

BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
Monday, November 17, 2025
(Approved)

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Bell called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM on Monday, November 17, 2025. (Meeting start delayed due to zoom technical difficulties).

Present: President Nate Bell and trustees Denise Bhirdo, Louise Howson, Chad Kodanko, Kurt Harff, Brigid White. Patrice Champeau was excused.

Staff: Vlad Gannik, Megan Barnes, Parks, Erik Linczmaier, Dave Lienau and Village Clerk Julie Thyssen.

Others: Ken Church, Laurel Harff, Mary Smythe, Bill Baar

2. Approve Agenda

Motion by Howson, seconded by Harff, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried - all ayes.

4. Comments, Correspondence and Concerns from the Public

Ken Church asked for clarification regarding Administrator Schmelzer's severance package. Mary Smyth submitted email with concerns about too many executive sessions being held. Trustee Bhirdo noted she should not have been required to exit a previous meeting's executive session according to state statute 19.89.

5. Public Hearing: 2026 Budget

Ruechel presented the 2026 budget, explaining that the proposed budget would reduce the mill rate from \$5.23 to \$4.85, a decrease of approximately 37 cents. He outlined that the apportioned levy of \$3,418,243 is comprised of the general fund (\$2,000,000+), capital project levy (\$620,000), and debt service levy (\$790,000). The total levy amount including tax increment is \$4,011,386.51.

During public comment, concerns were raised regarding a significant increase in "unworked wages" from approximately \$30,000 to \$279,000. Bhirdo provided a breakdown of the general government expenses increase, confirming that unworked wages represented the largest portion of the increase.

6. Discussion & Action

a. Resolution 2025-028 Adopting the 2026 Budget

Bell acknowledged the extensive work by the Finance Committee, expressing confidence that previous challenges had been resolved due to efforts by Vlad and Adam.

Motion by Howson, seconded by White, to adopt the 2026 budget. Motion carried – all ayes.

7. Adjourn

Motion by Howson, seconded by Kodanko, to adjourn at 6:45. Motion carried – all ayes.

Meeting minutes by Julie Thyssen, Village Clerk