

VILLAGE OF WHITING

PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Village of Whiting Municipal Center
3600 Water Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481
Tuesday, August 25, 2026 - 6:00 PM

1. Roll Call

Chair Mike Kaczmarek called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: Mike Kaczmarek, Troy Hojnacki, Ben Lasecki, Sarah Brillowski

Absent: Dan Farley

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approval of July 28, 2026, Public Works and Parks Committee Minutes

Motion by Ben Lasecki, second by Troy Hojnacki, to approve the July 28, 2026 Public Works and Parks Committee minutes. Mike Kaczmarek abstained due to not being present at the July 28 meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of those voting.

4. Sherman Avenue Reconstruction Project

The committee reviewed the proposed Sherman Avenue Reconstruction Project and updated project costs. The estimated project budget increased from approximately \$289,000 to \$305,000. The increase was attributed primarily to adjusted quantities, contingency amounts, and the addition of approximately \$6,700 in base aggregate for sidewalks.

Approximately \$5,000 of the project is associated with the Green Circle Trail and will be reimbursed to the Village.

Motion by Sarah Brillowski, second by Ben Lasecki, to delay the Sherman Avenue Reconstruction Project until 2027 and forward the project to the Finance Committee for inclusion in the 2027 budget. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

5. 2027 Equipment Purchases

The committee discussed the replacement of two Village mowers, including a 56-inch zero-turn mower and a larger utility mower. The larger mower is currently being serviced at Riesterer & Schnell for a sensor-related issue, with approximately \$1,600 in repairs incurred thus far.

Quotes were reviewed for replacement equipment consisting of a 60-inch zero-turn mower and a 72-inch utility tractor/mower. Pricing from Bobcat, Toro, and John Deere ranged from approximately \$54,066 to \$56,410.

The John Deere trade-in estimate for the existing equipment was approximately \$8,000 combined. The existing zero-turn mower was valued at approximately \$3,000 due in part to its prior fire history.

The committee noted that approximately \$50,000 is currently available in the equipment replacement fund and discussed purchasing the equipment during the current budget year.

Motion by Ben Lasecki, second by Mike Kaczmarek, to recommend Village Board approval of the purchase of a John Deere 60" Z955R and John Deere 72"1570TC from Riesterer & Schnell. Jake and Staff will determine whether disposal of the existing equipment through trade-in or auction provides the best value to the Village. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

6. Moratorium on Possible Data Centers

The committee discussed whether the Village should consider a temporary moratorium on data center development while additional study is conducted.

Current Village zoning ordinances do not specifically identify data centers within the Village's commercial or industrial districts. The committee discussed the possibility of future development requests and approximately 25 acres of industrially zoned property near the mill that could potentially be sold for development.

Discussion included the Village's proximity to the Wisconsin River and WPS transmission infrastructure along Tommys Turnpike, as well as potential concerns regarding noise, water usage, electrical demand, and ownership/development structures.

The committee discussed the need for additional information before determining how data centers should be addressed through Village zoning and land-use regulations. The Wisconsin League of Municipalities was suggested as a potential resource for guidance. A committee member also contacted a water specialist seeking information regarding potential water impacts associated with data center development.

Motion by Sarah Brillowski, second by Troy Hojnacki, to forward the question of a data center moratorium to the full Village Board for discussion and possible action, including consideration of an appropriate timeline and obtaining additional expert guidance. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.