VILLAGE BOARD MEETING – October 5, 2026, PAGE 1

The Friendship Village Board meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by all present. President Robert Berry called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Present were Trustees Brad Oberbeck, Ernie Klicko, Nadine Ashworth, Melvin Waller, Justin Hutter, Antone Sindelar and President Berry. Also present were Public Works Director Beth Schultz, Treasurer Sandy Shawback and Clerk Rebecca Reuter.

Berry said before he called the meeting to order, He'd like to take a minute to just acknowledge the passing of Kathy Pierce, who was the village clerk for over 36 years. She did a lot for this community, so he just wanted to make a quick brief mention of that.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2nd, 2026, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Oberbeck, second by Sindelar to approve September 2nd, 2026, Village Board minutes, motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT	General	Water	Sewer
August 1, 2026, Balance	85,551.42	410,080.19	4,958.91
August Receipts	57,560.37	35,405.88	17,184.52
August Disbursements	52,001.05	24,337.81	4,972.00
August 31, 2026, Balance	91,110.74	421,148.26	17,171.43

LGIP #1 TIF $928,045.73 – LGIP #9 ARPA $0.45 – Capital Project Checking $34,480.14 - Building Fund $75,000.00 – Money Market $1,646.91 – CDBG Working Fund $13,857.48 - LGIP #6 Park/Beach $47,138.95 – Tax Checking $70,088.79 – Concerts in the Park $295.00 -Street Equipment Fund $30,379.50 – Court Order Proceeds $3,808.03 – Water LGIP #3 Special Redemption Fund $216,739.57 - LGIP #4 Water Replacement Fund $416,598.68 – LGIP #8 Water Debt Reserve Fund $72,860.72 – Sewer LGIP#2 Special Redemption Fund $74,983.42 - LGIP#5 Sewer Replacement Fund $58.107.95 – LGIP#7 Sewer Debt Reserve Fund $59,231.59

MOTION by Klicko, second by Oberbeck to approve treasurer report, motion carried.

PAYING OF BILLS

MOTION by Klicko, second by Oberbeck to approve September vouchers 28419-28449 in the amount of $59,843.66, motion carried.

CITIZEN INPUT

Marty Klish – I am a teacher at the local high school. This is my 27th year. I'm here to address the upcoming referendum proposed by the school district. If you see the flyers that they're putting out, we are in the last year of a $3,000,000 per year referendum, which was approved. That will expire at the end of the 2027 school year. The district is asking for a new referendum of $2.75 million per year for 4 school years, 2027-2028, through 2030-2031. This is a reduction of $250,000 per year on the referendum with the purpose of basically maintaining what we are currently serving. The district has gone through budget reductions, budget cuts, reducing ability to reduce expenses, etcetera, to the tune of roughly $5.1 million in reductions. For the 2024 and 2025 school year we had a projected $1.4 million decrease in projected deficit. 2025-2026 $3.7 million decrease in projected deficit. The district is cutting where they can cut. But if we can't get the initial funding, then we're going to cut where most people probably don't want to see, which would be cut staff, cut programs. If you recall last year, Mauston went through a similar thing, and they said, if this doesn't go, we have to cut all this stuff. Our district will be looking at the same thing with massive cuts. And personal bias here is because the state isn't doing what the state constitution says the state should do. I don't know if you're aware of this, Wisconsin state constitution says that it should finance 2/3 of school budgets. Currently, the state is funding approximately 15% of school budgets. That extra portion is shifted back to local districts because then the state can say, hey, we're cutting taxes for everybody. Whereas local districts are saying, yeah, we're everybody, and we're paying for it at the local level because you have spending gaps which limit our revenue. If you have questions, I have information I can share, but that's the gist of the issue. I've lived in Friendship every year I've been here, and this is the first time I've been motivated, I should say, to come and say, we need... This district needs people who are involved to step up and say, yeah. It's a good idea. And if you want, a friend of mine, Bob Caldwell, you might have noticed in the newspaper a couple of weeks ago, he wrote a letter to the editor, which is nothing new. But even he was saying that this is an issue the state needs to fix. And if Bob's going to go that way, you know it's something serious. Thank you.

ROPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE RICK PEASE IF IN ATTENDANCE

Pease – Last Friday we had our first look at the balanced budget for the county in our admin/finance committee. And we also got the audit results, which was favorable to the county. This next Tuesday, the full board will get the first look at the budget and the audit results also. And then next month, we'll start voting on it. If you're interested at all, you need to go to the website and look at our last admin/finance to listen to that, or you could attend or watch online the regular county board.

We also did a ribbon cutting on the 29th for the new renovation of the courthouse. It was very nice. It was well attended.
And other than that, budget's been my language lately. So, if you have any questions, you can ask. Hopefully, I can answer them. But if not, I'd suggest you go and watch the meetings. The budget was hard to balance this year as all your budgets are getting to be.
I will echo what Marty said about the school district. Nicki Ells has done a nice job cutting the last year, and they're actually asking less than what they did the last 4 years. Thus, you know, it's heading in the right direction. But like he also said, this is a state problem. It's not a local problem. I think, actually, we received 22% state aid last year, and they promised us 60%. 30 years ago, when I was starting at the school board, we were getting almost 56%, and now it's down to 22%.

PRESENTATION FROM THE ADAMS FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
We heard from them during citizen input

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPOINTING AN ELECTION INSPECTOR
Reuter asked the board to approve a new election inspector for the republican party. The one that they previously picked can no longer do it, so they are asking that Hope Eggersdorf be appointed to be able to be the election inspector. She will spend half the day here and half the day at the Town of Adams.
MOTION by Klicko, second by Sindelar to appoint Hope Eggersdorf as the Republican Party election inspector, motion carried.

UPDATE ON 401 MAIN STREET
Schultz stated that the porch has been taken down.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT BY CHAIRMAN SINDELAR - DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION ON:

a) **Citizen input**
   There was no citizen input during the meeting
b) **Discussion on: 2027 Budget items**
   We then moved to the 2027 budget items that Public Works Department would like to see. We've made that list, and we've turned that in.
c) **Discussion and Possible Action on: Leaf Pickup**
   Beth reached out and got 3 proposals for leave pickup. 1 from Property Works, 1 from the City of Adams, and 1 from Hiller's Honey Do List Specialist. With the pricing, Hiller's came in at $2,800 with pickup and disposal over the city and Property Works. So, the Public Works Committee would recommend that we go with Hiller's Honey Do List Specialist. They will be picking up leaves the week before deer hunting.
d) **Discussion and Possible Action on: Having Fahners do 4-5 Hot Patches on Lakeview Ct. over our Manholes**
   Some of the manholes are sticking up so we would like to patch them so we can drive over them with the plows a whole lot better without catching them. They would recommend getting that done.
e) **Public Works Directors Report**
   She doesn't have much this month. The buoys are out of the beach. Bathrooms at the beach and park are all closed up for the winter and winterized. Hintz will be taking out the peer this week, or next week.
   Klicko asked about the paving on Adams Street by the church, if that was going to get done?
   Schultz stated that she has not heard back from Gassers yet. She is also going to talk to the county too to see if they would be cheaper.

FRIENDSHIP LAKE DISTRICT REPORT BY TRUSTEE HUTTER
Hutter stated we had our big end of season meeting. They approved the budget. He thinks they did a good job swapping banks, getting a much better interest rate, reducing payments for them. At the end, we voted on moving forward with filling out the grant, to get the small harvester. And they're looking at that eco harvester one. And they did hold off to see if they could swap to see which harvester to get, but the other one's not even made yet. So, they had to go with the eco harvester, which makes sense. And, apparently, that went really well, and they like how that one worked. He got an email today about moving forward between Town of Preston and the Town of Adams with the DNR and trying to figure out how to get that dredged out. That conversation is happening right now for the ramp on the other side.

FIRE DISTRICT REPORT BY TRUSTEE KLICKO
Klicko stated that they didn't actually have a meeting because there was no published agenda. They did set an agenda for a couple of closed sessions to discuss the fire chief situation, which we're advertising for right now. Otherwise, things are running smoothly as far as we know.

AMBULANCE COMMITTEE REPORT BY TRESTEE ASHWORTH
Ashworth stated that there wasn't a meeting.

CONSIDERATION & ACTION ON THE APPROVAL OF WATER/SODA LICENSE – Roche-A-Cri Lions Club, El Sembrador
MOTION by Oberbeck, second by Sindelar to approve Water/Soda License for Roche-A-Cri Lions Club, El Sembrador, motion carried.

CONSIDERATION & ACTION ON THE APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE – ROCHE-A-CRI LIONS CLUB OCTOBER 10, 2026
MOTION by Oberbeck, second by Sindelar to approve Temporary Alcohol License for Roche-A-Cri Lions Club October 10, 2026, motion carried.

CONSIDERATION & ACTION ON THE APPROVAL OF MOBILE FOOD VENDING LICENSE – EL SEMBRADOR
MOTION by Oberbeck, second by Ashworth to approve Mobile Food Vending License for, El Sembrador, motion carried.

CONSIDERATION & ACTION ON THE APPROVAL OF OPERATOR'S LICENSE – CHRISTINE WAKE, DANIELLE MORROW, APRIL RETZKE
MOTION by Klicko, second by Oberbeck to approve operator's license for Christine Wake, Danielle Morrow, April Retzke, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE
Reuter reported that the Village received a thank-you card recognizing Schultz's hard work removing brush throughout the community.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING, INCLUDING SELECTING THE MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS
After discussing the Village Hall setup for the following day's election, the Village Board agreed to hold its November meeting on Wednesday, November 4th, at the regular time. No additional agenda items were added.

THE BOARD MAY GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WIS. STAT. SECTION 19.85(1)(C) CONSIDERING EMPLOYMENT, PROMOTION, COMPENSATION OR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION DATA OF ANY PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OVER WHICH THE GOVERNMENTAL BODY HAS JURISDICTION OR EXERCISES RESPONSIBILITY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
MOTION by Klicko, second by Sindelar to go into closed session after a roll call vote, motion carried at 6:19 p.m.

THE BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ENTER INTO OPEN SESSION AUTHORIZED BY WIS. STAT. SECTION 19.85(2) TO POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION FROM THE CLOSED SESSION AND CONTINUE WITH THE AGENDA.
MOTION by Sindelar, second by Klicko to follow the recommendation of the Personnel Committee in the sequence they listed, motion carried.

Being of no further business to come before the board, **MOTION** by Klicko, second by Sindelar to adjourn, motion carried. Meeting ended at 6:35.

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Rebecca Reuter
Village Clerk