

(Village Board Meeting, August 11, 2025)

DENMARK VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025

4:30 P.M., DENMARK VILLAGE HALL, 100 NORTH WALL STREET

Call to Order

President Selner called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call

Present: Leah Goral, Michael Johnson, Jim Steffek, Vince Wertel, Brandon Ackley, Tim Schroeder, Susan Selner

Officials Present: Clerk/Treasurer Sherri Konkol, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Charlie Wanish, Director of Public Works Erika Thronson via Zoom, Zoning Administrator Jeff Sanders via Zoom, Deputy Jeremiah Rusk, Deputy John Pigeon

Approval of Agenda

Steffek/Johnson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Remarks/comments from the village president

President Selner welcomed all present. She recapped the rules of an open meeting and explained the only opportunity for the public to speak at the meeting is if they are a preregistered citizen or to discuss an agenda topic. Unless the rules of the meeting are suspended, the public cannot speak during the meeting.

Preregistered citizens to be heard

Jim Bielinski, 410 Woodrow Court here with concerns of cleanliness in the village (there are very messy yards in the Village), noise issues at Salm Partners on Woodrow Street, Culvert on Woodrow Street, there are branches near the ground who put them there and questioned maintenance of Village property regarding tree management, motorized scooters constantly on Woodrow Street, and doesn't believe we should put a park on the corner of Broadway and Pine Streets because all of the semi's going through there and tractors in the fall with corn

Approve consent agenda, all items under the consent agenda are considered routine and will be enacted upon by one (1) motion. there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a trustee so requests, in which event the item will be removed and put on the regular agenda by the Village President

Goral/Wertel moved to approve as presented.

- a. **Approval of Village Board minutes and other committee minutes for preceding meetings**
 - i. **Village Board Meeting July 7, 2025**
- b. **Approve miscellaneous licenses and permits Motion carried.**
- c.

Board approval of monthly disbursements

Johnson/Schroeder moved to approve the monthly disbursements as presented. Motion

carried.

Report of Village Officials

Rusk

- Did a K-9 demonstration at the Lions picnic and also had the Bearcat armored vehicle there for viewing
- We have 2 golf cart registrations in the Village
- Speed sign was moved to South Wall Street
- There have been some incidents of vandalism in the park
- There was a crash at McDonald's – the driver was cited
- Citation was issued for criminal damage to property
- New vehicle should be here soon – had to switch rear lights
- White Durango had an issue with its gas tank that is repaired

Thronson

- Everything is in the written report
- Updates on wi-fi for the park are in written report and there is an item on the agenda
- Tertiary treatment plant – the continuous back flow sand filter system filters are not running at optimum performance – the manufacturer will be on site this week to do a complete inspection of equipment
- The Heat Exchanger for the anaerobically digested sludge is pitted very badly and is in need of replacement – 3 quotes for a new heat exchanger were received

Sanders

- Everything is in the written report
- Encouraged the Board to look at the court ruling from the Wildwood Estate case, which stated a standalone short-term rental ordinance is not legally valid unless incorporated into Zoning Ordinances

President Selner stated there are written reports from the building, plumbing and electrical inspectors.

Wanish

- Provided an overview of the budget to actual financial status
- Selner stated the information was received late, and if the Board needs more time to review they are encouraged to bring questions for the next meeting

Selner

- Attended the Chief Executive's summer meeting at Lambeau Field the presentations were very informative
- Talked about housing innovation in Reedsburg
- Chief economists of the Department of Revenue were there regarding employment rates among young men and women 18-25 years are employed in Wisconsin is in the 90th percentile and that is way higher than the rest of the country
- Learned about an AI machine that can be put on top of your car for surveying the quality of your streets
- Talked with Nic Sparacio from the Brown County Central Water Authority and he informed me that our Security Fund is coming due and we will be making a 1 time payment for that to avoid the 2% increase
- Commercial building code is being updated – we will need to buy new code books, and our

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building inspector will need to get recertified

- Will be holding a meeting with the Village Board and Town of New Denmark Chairman and Supervisors regarding Land Use and the Comprehensive Plan
- Contract with Humane Society has not yet been signed, it was sent to our attorney for review and he has some comments on it so it was sent back to the Humane Society for their review and response we have not heard back from them yet
- Equalized values came out and we are looking good; we had the largest increase of 23% which mostly came from the TID
- There is a perception from some that the Village of Denmark is difficult to work with – the rules are in place and we follow the rules – we have pre-submittal meetings with developers, and they discuss zoning district, site plan, timelines infrastructure and utilities and other Village requirements that have to be met prior to meeting with the Plan Commission

Board discussion/action on Wi-Fi in the park

Thronson stated she met with Heartland Business Systems in the park last week, and they told her the equipment that was on the ECC that the School was willing to hand over to us is no longer supported. Heartland will get us a quote on equipment and access points going forward

Board discussion/action on Ordinance 07-2025, an Ordinance amending Sections 224-13 and 224-15 of the Village Code concerning Property Maintenance - correction from same ordinance adopted in July

Selner stated this is a clean up of an ordinance that was approved in July number and wording in the title was incorrect. **Steffek/Wertel moved to approve Ordinance 07-2025, an Ordinance amending Sections 224-13 and 224-15 of the Village Code concerning Property Maintenance – correction from same ordinance adopted in July. Motion carried.**

Board discussion/action on reconstruction of Pleasant Avenue

Selner shared there are grant opportunities that would be available in 2028, and we would have to apply for these grants that are only for the road not sewer and storm utilities. Selner stated the grant also requires sidewalks and a bike lane. Selner stated Pleasant Avenue is at the top of the list for reconstruction as there have been 11 water breaks there since 2007. **Wertel/Johnson moved to go forward with making plans for Pleasant Avenue reconstruction. Motion carried.**

Board discussion/action on Proclamation National See Tracks? Think Train Week September 15-21

Wertel/Goral moved to approve the Proclamation National See Tracks: Think Train Week September 15-21. Motion carried.

Board discussion/action on crossing guard coverage

Deputy Rusk stated he was asked to get quotes for RRFB's (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Lights) used to enhance pedestrian safety at crosswalks at the intersections of Wisconsin and Main Streets and Highridge Avenue and North Wall Streets for crossing safety as we do not have any crossing guards at this point.

Discussion

- Would like to contract out for crossing guards
- Is it legal to use lights instead of crossing guards

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- The school district thought the contract costs were too high and suggested raising the crossing guards salary
- Will review with our attorney to see if we need to have crossing guards
- The board asked Deputy Rusk to contact 3 communities that use RRFB's to see if they are successful

Selner/Johnson moved to go ahead with the quote from Traffic Control Corporation contingent on recommendation from 3 communities that are contacted to see if they are successful, opinion from Attorney Bartels whether or not we need to have crossing guards and splitting the cost with the school. Motion carried. 6-1. Ackley No.

Update on issues with noise at Salm Partners

Selner shared Salm Partners put in new equipment that creates excessive noise, and we do not have the proper ordinance for noise, as our ordinance is too broad, so we referred the issue to Brown County and they tested it and according to their ordinance the noise level is too high. Salm Partners installed some baffles to curb the noise and it helped, but they will be adding more baffles to the new equipment at the end of next week. Brown County will come back to test the noise level again once the additional baffles are in. Salm Partners did get cited by the County and are working with the County to resolve the noise issue. There has also been a complaint about vehicles leaving the parking lot of Salm's and a request was made by a resident to put up stop signs at the parking lot exits.

Goral/Wertel moved to suspend the rules of the regular meeting to have the public speak. Motion carried.

Dallan Lax, 621 Woodrow Street has a list of items and requests he shared:

- Infrasound is still a problem with the new equipment
- Could this be deemed a nuisance property for loud music all the time – ***Lax was instructed to call the non-emergency number when this is happening - Nuisance criteria is defined as 3 complaint calls within one year from outside the business and the criteria has not been met.***
- Requests a privacy fence, as lights are shining in the windows of the residents on Woodrow Street – ***the ordinance we have for light spillage pertains to external property lights does not pertain to vehicles***
- Would like the Village to look at reviewing the noise ordinance hours for businesses to decrease the hours to 10 a.m. to 7 or 8 p.m. especially on the weekend

Discussion

- The noise is like a train rumbling and rumbling
- This has been going on for over a month now
- There is garbage all around the neighborhood
- Need a speed sign on Woodrow Street
- Loud mufflers
- Other noise elements – Elaine Court is also affected by the noise and garbage
- Can you amend the ordinances to be more geared toward these problems
- Could a Town Hall meeting be held – ***We can reach out to Salm's to meet with the Board***
- They are in a residential area and could be a better neighbor

Wertel/Goral moved to return to the regular rules of the meeting. Motion carried.

Selner stated we will look at having a meeting with Salm's if the new equipment is still in violation of the noise ordinance after baffles are installed

Adjourn

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Stefek/Ackley moved to adjourn at 6:23 p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Sherri Konkol, Village Clerk/Treasurer