

VALDERS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2025

Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call; the regular monthly meeting of the Valders Village Board was called to order by President Schneider at 7:00PM at the Valders Village Office, 207 S. Liberty Street. Trustees present: Paul Baroun, Marcus Bartelme, Dan Sabel, Devan Schneider.

MEETING CONVENED &
ROLL CALL

Motion by Baroun, second by Sabel to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Public input. Resident Allen Wagner of 618 Melody Lane stated he is present to answer any questions the board may have regarding request for permission to utilize a golf cart in the Village due to his disability. He explained it is battery operated, quiet and has brake/tail lights and he would not cross USH 151. He can't get into a UTV, which is allowed in the Village. Resident John Regan of 506 Washington Street, expressed a wheel tax on the surface sounds fantastic, but 500 cars at \$25 is \$12,500 a year; you wouldn't be able to do one road block until 2066, if funds were put in a locked account and the Village didn't touch it. In the Village it is not our vehicles doing damage some of our streets, but it comes from the large overweighted trucks from outside our Village. We need to put weight limits or no thru trucks on our streets. This tax would not be for roads it isn't feasible. How are you going to administer it; the office employee already works overtime. Regan further stated we are already taxed by the Federal, State and County governments to fix the roads, we pay gas tax to fix the roads, now a fifth tax it sounds fishy. To say that it would be used to fix the roads is a lie and not feasible. You are already talking about taking money out of the Street Fund to start TID #3. You are going to put this money in the general fund and use it for something else not streets, you have done it before. Dan Zachek of 429 Berge Street inquired how it would be if you have two vehicles and about grants available for roads. Schneider stated it would be per vehicle registered and last year we received \$23,000 road aid from the State, the taxes aforementioned by Regan are mostly utilized for Federal, State and County roads, not local roads. We have applied for other available road grants but to be awarded funds is difficult because of the number of municipality applicants. Schneider explained the DOT shows over 1,200 vehicles for Valders, and the State administers and collects the money through vehicle registrations paid and they send the Village the funds after deduction of minimal processing fee per registration. This proposed wheel tax amount has not been set. All of the items just commented on are on the agenda for further discussion and motions by the Board tonight. Bartelme stated the board is looking for alternatives to help aid in road repair construction costs and to borrow less. Motion by Bartelme, second by Sabel to close public input. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Motion by Baroun, second by Sabel to approve minutes from 4/14/25 as presented by Clerk/Treasurer Bruckner. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVED

Motion by Sabel, second by Bartelme to approve the April Treasurer's reports as presented by Bruckner for all department funds. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORTS
APPROVED

Motion by Baroun, second by Bartelme to approve April Village, Fire & EMS vouchers; payroll direct deposits #1663 - #1697; checks #22339 - #22404 & electronic payments totaling \$186,674.15 as presented by Bruckner. Motion carried.

VILLAGE VOUCHERS
APPROVED

Motion by Sabel, second by Baroun to approve April Utility vouchers; checks #9088 - #9096 and transfers totaling \$67,821.02 and check #1085 for \$6,300 as presented by Bruckner. Motion carried.

UTILITY VOUCHERS
APPROVED

The board reviewed information and a preliminary quote received from VC3 the League of Wisconsin Municipalities recommended vendor to assist the Village in Cyber Security and IT Services and to apply for the grant available from the State of Wisconsin for State and Local Cyber Security Project Costs, submittal deadline is May 30, 2025. Dallas, Shillcox, Sabel and Bruckner remotely met with VC3 to discuss the preliminary scope of services of the Village multi departmental computer and technology system needs. Schnieder, Sabel and Baroun stressed the need to utilize additional newer methods of protecting our records and data for all village departments is a priority. Schneider, Sabel, and Baroun gave examples of systems where they are or were employed which the Village does not have in place. This is a necessity due to the ever-increasing bad actor ransom attacks. We have minimal protections currently in place, but are likely inadequate to protect our data systems and information. Bruckner expressed it is a costly venture that is not budgeted, which will be an annual expense for all budgets from this point forward, but it would be split between all departments equitably based on the various components and services and these areas will be overbudget in 2025. Schneider stated the Village must also transfer over to .gov emails for employees and trustees for official business, it is state required by the end of 2026. The estimated grant award is not as much as we had hoped at \$300 a month out of a \$1,300 monthly service fee for only two years, but does help offset the necessary ongoing expense. There is also an initial onboarding fee of \$2,000. Motion by Baroun, second by Sabel, to contract with VC3 for all of these services and to submit the grant application on behalf of the Village. Motion carried. This contract does not include specific software needs or future hardware upgrades and purchases.

APPROVED TO
CONTRACT WITH VC3
FOR SECURITY AND IT
SERVICES & TO APPLY
FOR STATE AND LOCAL
CYBER SECURITY
GRANT

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Resident John Regan continued to interject comments throughout the meeting even though the public input was closed, which is not normal practice at a public meeting.

The board reviewed the written request to allow use of a golf cart by residents Allen & Tracy Wagner of 618 Melody Lane, due to disability. This was allowed for residents David & Kathy Sell of 614 Melody Lane a few years ago, due to disability as well; to visit neighbors, enjoy the weather and go to the recycle center. Golf carts are not registered vehicles with the DNR like an ATV/UTV, which are allowed to drive on the streets in the Village anywhere with a 35MPH speed limit or lower. This was allowed as a special exception only to be utilized on the West side of US 151; no cross overs, driven traffic directionally on the farthest side of the street in the parking lane whenever possible. After discussion by the trustees, motion by Baroun, second by Sabel to approve the request for golf cart usage for the Wagner's due to disability. Motion carried.

APPROVED GOLF CART
USAGE FOR RESIDENT
618 MELODY DUE TO
DISABILTIY WITH
USAGE RESTRICTIONS

Board reviewed April patrol report from the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department.

MCSD PATROL REPORT

Bartelme, in the absence of Fire Chief/EMS Director Christopher Dallas, whom had to leave to go on a call just prior to the start of the meeting reviewed the April Fire & EMS report prepared Dallas. There were 39 Fire & EMS calls for service in April. Dallas again reported there is no guarantee of any firefighters available to respond due to volunteer work schedules. No one has applied for open full time Paramedic position which had required education/licenses. One part time Paramedic resigned, but a new part time Paramedic applied, and started April 25th. It is imperative to hire another Medic. There are 192 hours of unscheduled time of a month which needs to be filled due to the vacant position. Updated the various equipment purchases over the past month for Fire & EMS which were budgeted or grant funds were utilized. Ambulance #7 needs the cracked-up pipe fixed, which will be repaired when Ambulance #8 is back in service after its repairs are completed.

MONTHLY FIRE AND
EMS REPORTS

Shillcox reviewed the April Public Works report with the board. Annual sidewalk and tree trimming inspections have been completed and notices were sent to property owners. Snow removal equipment has been put away and staff have begun grass cutting. All park facilities restrooms are now open. Contractor for Urban Forestry Grant project started work on removal of the large trees today. On April 10th there was a water main break at the intersection of Roosevelt & Melody Lane. The excavated street area will be patched after it settles and the paving contractor is able to get us in their schedule this summer. The Valders Public Utility PSC Water Report for 2024 was submitted by our auditor. The full report is available upon request at the Village Office or on the PSC website upon their upload of it. Staff has begun exercising all water valves this is completed bi-annually. On April 15th Shillcox and Sabel met with Nordic Lands Mobile Home Park owners to discuss the issues found after sewer main lines and laterals were televised to review the reports for the repairs needed by the end of September at their expense. The triennial laboratory audit was completed by the DNR with no major deficiencies, and the utilities passed the annual proficiency tests from the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

DPW PUBLIC WORKS
MONTHLY REPORT

The board reviewed a proposal to the existing contract with Verizon for the modification of their existing equipment on the water tower to amend the lease as follows: effective 7/1/2026-6/30/2031 an increase of \$325 per month-\$3,600 annually, from \$1,525 to \$1,825 per month from the current lease agreement amount for the same period. The contract carries 5-year term renewals with a 4% increase thereafter, but which is not a guaranteed renewal. Moton by Bartelme, second by Baroun, to approve the proposal by Verizon as presented, and authorized Schnieder to sign the amended lease documents when received from Verizon. Motion carried.

VERIZON EQUIPMENT
LEASE AMENDMENT
APPROVED

The board reviewed notification received from the Town of Liberty that Class B weight limit restrictions were imposed 4/14/25 on Marken Road which intersects with West Washington Street toward the western limits of the Village. This action has significantly increased heavy truck traffic from the three agricultural industries located in the Town of Cato just to the east of this intersection on Marken Road to utilize West Washington Street into and out of the western limits of the Village of Valders. The eastern part of Washington Street was just reconstructed in 2023, and the most western section of this street is in a deteriorating condition and this heavy truck use will cause the need to replace it much sooner. State US Hwy 151, County Road "J" mandated projects and other local street project plans take significant precedence prior to this future street section replacement. After further discussion by the board, motion by Baroun, second by Bartelme to impose Class B weight limit restrictions on West Washington Street from USH 151 to the west Village boundary limits on West Washington Street. Motion carried. A notification letter will be emailed to those affected by this change and signage to be installed by public works by 5/19/2025.

CLASS B WEIGHT
LIMITS IMPOSED ON
WEST WASHINGTON
STREET

Motion by Schneider, second by Sabel to adopt Resolution 2025-3 Required Rebuild/Repair of Sidewalks, which If not completed by August 30, 2025, shall be completed by Village and a special assessment on parcel tax bills. Motion carried.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION
2024-6 REPAIR OF
SIDEWALKS

The board discussed with Shillcox an alternative relating to refuse disposal procedures in the Village, to possibly implement a refuse drop-off site utilizing a 20-yard dumpster rather than curbside collection, with additional hours at recycle center.

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Residents already go there on a regular basis to dispose of recyclable items. This would save on staff hours for curbside pickup and trips to the land fill or garbage truck replacement or an imminent major repair to the garbage truck compactor. Businesses with dumpsters would still have to have dumpster to be taken into consideration in the total equation. This cost would need to be added as an alternative option on the Request for Proposal (RFP) to privatize refuse pick up. Shillcox feels all options need to be explored to choose the best financial, staffing and equipment need decisions for our future Village refuse collection procedures. Motion by Schneider, second by Bartelme, to add idea as additional service options to the RFP for the possible privatization of curbside refuse collection to be opened at the June meeting and to be reviewed if eligible to apply for an Innovation Grant in July. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS
TO BE ADDED TO RFP
PERTAINING TO
FUTURE REFUSE
COLLECTION
PRACTICES

Motion by Sabel, second by Bartelme to approve a 6-Month Class “B Beer” Fermented Malt Beverage License for The VASA League Inc.; Corey J. Kupsh, Agent, for the ball diamond shelters at the Valders Memorial Park for the period of 5/13/25-11/13/25 ball season or other events by the organization. Motion carried.

APPROVED CLASS B
BEER LICENSE FOR THE
VASA LEAGUE INC

The board discussed at length the possible implementation of a Village of Valders Wheel Tax collected through vehicle registrations by the State Department of Transportation. In our area Chilton and Manitowoc have recently implemented it. Again, as explained at the April meeting if implemented the funds collected can only be utilized for road repair or construction. The Village sets the tax amount to be added to each eligible vehicle registration annually. Others whom have implemented the tax; range from \$10-\$40. The state keeps a small fee of each registration for collection of the money, about 18 cents each. According to the DOT website there is approximately 1,275 registrations for Valders, so if the rate would be \$20 each that would be an additional \$25,000 for street repairs, annually. Many of our streets are in a deteriorated state, but other than borrowing, to save for many years just to be able to pave a block or two there is no way to fund the reconstruction/repave costs other than a passed referendum authorizing to add a large one-time amount of money to our tax levy or to borrow, which both then create a significant increase on property tax bills. The village also has set debt limits and we have six village entities which we borrow funds for overall for various equipment or infrastructure projects: Village, Water, Sewer, TID, Fire & EMS. Many years ago, the Village received close to \$70,000 annually in aid, but that has decreased over the years and in 2024 we received about \$23,000. To mill and repave one block in 2024 was \$59,600. There are some other road grants but it is difficult to be awarded funds due to the high number of applicants. Some residents may be upset after implemented, however to pay a smaller amount annually, rather than a huge jump on the Village’s share of the tax bills, seems smart in the long run, in an attempt to repair more of our streets on an ongoing basis. The board’s ultimate goal is to have better roads in our community and borrow less to do so. Motion by Baroun, second by Schneider to set an amount for the Wheel Tax to be added to vehicle registrations at \$20, and to implement it effective 1/1/2026. Motion carried. This motion is needed to start the process, the next step is to prepare the draft code ordinance, draft and adopt a resolution which puts the proposed code out for public inspection by posting an official notice prior to the actual code adoption and code publication. The State requires a minimum of 90-days notification prior to the onset of the Wheel Tax start date to be implemented.

APPROVED TO BEGIN
THE IMPLEMENTATION
PROCESS OF A WHEEL
TAX AT A RATE OF \$20
EFFECTIVE 1/1/2026

Scheider explained that he, Bruckner and Shillcox recently meet with Valders Eden Stone, Progress Lakeshore and Ehlers & Associates, to discuss the possible creation of another TID due to a planned industrial expansion at their facilities in Valders. If a TID is created a portion of water/sewer or street infrastructure improvements could be partially paid by TID Tax Increment in that mapped area boundary. The Village would have to pay for the start up costs to create a TID, which include professional services to do a Feasibility Analysis, Project Plan Development, Approval and State Submittal, an Attorney letter and maps for the plan created by an engineer. In total is estimated between \$23,000-\$25,000, dependent on mapping cost. There would be Plan Commission and Joint Review Board meetings as well. Jamie Zastrow of Progress Lakeshore explained this expansion creates more jobs which in turn benefits other businesses in the community as well. It is a commitment by Valders Eden Stone to continue to grow here rather than elsewhere. After further discussion on the process, motion by Schneider, second by Bartelme, to contract with Ehlers & Associates to assist the Village with the Creation of Tax Increment District #3. Motion carried. Motion by Bartelme, second by Sabel to approve to engage attorney and map services required for creation of Tax Increment District #3. Motion carried. Being that this TID also helps fund future street improvements in the TID District area, motion by Schneider, second by Sabel to utilize Street Replacement Funds for initial startup expenses to be reimbursed by the TID to the street fund overtime, to establish a new bank account at Bank First for TID #3, to create Accounting Fund 803 Chart of Accounts and budgets for TID #3 after created. Motion carried.

DISCUSSIONS AND
APPROVED VARIOUS
MOTIONS PERTAINING
TO THE CREATION OF
TID #3 DUE TO
POTENTIAL BUSINESS
AND INDUSTRIAL
EXPANSION

Motion by Schneider, second by Sabel, to adjourn meeting at 9:13PM. Motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,
VILLAGE OF VALDERS

Lori Bruckner
Village Clerk/Treasurer

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