

**VILLAGE OF PARK RIDGE
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: President Steve Menzel called the Park Ridge Village Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Village Board meeting was held in person at the Village Hall. After recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by those present, roll call was taken. Trustees Gordon Renfert, Dan Holloway, Kristin Paulson, Joe Thompson, and President Steve Menzel were present. Clerk Anne Arndt was also present.

Others attending were Shawn Paulson, Christine Neidlein, Shanna Behrend, Tori Jennings, Fritz and Judy Kokesh, Nancy LaMar, Ken Vogel, Becky Woodward, Jared Kauppila, Renee Hause Haase, Francis Hubbard, Marjie Bell, Mary Tierney Ley, Janet and John Loomis.

AGENDA ITEM # 1 - APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER AGENDA: Paulson requested items 12 and 13 be discussed in reverse order. Motion Holloway, second by Renfert to approve the agenda with suggested change. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM # 2 – President Menzel convened the budget public hearing at 5:31 P.M. There were no questions nor suggested modifications to the budget.

AGENDA ITEM # 3 – President Menzel stated the budget public hearing will remain open until Agenda Item #15.

AGENDA ITEM # 4 - The Regular Board Meeting convened at 5:33 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM # 5 – PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – AGENDA ITEMS: There were no public comments on specific agenda items.

AGENDA ITEM # 6 - PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Ken Vogel thanked the Board members for all they do. He attended last month's meeting and stated there was no reason for any resident to "yell and scream" at Board members.

AGENDA ITEM # 7 – REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 20, 2025: Two minor revisions; in paragraph 2, line 3 the last name spelled Kasoch should be spelled Kadoch. Under Agenda Item #15, line 3 should read "states it is difficult for a village of our size to sustain civic engagement". Motion Renfert, second Thompson to approve minutes with revisions as stated. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM # 8 – REVIEW AND ACCEPT NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion Paulson, second Holloway to accept the October Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote taken: Thompson – yes; Menzel – yes; Holloway – yes; Paulson – yes; Renfert – yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM # 9 – REVIEW AND APPROVE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER BILLS / PAYMENTS: Motion by Paulson, second by Renfert to approve October/November bills/payments. Roll call was taken; Menzel – yes; Holloway – yes; Renfert – yes; Thompson – yes; Paulson – yes. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

AGENDA ITEM # 10 – HILLCREST DRIVE / GREENBRIAR AVENUE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: (provided by Tom Turchi, MSA) Project is about 65% complete. So far, \$968,000 of the \$1.4M total has been billed. Payment #3 is \$204,174.95, leaving roughly \$566,794.30.

Current Work: Main line paving is done. Intersections and driveway aprons are scheduled for Wednesday and should wrap up the same day. Restoration crew is adding shoulder gravel, finishing topsoil work, and installing signs and mailboxes per Village code. A1 Excavating will use the Mr. Manhole method for manhole covers—this ensures proper grade and a clean finish.

Outstanding Items: Light poles and bases are still on order; expected delivery around December 6. Speed table signs will go in this year, but pavement markings may wait until spring for durability.

Other Notes: Liquidated damages started October 29 due to delays and are accruing daily. Hydro-seeding will use dormant seed, which will stay inactive until spring. There's a one-year warranty on the project. Retainage will be held, and a warranty review will happen next summer to address any issues. If everything stays on track, we're looking at completion within the next week or two.

Pay Application #3, A-1 Excavating: - Motion Holloway, second Renfert to pay A-1 Excavating in the amount of \$204,174.95 for the period of 9/25/2025 to 10/24/2025. Roll call vote was taken: Renfert – yes; Paulson – yes; Holloway – yes; Thompson – yes; Menzel – yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM # 11 – RIDGEWOOD DRIVE / GREENBRIAR AVENUE PLANNING UPDATE: A Statement of Qualification was sent to numerous engineering firms and four were received. Holloway, Menzel and Clerk Arndt met November 6 to review them. They were ranked and the preferred firm name will be provided to Jason Schaeffer at the Department of Transportation for consideration and the Village will move forward from there. The Village is waiting for the City to define their ordinance language that mentions a consolidation agreement is required to provide additional water mains. The City Attorney is working on the amendment language and City Council will hold a public hearing. The Village will be notified in January/February 2026. Earliest construction date will begin in 2028 and completed in no later than 2033. Resident Shanna Behrend thanked the Board for all their work on pre-planning with this project. She stated the Village has been completely transparent since work began in 2022 with information published and noticed publicly. Resident Tori Jennings stated she is opposed to this project and thinks the Village has committed itself to the project and to consolidation. She stated people on Ridgewood and Greenbriar do not know what is going on. Some have inquired and said they are not getting enough information. She said there were three driveways replaced in the past few years. If they had known the street was going to be reconstructed they probably would not have replaced the driveways.

AGENDA ITEM # 12 – REVIEW WI DNR URBAN FORESTRY START-UP GRANT APPLICATION and **AGENDA ITEM # 13 – REVIEW TREE CITY USA REQUIREMENTS** – President Menzel stated the village approved a resolution in August to apply for a DNR Forestry Grant to plant up to twenty-two trees to mitigate the trees lost on Hillcrest and Greenbriar. In that discussion we also talked about the possibility of applying for Tree City USA status. Trustee Paulson stated the Board has not received any written information on Tree City USA until today (what is in the packet) or on the WI DNR grant. The Board reviewed the application, which states \$2 per capita must be budgeted for tree related activities. It also requires the village set up a tree board with a chairperson and up to five additional members. That board would have responsibility and control of what kind of trees get planted and

where in the village, on village public property (street right of way, village hall property, and alley ways). The board has concerns with the way it reads. It is putting all the power of what trees get planted where in the hands of the tree board, which is a non-elected body. Someone who does not want a tree planted in their yard or in the street right of way in front of their yard may not have any control over whether a tree is planted and where. An ordinance could be written so the tree board does not have the final say. Resident Christine Neidlein stated this could be accomplished without a tree board and agrees it could be clarified with an ordinance. She doesn't feel it needs to be so regimented. She requested the board not go ahead with a Tree City USA program. Trustee Holloway agreed with Christine's comments and said there may be residents interested in planting trees but we don't know that. He feels this is one more thing the village board has to manage and handing it off to a tree board that isn't necessarily in the interest of the village. Resident Tori Jennings feels it has been overstated about the power of the tree board and feels it would be advisory. Trustee Paulson stated she contacted municipalities about our size and they are not a Tree City. She talked with the public works director at Whiting. He said they avoid planting in a right-of-way as trees eventually have to be removed or they cause a problem.

President Menzel stated in August there was a resolution for the village to apply for a DNR grant but does not mention the Tree City USA status. He thinks the status was added into the grant when it was written, but the village did not approve it. The Village did not approve specific wording that went into the application for the DNR grant. Resident Jennings stated the president signed off on the grant. Menzel stated he did not sign it nor see the application. Motion Paulson, second Holloway to reject the WI DNR Startup Grant. Motion carried, with Thompson voting no.

Public Hearing adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM # 14 – ADOPT 2025 LEVY Motion Paulson, second Renfert to adopt the 2025 levy of \$500,401.00. Roll call vote taken: Thompson, yes; Menzel, yes; Holloway, yes; Paulson, yes; Renfert, yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM # 15 – ADOPT 2026 BUDGET, RESOLUTION 005.2025R Paulson stated there is \$10,000 allocated to line item 5331104 for trees/brush removal/etc. and asked if the board want to keep that money in the budget. It was decided to leave the money in the budget. Renfert asked if there is an update for a village revaluation. It will be conducted in 2027. Motion Paulson, second Holloway to adopt the 2026 budget as stated in the packet and adopt budget resolution 005.2025R. Roll Call vote taken: Menzel, yes; Holloway, yes; Renfert, yes; Thompson, yes; Paulson, yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM # 16 – VILLAGE BOARD VACANCY OPTIONS – Menzel stated he will resign as village president effective December 31, 2025. The League of Municipalities has been helpful in explaining processes and options in filling the vacancy. The League of Municipalities provided a three-page document with guidance options and has been helpful. This will be considered at the December Board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #17 – STORAGE REQUEST FROM STEVENS POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT – The Stevens Point Fire Department requested utilizing storage space at the village hall for items they that require minimal access throughout the year. Motion Renfert, second Holloway to grant the request. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #18 – SELECT CAUCUS DATE – The clerk will contact the Stevens Point Parks Department to reserve the Iverson Park All-Purpose Lodge to hold the Caucus in January. Caucus date will be approved at the December Board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM # 19 – SANTA VISIT – Paulson stated a Santa Visit will be December 11, with a backup date of December 18. She will post the announcement in several places.

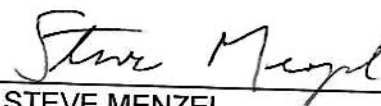
AGENDA ITEM # 20 – HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING – There has been a holiday light recycle bin outside the village hall in the past. However, Metro Market is now a recycling site.

AGENDA ITEM # 21 - SET DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING - Monday, December 15, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURN MEETING at 7:20 p.m.



ANNE ARNDT
VILLAGE CLERK



STEVE MENZEL
VILLAGE PRESIDENT