the Public's questions regarding property taxes. Furthermore, VTDC Dachel provided garbage and recycling costs from 2013 and estimated 2024 with an estimated monthly charge to all residents to cover the fees, which were near the low bid by WM.

Motion carried with VP Berg voted against.

- b. *Dump and Recycling Center closure.* VACDT Hanson advised that the Board just need to clarify the closing of the Centralized Dump Collection Site for the record. Motion by Anderson and motion died for the lack of a second.
4. Utility Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) and Village project financing update and guidance.
- a. *Ehler's states Village rates are capable to cover 100% Revenue Obligation (RO) Bond.* VACDT Hanson explained the Village's Financial Advisors Ehler's reviewed the Village's current Wastewater (sewer) rates and with the Village's recent repayment from funds on hand, believe the 2024 projects will be covered by the Utility without an increase above the typical COLA. No action needed or taken.
 - b. *Wastewater 2022 increase findings of staff and explanation for Board direction.* Motion by Pitts and seconded by Lotts to use the published Wastewater (sewer) rate of \$12.00 per 1,000 gallons. VACDT Hanson advised the Board on staff's findings regarding a signed resolution for the Wastewater (sewer) consumption rate at \$13.85 per 1,000 gallons, but the published rate was

\$12.00 per 1,00 gallons consumption. If the Board chose the latter, staff would bring forward a resolution to correct the previous resolution and then a COLA resolution for the Wastewater Utility. Furthermore, annual increases should be sought every year, to avoid the drastic increases seen in the Chetek Alert about their possible 36% increase. Motion carried.

- c. *Water Services will increase effective October 1, 2024 of 4.1%.* VACDT Hanson updated the Board with the application process with the Public Service Commission (PSC) has already been submitted and is in the PSC hands for the 4.1% COLA effective October 1, 2024 if approved by the PSC.
5. Resolution 2024 – 20 Resolution Designating Public Depository and Authorizing Withdrawal of County, City, Village, Town or School District Moneys for Community Development Block Grant Non-Interest-Bearing Account. Motion by Lotts and seconded by Pitts to approve. Motion carried.
6. Village Construction Projects and improvements:
 - a. *May St Construction award from received proposals.* Motion by Pitts and seconded by Lotts to accept the low bid by Haas Sons, Inc. at the base bid of \$181,636.82 without the Alternative bid Number 1 of asphaltting and have that done at the same time as the North St project asphaltting in 2025. Motion carried.
 - b. *Mathias St potential to add Village utility services to two properties and three existing buildings with addendum to project; preliminary discussion on source of funds for extension.* VACDT Hanson and CBS2 Hastings reviewed the costs and the benefit to the Village to add three utility users and believed it was not a good investment at this time. No action taken.
 - c. *Preliminary discussion of possible ordinance amendment to match Public Service Commission attachment requirements.* No action taken.
 - d. *Village Hall and Shop additional asphalt work due to discovered concerns and cost reduction.* VACDT Hanson discussed the findings made by McCabe that the current shop run had over a foot of asphalt from repeated layers, and no base course material of support to stop the continued sinking. The estimated cost is around \$25,000.00. Motion carried.
7. United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Incident Command System interacts with the Emergency Operations Center training opportunity from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on September 18, 2024. VACDT Hanson advised on the training and the VP Berg and he was attending, requesting if there were any other elected officials interested in attending. Both Board Members Gary Pitts and Paul Blodgett advised on their interest and availability to attend. Hanson will register them if there is still space available.
8. Future Meetings:
 - a. *Next Regular Board Meeting is Thursday, September 12, 2024.*
 - b. *Special Meeting on 2025 Budget at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2024.*

VI. **Adjourn.** At 7:26 p.m. motion by Pitts and seconded by Blodgett to adjourn. Motion carried.

Signed: _____


Bradley J Hanson, Village Administrator-Clerk-Deputy Treasurer