

**VILLAGE OF LAC LA BELLE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR VILLAGE MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, August 18, 2025

President Robert C. Hultquist called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Trustee's present include John Koepke, John Roelandts and Erik Mullett. Trustee V.J. Scully was excused. Also in attendance were Police Chief Kristen Wraalstad, Highway Superintendent Sam Salzman, Administrator Jeffrey Herrmann and Clerk/Treasurer Lori Opitz. For additional attendees please see the sign-in sheet.

Those present stood to recite The Pledge of Allegiance

Approve regular Meeting Minutes from August 4, 2025 and the Joint meeting minutes of August 4, 2025. – Trustee Roelandts made the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 4th and the Joint meeting minutes of August 4, 2025, as presented. Trustee Koepke seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Correspondence. – None

Comments from the Floor on Agenda items or any other items.

Linda Bergman, N49W36061 Nottingham Lane, questioned the "Village of Okauchee" sign that is located by Lion's Club.

Diane Fehr, W358N6191 Amy Lane, stated her property abuts to the Snyder Farm Subdivision and isn't sure who is responsible for maintaining the area, but she said there are noxious weeds that need to be removed and taken care of that are in the culvert area of the Snyder property.

Doug Larson, N53W34257 Road Q, stated he is in support of the tree letter to the residents near the channel to Tierney Lake. He also stated there still is a tree across the channel, it is not blocking, but he feels it is a safety issue and hopes that it gets removed soon.

Rick Pease, 466 Lac La Belle Drive, stated he feels that the deed restrictions that were written in the morning are not clear. He also stated the Ad Hoc Committee should be disbanded since the Administrator of the Village is writing the deed restrictions, when it is their responsibility to do so. He also asked how Sam or the Village is going to police the area to make sure that every homeowner is keeping up with their property once they gain access to it by the sale of the land to each owner.

Attorney Christopher Gutschenritter, for Rick & Ginny Pease and resides at W378N5809 Farmwood Heights, stated the January 2, 2025, agenda and meeting minutes confirm the Village Board formally created an Ad Hoc Committee under whose auspices recommendations regarding the wetland have been made. This formal action subjects the committee and its members to Wisconsin's municipal law requirements, including open meeting laws, public records obligations, and procedural oversight. If the committee has not complied with those requirements, its decisions or recommendations related to the MOU and any Board decisions related thereto could be vulnerable to legal challenge and public confidence seriously eroded. He also stated that at least one member of the committee stated they have neither met nor been informed of any committee meeting for the past three months. This suggests the committee is either inactive and functioning as private individuals, which appear to be advancing negotiations over municipal property outside lawful channels, without oversight, and by using the Village as a return address creating the false impression they are acting in an official capacity. The growing risks to the Village and its taxpayers include Open Meetings & Transparency, Authority & Validity and Conflicts of Interest. He respectfully asks the Board to: Reclaim direct control of the wetland matter, halting any further private or informal negotiations, disband by formal action or otherwise formally disengage any group acting on this matter and direct staff to engage with the above noted partners to evaluate the conservation easement option. By this prompt action, will restore public trust, protect the Village from legal exposure and allow a wetland solution that benefits all residents.

Gail Bryant, 454 Lac La Belle Drive, lives in the area and wants to preserve the area and feels a lot of the issues in the 400 Block comes from the property behind the 400 Block.

Ginny Pease, 466 Lac La Belle Drive, stated she was the resident that did not sign because all the paperwork was confusing, and it made her feel uncomfortable and feels this needs to be tabled.

Brian Konop, 456 Lac La Belle Drive, wants the lake to be healthy, doesn't have a private interest but his interest is to get the area cleaned up.

Kevin Lindsey, 480 Lac La Belle Drive, stated all the neighbors want to pay to get the area clean and want to have the job done right.

Tim Clark, 270 Lac La Belle Drive, stated he is the President of the Ad Hoc Committee and there has not been a meeting for 3 months; he also stated the lots in question can't be built on because Village zoning ordinances do not allow it. He also mentioned that part of the agreement was the Board would take the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee and members of the Ad Hoc Committee used to be on the previous Village Board and they had been working on this for years and feels it is time to get this done.

Larry Rickert, 486 Lac La Belle Drive, stated his backyard is unsightly and there are trees that are already dead and getting ready to fall. Everyone is behind this plan to make the area look nice and to preserve it.

Louise Conley, 516 Lac La Belle Drive, handed out a Lac La Belle water quality plan to the Board and spoke about the importance of protecting the lake. She doesn't feel the property in question should be divided between the 14 properties in question and it should be taken care of as one property. She handed out a picture to the Board of the flowage into the lake that comes from the 400 Block.

Robert Conley, 516 Lac La Belle Drive, stated there is no realistic plan regarding the flowage into the lake and feels the water that is going into the lake needs to be filtered to protect and clean up the lake.

Tim Clark, 270 Lac La Belle Drive, stated the picture that shows the flowage is misleading and it is not coming from the homes on the 400 Block, rather it is coming from the Bypass and Pennsylvania Street that goes through the marsh and the golf course into the lake. He also stated that the Department of Transportation has been made aware of this, but they won't help. He said a commitment was made when the merger happened that the Board would take the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee and they have recommended this clean up and now it is time to get this done.

Chris Gutschenritter, W378N5809 Farmwood Heights, stated the conservation specialists should be brought in to oversee the project. There should be more transparency in this process, and the area should not be subdivided.

Jeff Ritter, 468 Lac La Belle Drive, stated this has been discussed for over year and now it has turned into more of a problem. During the process they listened to conservationists, harborists, fire department, etc. and considered all sides of each of the specialists. We listened to the residents and all, even the residents that don't live in the 400 Block are in favor of it. He asks that we move forward with this process because it is long overdue.

Keith Granum, N53W34296 Road Q, stated the use of aerators causes muskrat problems on the area lakes.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Consider and Act on changing the name of the Village of Lac La Belle.** – After a brief discussion, no action was taken.
2. **Consider and Act on adding lights on Wisconsin Avenue.** – After some discussion, no action was taken.
3. **Consider and Act on revocable occupancy permit for the Wong residence, N53W34214 Road Q to have a retaining wall in the right-of-way.** – No action was taken
4. **Consider and Act on the deed restrictions on the land transfers for the 400 block of Lac La Belle.** After some considerable discussion, no action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Consider and Act on hazardous tree letters to residents near channel to Tierney Lake.** – Trustee Roelandts made the motion to approve the hazardous tree letter to residents near channel to Tierney

Lake and have Attorney Murn review it before it goes out. Trustee Mullett seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

2. **Consider and Act on special event application for Whiskey Waters, N50W35124 Wisconsin Avenue to hold Whiskey Waters Classic Medicine on September 6, 2025.** – Trustee Roelandts made the motion to approve the special event application for Whiskey Waters, N50W35124 Wisconsin Avenue to hold Whiskey Waters Classic Medicine on September 6, 2025. Trustee Mullett seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
3. **Discussion on possible ordinance for the use of aerators.** After some discussion, the Board would like have a representative from the DNR in to discuss this further; no action was taken.
4. **President Hultquist.** – Nothing to report
5. **Trustee Reports.**
 - a. **John Koepke.** – Nothing to report
 - b. **VJ Scully.** – Excused
 - c. **Erik Mullett.** – Reminded everyone of the employee picnic
 - d. **John Roelandts.** – Nothing to report
6. **Public Works Superintendent Salzman.** – Nothing to report
7. **Chief Wraalstad.** – Stated Officer Austin Gholson has resigned to move back down South to be by his family and his last day is in October –
8. **Administrator Herrmann** – Spoke about how the Chief worked hard on the dam over the weekend; would like to do a budget meeting in September; the Board agreed to do a budget meeting on September 16th at 4:00 p.m.
9. **Clerk/Treasurer Opitz.** – Nothing to report
10. **Approve Vouchers and Checks.** – Trustee Mullett made the motion to approve vouchers and checks subject to Administrator Jeffrey Herrmann's approval. Trustee Koepke seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
11. **The Board will enter, by roll call vote, into Closed Session pursuant to State Statute 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 (Employee Wages & Health Insurance Contribution).**

Trustee Roelandts made the motion and Trustee Koepke seconded to go into Closed Session at 7:18 p.m. Voice Vote was taken – President Hultquist, aye; Trustee Koepke, aye; Trustee Roelandts, aye; Trustee Mullett, aye; Trustee Scully, excused. Motion carried

Trustee Mullett made the motion and Trustee Koepke seconded to go into Open Session at 8:23 p.m. Voice Vote was taken – President Hultquist, aye; Trustee Koepke, aye; Trustee Roelandts, aye; Trustee Mullett, aye; Trustee Scully, excused. Motion carried.

Reconvene into Open Session.

12. **Adjourn.** – Trustee Roelandts made the motion to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Trustee Mullett seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted –
Lori Opitz, WCMC
Clerk/Treasurer