

(Village Board Meeting, October 13, 2025)

DENMARK VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 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: Jim Steffek, Leah Goral, Vince Wertel, Brandon Ackley, Tim Schroeder, Michael Johnson, Susan Selner

Officials Present: Clerk/Treasurer Sherri Konkol, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Charlie Wanish, Director of Public Works Erika Thronson, Zoning Administrator Jeff Sanders, Attorney Mark Bartels, 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

Dallan Lax, 621 Woodrow Street, Lax thanked everyone for their time and gave an update on the recent noise issues with Salm Partners. Brown County came in for the final decibel reading on Friday and Salm's was below the allowed decibel limits. Lax also shared there was a 50% reduction in infrasound, but it still impedes sleeping at night.

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

Wertel/Johnson moved to approve as presented.

- a. **Approval of Village Board minutes and other committee minutes for preceding meetings**
 - i. **Village Board Meeting September 8, 2025**
- b. **Approve miscellaneous licenses and permits Motion carried.**

Board approval of monthly disbursements

Goral/Wertel moved to approve the monthly disbursements as presented. Motion carried.

Report of Village Officials

Rusk

- Black car is up and running, and the old car is being switched over for civilian use
- We officially have a full team of three crossing guards
- Trunk or Treat is coming up on October 25; we will have the bearcat and a couple squad cars there like we have done in the past
- No major complaints on the stop sign on Woodrow, did sit there a couple times and got some non-stoppers
- A couple semi-significant calls for service last month (a burglary, a couple of domestics, an accident) just kind of typical calls
- Retail theft, offender called and admitted to theft
- Working with Building Inspector on a chronic nuisance property-owner is working on getting the property cleaned up
- Homecoming went ok ***Selner added she wanted to thank the school as they had the students go out last week Monday to clean up toilet paper***
- Drug Take Back will be held on October 25

Thronson

- Everything is in the written report

Sanders

- Everything is in the written report

Selner stated there are written reports from the Plumbing, Electrical and Building inspectors.

Selner

- The Greater Green Bay Chamber puts out a quarterly magazine called the Collective Impact and they asked if we want to include anything for a Greater Green Bay Holiday and Selner indicated to them that we do. Selner stated she would like to include the Lions Poinsettia Sale and Christmas Tree Lighting in their article.
- Went to the Chamber meeting last week and they had it at Green Bay Packaging, as it is manufacturing month. Selner stated she learned Wisconsin is number two in the United States in manufacturing just behind Indiana.

Presentation of Budget to Actual

Wanish went over the talking points of the current status of the budget

Board discussion/action on dispute of ordinance violation on parcel VD-ND592

Selner stated we received a complaint about this property and the owners are here and would like to state their case. Thronson shared they held a Public Works Committee meeting and from that meeting she was instructed to send a letter of ordinance violation for not having the grass cut on that parcel. It is a little horseshoe on North Avenue that the FFA used to use as an outdoor lab area.

Ackley/Wertel moved to suspend the rules of the regular meeting to allow the owners of the property who are in the audience to speak. Motion carried.

Peter and Angie Hermans, owners of the VD-ND592 located on North Avenue

- Asked who complained about the parcel ***Selner stated we do not give that information out***

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- Asked if the complaint was in writing ***It was a phone call***
- The area in question hasn't been cut in 4 ½ years
- Our intentions when we bought it was it would be part of the woods that is there – why do we have to cut an area that is wildflowers and trees
- Why do we have to cut it now when it hasn't been cut in over four years ***Selner stated we got a complaint, so we follow up with it, and looking at our ordinances it does require that the grass be cut if it is longer than 6 inches***
- Hermans stated it is a woods

Attorney Bartels stated it doesn't look like a woods as there is a street driveway and wall in there, there is also something in the back corner that looks like a roof, maybe an overhang or something. There is some kind of improvement done to the lot. Hermans stated it has been that way for over 4 years and now you want something done with it? Hermans shared there is also teepees in the woods too that the FFA left there. Hermans stated he isn't complaining about what was left there, but it is just ridiculous that after being there over 4 years never mowing the grass why does he have to start now?

Thronson stated I don't go out looking for ordinance violations, but if someone complains, or the Village gets public feedback, we have to investigate. Hermans asked what they needed to do to make the parcel compliant. Hermans stated the land is agricultural according to the Brown County tax records, but Thronson shared that is not the right zoning, the county has their own classes for valuation of the land. The parcel is Zoned RD-1 Rural Residential according to the Village's Zoning Code. Hermans asked what they needed to do to satisfy the Village. Attorney Bartels stated there are two options for bringing the parcel into compliance, the first is removing the structures and the second is planting and maintaining a native garden.

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

Ackley/Goral moved to allow the property owners of parcel VD-ND592 six (6) months to bring the property into compliance with Ordinance 224-9(B) by removing the structures on the property, or planting and maintaining a native garden. Motion carried.

Board discussion/action on Lawn Mowing contract

Thronson stated we had a two year contract with the current vendor (Wisconsin Landscaping) and it is expiring. Thronson shared the current vendor is interested in extending the contract, continuing with whatever works best for the board. Vendor stated he would like to do a 5% increase for 2026 and 2027, which is fairly normal, and contractor said a 4 or 5 year contract would work for him with a 5% increase again after 2 years. **Ackley/Wertel moved to continue with the current vendor for our Lawn Mowing Contract for five (5) years including 5% increase for 2026 and 2027 and an additional 5% increase for 2027 and 2028. Motion carried.**

Board discussion/action on cutting right of way

Thronson shared because of the discussion of lawn mowing at a Public Works Committee meeting regarding a previous item on the agenda, mowing of the right of way came up during the meeting. It also came up with the DPW employees over the summer. Thronson stated one thing they have done over many, many years is flail mowed or cut right of ways where there is a gravel shoulder and no curb and gutter, just gravel shoulder. Once a street is urbanized and curb and gutter is put in, the Village stops cutting it and the property owner is required to cut their right of way. There is nothing anywhere written that says that Village should cut the right of way. The ordinance says that for undeveloped or for any property the owner should cut the right of way. Thronson said the question is which way do we go with this, for the ordinance it would be the property owner cutting the right of way, and the Village wouldn't do it. But we do not have a policy saying that so, we have no standard. **Wertel/Johnson moved to accept the Public Works Committees recommendation to formally send letters to the landowners that the village currently cuts the right of way that they will be responsible for mowing the right of way going forward in 2026. Motion carried.**

Board discussion/action to approve Mark Olson as the person being hired by DYBS to prepare and line the ball diamonds in 2026 per the Cooperative Agreement for the Maintenance of Memorial Park and Highridge Park diamonds and related facilities

Wertel/Johnson moved to approve Mark Olsen as the person being hired by DYBS to prepare and line the ball diamonds in 2026 per the Cooperative Agreement for the Maintenance of Memorial Park and Highridge Park diamonds and related fields. Motion carried.

Board discussion/action on the Plan Commissions recommendation to approve the proposed amendments to the Village Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 315, of the Village of Denmark Code proposing to create the P-1 District to establish and more effectively implement standards associated with parks and other outdoor recreation

Ackley/Wertel moved to accept the Plan Commissions recommendation to approve the proposed amendments to the Village Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 315, of the Village of Denmark Code proposing to create the P-1 District to establish and more effectively implement standards associated with parks and other outdoor recreation. Motion carried.

Board discussion/action on Emotional Support Animal permitting

After discussion and the opinion of Attorney Bartels, the board feels they need to put more thought into this and come up with a new list of permitting requirements. **Ackley/Johnson moved to table this item for further discussion at the next Board meeting pending more research. Motion carried.**

Board discussion/action on an application for Operator's License

Deputy Rusk stated that Konkol made him aware of an application for an Operator's License, and she wanted me to look more into the charges against the applicant. What I found is the applicant has a drug history as recently as with in the last year. Selner stated an Operator's License is subject to Board approval, so we can deny it. **Schroeder/Ackley moved to deny the Operator's License in question. Motion carried.**

Board discussion/action on landscape plan for Village Hall

Selner stated she did authorize the removal of some bushes as the DPW staff was doing some maintenance on the building and it made it easier for them to put the ladders up if the bushes were taken out. Thronson stated if the Board decides to go with staff doing landscaping, flowers and shrubs are currently 30%-50% off now, and staff can just go and buy the plants and put them in ourselves. Thronson shared option A and option B that were put together by Steve Zellner (DPW staff). If we want to do the plastic edging, the staff will put it in for \$250, or if we want to do concrete curbing it's close to \$2000 done by an outside contractor. We will also need landscape fabric and river rock. Staff can do pretty much everything but curbing. I think we could cut the price if we go with a lesser number of bushes. It is just a matter of if you want to do it this year or next. **Ackley/Wertel moved to go with Option A with concrete curbing and the staff doing the landscaping. Motion carried.**

Board discussion/action on wage increases for staff

Ackley/Goral moved to increase staff wages by 4%. Motion carried.

Board discussion/action Board Members salaries

Wertel/Johnson moved to increase Board Members salaries by 4%. Motion carried.

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Board discussion/action on proposal for leasing ground space to build a cell tower on Village property

Thronson stated she received an inquiry from Nsight that they are looking to improve the coverage at this location and due to maintenance and painting schedules on water tanks it becomes expensive to carriers. Thronson shared Nsight would like to propose leasing ground space to build a separate tower on the property the water tower is on. **Steffek/Wertel moved to not accept the proposal for leasing ground space to build a cell tower on Village property as we do not have land available for a tower on the land they were inquiring about. Motion carried.**

Board discussion/action on fee schedule update

Schroeder/Ackley moved to approve the updated fee schedule as presented. Motion carried.

Board discussion/action on ordinance interpretation regarding public versus private nuisance for code enforcement

No action was taken on this matter.

Board discussion/action on installation of sidewalks on the south side of Hager Road

Ackley/Steffek moved to not install sidewalks on the south side of Hager Road at this time, but if a property owner requests sidewalks in the future, the Village would install them. Motion carried.

Board discussion/action on purchasing crosswalk lights

Ackley/Wertel moved to approve the purchase of crosswalk lights if approved by Brown County Highway Department. Motion carried.

Board discussion/action on Trick or Treat hours for the Village

Wertel/Ackley moved to set the Trick or Treat hours for the Village from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Motion carried.

Board discussion/action on Resolution 04-2025, a Resolution levying special assessments for unpaid utility accounts and assessments for special services on the 2025 tax roll

Wertel/Steffek moved to approve Resolution 04-2025, a Resolution levying special assessments for unpaid utility accounts and assessments for special services on the 2025 tax roll. Motion carried.

Board discussion/action on approval of election inspector appointments for 2026-2027

Konkol stated we need approval of appointments for 2 year terms for election inspectors every 2 years. **Wertel/Ackley moved to approve the election inspector appointments for 2026-2027. Motion carried.**

Adjourn

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

Minutes submitted by Sherri Konkol, Village Clerk/Treasurer