Village of Fremont Board Meeting Minutes

Approved

Date: October 13, 2026

Start Time: 6:02 PM
Location: Village Hall

Call to Order:

The Village of Fremont Board Meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

Board members present included Steve Van Lyssel, Mary Ann Oehlke, Scott Hart, Leo Billings, Jim Falke, and Nicole. Taylor Berndt arrived late.

Compliance with Open Meetings Laws:

The meeting was confirmed to be in compliance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Laws.

Previous Minutes:

- Motion by Leo Billings, seconded by Jim Falke, to approve the September 8, 2026, Village Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.
- Motion by Steve Van Lysel, seconded by Mary Ann Oehlke, to approve the September 16, 2026, Board of Review Minutes. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Report:

The Sheriff's Department reported 77 calls for the month of September, including one agency assist for Waupaca County. Additional activity included a disorderly conduct complaint, a parking lot hit-and-run with no suspect identified, and an increase in traffic concerns within school zones. No questions or concerns were brought forward.

Informal Public Comments:

Kathy Mano addressed the Board regarding an easement crossing her property that provides access to a neighboring residence. She requested the Village's assistance in ending the use of the easement, citing increased traffic, property maintenance expenses, erosion, liability concerns, and the desire to enjoy her entire property. She suggested alternative access options for the neighboring property.

No additional public comments were received.

Committee Reports:

President - Nicki Scott:

FEMA / Flood Recovery:

- Category A and Category B reimbursement requests have been submitted, with approval and reimbursement pending.
- Category B includes volunteer assistance, equipment, and services used during the flooding event.
- Additional FEMA submissions for streets, Village Hall, and other projects will be handled separately.
- The park bathroom repair documentation is nearing completion for submission.
- FEMA representatives toured areas of concern, including drainage issues near the bridge, to review ongoing problems.
- Budget Workshop scheduled for October 20, 26 at 5:30 pm at Village Hall.

Hall/Library – Mary Ann Oehlke

Village Hall Renovation:

- Architect Tim Merritt presented revised preliminary drawings for the Village Hall renovation, with architectural services funded through Rotary.
- Proposed changes included a redesigned clerk's office for two employees, workspace for Board members, a public payment/drop-off area, additional building access, and converting the former library space into the Council meeting room.
- Storage for tables and chairs and a kitchenette area were also incorporated.
- The Board discussed bathroom accessibility and options for adding a family-accessible restroom.
- Additional revisions were requested, including further consideration of bathroom layout and kitchen access.
- The architect will provide updated drawings for review at the next meeting.

- The Board discussed moving Village operations back into Village Hall while construction continues, with the understanding that the building will remain partially under construction.

Library:

- The library project continues to move forward.
- The October 24 open house remains scheduled.
- Remaining work includes internet installation, electrical work, programming of equipment, and landscaping.
- The grant extension was approved for an additional month.

Utilities – Jim Falke

- Budget meeting scheduled for October 20, 2026 for the sewer commission. Nothing else to report.

Parks and Beach – Steven Van Lyssel

- The Board reviewed proposed locations for the new park signage and beach rules sign.
- The proposed sign locations were discussed and generally agreed upon.
- The Wolf River Preservation group is working toward removing its pontoon from Village property and finding alternative storage.
- The annual dues were reported to be increasing from $725 to $750.

Employee/Purchasing – Taylor Berndt

Village Truck / Maintenance:

- The Village truck recently required repairs, including ignition coils and spark plugs. The catalytic converters were also reported to be plugged.
- The Board discussed continuing to use the truck for the time being and revisiting replacement options in the future.
- A possible vehicle leasing arrangement was discussed.
- A deputy clerk applicant was interviewed, with additional interviews scheduled.
- The Board reviewed the proposed clerk and maintenance job descriptions. Further review and revisions were requested, particularly regarding maintenance

responsibilities, available equipment, safety requirements, and on-call expectations. Revisions will be submitted to the appropriate committee for discussion.

Ordinance/Recycling – Scott Hart

No new updates on the ACT 175, still waiting for attorney to review.

Street – Leo Billings

- The Fire Department requested consideration of replacing two 20-minute parking signs near the Bridge Bar with no-parking or emergency-vehicle-only signage to maintain access to the fire department's water connection.
- Pricing for replacement signs is being obtained.
- Snow removal and keeping the area accessible during winter were discussed.
- Storm sewer repair estimates and concrete replacement quotes are pending.
- The Lynn Street funding application was not selected for the 2026–2027 funding cycle. Future funding options were discussed.

Clerk / Treasurer Report:

- The Village computer experienced issues. Files were recovered, and automatic cloud backups through Google Drive were established.
- A replacement laptop, docking stations, and accessories were quoted at approximately $975.
- In-person absentee voting is scheduled for October 20–30, 2026, at Village Hall.
- Election Day is November 3, 2026, with polls open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.
- The clerk anticipates moving back into Village Hall by the end of the week.

Unfinished Business:

The Board discussed the status of outstanding legal documents and the delay in receiving revisions from the Village attorney. Follow-up with the attorney will be made.

New Business:

Flood-Affected Residents / Sewer Billing:

The Board discussed inquiries from residents whose homes were substantially damaged or destroyed by the flood and who have questions regarding sewer billing.

The Board also discussed the possibility of changing sewer billing from quarterly to annual billing. Concerns included the financial burden of a large annual payment and existing ordinance language. Additional options discussed included providing an annual statement with quarterly payment coupons and allowing residents to pay annually if desired.

The Webfooters withdrew their request to use the Village Hall Council Room on October 24, 2026, due to ongoing construction.

Operator License:

The Board reviewed an operator license application for Madeline Gaylor. The original application contained outdated dates. A motion was made by Scott Hart, seconded by Jim Falke, to approve the operator license pending receipt of an updated application with corrected dates. Motion carried.

Building Permits:

The Board reviewed the submitted building permits. No additional concerns were brought forward.

Upcoming Community Events:

- Trick-or-treating is scheduled for October 25, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.
- The Webfooters annual Halloween costume ski event is scheduled for October 18, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

Fire Department / EMS:

- EMS reported that operations remain status quo, with no additional funding requested at this time.
- The Board discussed EMS staffing changes and requested clarification regarding future wage expenses.
- The Fire Department's 2027 municipal contribution is expected to increase to $47,250.
- Future equipment needs, including a possible replacement water tender, radios, pagers, and water rescue equipment, were discussed.
- An updated agreement between the three participating municipalities was also discussed.

Bills:

The Board discussed flood-related expenses and the importance of monitoring cash flow while awaiting FEMA reimbursements. The Treasurer will continue monitoring the Village checking account and timing payments accordingly. On a motion made by Leo Billings to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Taylor Berndt

Budget Workshop:

Worked on budget for 2027.

The next budget workshop was scheduled for October 20, 2026, at 5:30 PM. The Board also discussed holding the budget hearing on November 10, 2026, in conjunction with the regular Board meeting, before the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Taylor Berndt, seconded by Steve Van Lessel, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Time of Adjournment: 10:27 PM.

Submitted by Nicole Wheelock