

Village of Roberts
Village Board Meeting
June 8, 2026

The Village Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Kapaun.
The meeting was properly noticed.

Present: Mary Shemon, Scott Gerhardt, Jeff Vogt, Brian Tremblay, Katie Kaupan

Absent: Janelle Beal, Tim Johnson

Guest: Peter Tharp, Chuck Pizzi, Jerry Strobusch, Chris Holmes, Rand Waughtal, Kris Lubich, Terry Lubich, Josue Gonzales, Peter Curtin (call in; Ehlers), Josh Low (Ehlers),

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Village Board Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2026.
2. Approval of Special Village Board Meeting of May 26, 2026.
3. Approval of bills/checks written.
4. Approval of Picnic Licenses for Roberts Lion Club.
5. Acknowledgement of Treasurer's Report.
6. Acknowledgement of Education Request
7. Acknowledgement of the Police Departments Report.
8. Acknowledgement of Library Director's report.
9. Acknowledgement of the Clerks Report.
10. Acknowledgement of Library Board Minutes.
11. Acknowledgement of Park Board Meeting Minutes.
12. Acknowledgement of the Building Inspectors Report.

Agenda:

Discussion/approval of Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Tremblay, seconded by Shemon. Motion carried.

Discussion/possible action of any items pulled from the Consent Agenda needing further discussion.

None.

Communications:

- Legal Updates: Tharp vs Village of Roberts is on the schedule for 6/15/2026. Moved the Twin Lakes Litigation to New Business for questions.
- Update on Good Neighbor Days: Kapaun stated it went well and was thankful for everyone's due diligence. Thank you to everyone involved. Police Department and Public Works the village looked nice. Weather cooperated this year.
- Landscape Permits: Landscapers request to purchase a permit to allow them to dump debris at the village dumpsite. Kapaun says no because it was intended for residences only but, is open for discussion with the board.
- Misc.: Anonymous letter about Central St. Croix Rec. Organization using the public school for sporting events. They stated the organization is not affiliated with the school therefore, they should not be able to utilize the school facilities. The anonymous resident stated it is a liability for the school district, and they should be limited to using the public parks. They claimed there were over 50 vehicles parked on the street the residents of Roberts pay taxes on. The anonymous resident claimed this needs to stop. Kapaun stated this was something that should be communicated with the board to be open for discussion if need be. Kapaun also stated she will communicate this message with the school board and the Central St Croix Rec Organization.

Public Concerns:

- Peter Tharp asked what the status was on the sidewalks. At this time there is no start date

scheduled. The next step is a DOT Preliminary Review. The biggest concern is the lighted crosswalks. How much they cost (outright \$6,000 ea.) (through the project \$15,000-\$20,000 ea. because of prevailing wages)

- Scott Gerhardt asked whether the side by side was in use.
 - Chief Strohmusch stated the Police Department hasn't used it yet as they used the pickup trucks to block traffic for Good Neighbor Days parade. Dull stated clerks used it to show the new staff around the village. Show them where the parks, Post Office, Library, Bank, and the village limits were. Holmes stated that Public Works uses it for spraying parks, use a lot around WWTP it is a lot easier to maneuver a side by side around the plant than a regular size pickup to do daily tasks and maintenance. Use it a lot for Twin Lakes tasks such as monitoring water levels, taking pictures of lake levels. Public Works is working on getting a spray bar for it to be able to spray the ball fields again. A lot easier to use for small tasks rather than using a larger vehicle such as a pickup. Kapaun asked if Public Works is keeping track of miles/hours for maintenance purposes. Holmes confirmed.

Old Business

Discussion/action on Rolling Meadows fiber update/Albrightson Update

Gonzales gave an update that Albrightson was back out in May cleaning up and restoration. Cleaning up parking lot area where playground will be, putting in curb stops, hydro seeding disturbed soil. Debris clean up, paints lines. Advise residents to not dump there. Tremblay stated this is not recent dumping. Tremblay asked if the big boulder was still there. Kapaun asked if it was big enough, it could be an attractive landscape boulder for the entrance of the park. Tremblay described how large it was. Tremblay, Gerhardt, and Kapaun agreed to possibly use it for landscaping attractions.

New Business

Discussion and possible action on 2026 Water Rate Study Phase 1, presentation by Ehlers.

Peter Curtin discussed in detail Phase 1 outcomes of the 2026 Water Rate Study. Test the utilities financial condition. Over \$10,000,000 of utilities projects happening in 2027; new water tower, new well, and water main extension. Curtin presented how the village is going to make that happen financially. He showed this by breaking down the Rate Case Study through how much revenue the village should generate from user rates, and the impact on resident water bill (based on medium household income), comparing water rates in neighboring towns/villages in neighboring counties, and discussed where Public Fire Protection charge should be coming from (utilities or tax levy) in the future. The water rates have not been adjusted in 8 years for the Village of Roberts. Curtin states the village should move to phase 2 of the project which is the Water Rate Study. Ehlers will prepare a final rate case application based on the meeting tonight and present application result at the July meeting.

Projected Phase 1 Timeline

- If board approves to move forward to apply for the Conventional Rate Case Study, Ehlers will prepare the application with Dull throughout the next couple weeks.
- July 2026 meeting Ehlers will present the results of the application.
- PSC will audit past annual reports 2-3 months after application date
- Public Hearing 1-2 months after application
- Implementation of the new rates 1 month after public hearing

Kapaun went through the Impact of Water Bill in depth with Curtin. Curtin proposes the village increase the water rate in 2027 by 28.4% (\$4.10 per 1,000 gals), increase by 3% until 2031, then increase by 8.47% (\$5 per 1,000 gals) in 2032, and stay at \$5.00 per 1,000 gals the next 3 years. Kapaun asked if the PSC charges the municipality a fee for the rate study. Curtin confirmed but did not know at the time of the meeting what the fee was. Kapaun asked if the village does not do a Conventional Rate Case Study now, the village will have to start the process over again. Curtin stated there is a 5-year window from when application was submitted to when expenses are moved around.

Tremblay asked what the goal and purpose of the rate study was and why the village needs to raise the rates. Under his understanding, the village was breaking even or making “a little bit of money” at the current water rates. The rate study is to show the asset value of the village utility to the PSC. The PSC has legal authority to dictate utility services (water, electricity, etc.) to ensure rate payers are not getting overcharged for utility services. Tremblay asked if the Fire Protection charge was going to be charged per meter or per household. Curtin stated if a household is two meters, the primary used meter gets the fire protection charge and the other meter does not get the Fire Protection charge. Kapaun asks if the board is obligated to move the fire protection charge to utility bills right away in 2027 or if we can say we are going to do it at some point down the road within the 5-year window. Curtin stated it would make more sense to do it right away in 2027 to avoid filing for it a second time. To do it at the same time as applying for the CRSC, the village would avoid a second application, audit, and public hearing from the PSC. The board could hold off on implementing it for up to five years. If the board does not implement within those five years, we will have to reapply for another CRSC. Gerhardt asks if the fire protection charge was included in the calculations for the projected rate increases. Curtin stated the fire protection charge was not included in the projected rate increase. Josh Low asked what the timeline was and what else was needed from the board today, to meet the July 31st deadline to file the rate case. Curtin stated he only needs approval from the board to move forward to phase 2. Then come back together in July to review the application before submitting it at that time. Motion to go forward with study by Vogt, seconded by Gerhardt. Motion carried.

Presale Report Presentation by Josh Low – Ehlers.

Josh Low presented the finance plan to pay for the Water Systems project. He presented the step-by-step process on how Ehlers came up with the financial plan. He then went through interest rates, different financing plans, the growth of the village, and the cash flow of the different districts. Today is the formal approval to move forward with the plan. Future steps are to come up with ordinances to allow for the TID districts to pay for the debt in the future.

Discussion/action regarding Resolution 2026-02 – Initial Resolution of Village of Roberts, WI relating to the issuance of Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes in the amount not to exceed \$10,760,000.00

Now only needs to be \$10,710,000. Gonzales asks how this has gone down so much since the original estimate came out. Low stated there were negotiations and moving things around in the budget. Motion to approve Resolution 2026-02 – Initial Resolution relating to the issuance of Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes to not Exceed \$10,710,00 by Tremblay, seconded by Gerhardt. Motion Carried.

Acknowledgement of the Public Works Report.

Kapaun states there are lots of problems. Holmes states he got a bid today to get an air actuating valve here by June 22nd. Total cost is \$5,800 per valve. Holmes states he must constantly monitor the valves to ensure they are functioning properly. Holmes is looking to get permission to purchase one new valve currently. Vogt states if it's broke fix it. Kapaun and Gerhardt agree. Kapaun asked if the power outages have anything to do with the malfunctioning of the valves. Holmes stated that causes a completely different issue. What is happening is SCADA system is not talking to the other system, so valves are not functioning properly and letting solids into Clearas, they are pretty much running the system manually. Motion to acknowledge by Tremblay, seconded by Vogt. Motion carried.

Update on Twin Lakes litigation.

Kapaun stated trial occurred Monday June 1 through Wednesday June 3. John Bond brought forward a historical perspective to how the village came to be with the WWTP. Nothing on the DNR radar stating the flooding could have happened. The DNR is not concerned about the quantity of water discharged in the lake. The DNR did permit how much water the WWTP discharges into the lakes. Although, they are more concerned about the quality of the water being discharged into the lake. Kapaun testified, listing a few examples of activities the village has been engaged in to try to mitigate the amount of water into the lake. Such as doubling the size of the retention ponds, limiting the number of households to come online each year, vetting high water usage business, and putting in the development plans to discharge into the retention

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ponds for irrigation. Eric Thompson testified that the flooding was most likely caused by the heavy rains that occurred in the years leading up to the major flooding. Each side's attorneys will put together a brief summarizing the whole case, their position on the case and submit them to the judge by July 10th, 2026. Then the judge will decide. He didn't give a timeline. It will be an oral ruling or a written order that will be released to the attorneys to relay the message.

Discussion/action regarding Operator's License Renewals.

Motion to approve Janelle Beal's Operator's License renewal by Tremblay, seconded by Gerhardt. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding Extra Territorial approval for Glenridge Properties located on 67th Avenue, Roberts, a two-lot CSM for land located in the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 and in the SW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 31, T29N, R18W, Town of Warren, St. Croix County, Wisconsin; being Lot 4 of Certified Survey Map recorded in Volume 33, Page 7326, Document number 1173251.

Motion to approve the Extra Territorial for Glenridge Properties located on 67th Avenue by Tremblay, seconded by Gerhardt. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding Rolling Meadows Pay Application for Albrightson Excavating.

Motion to approve payment of Albrightson for \$18,527.41 by Vogt, seconded by Shemon. Motion carried.

Water System Updates.

Anticipate start of construction mid to late of summer 2027.

West Blvd Project Update.

No new updates currently.

Scada Radio Survey updates.

No new updates currently.

Discussion/action regarding lighted crosswalks.

Does the village want to pay \$6,000 each out of pocket or pay \$15,000-25,000 each to include it in the sidewalk project? The difference in the pricing is due to having to pay prevailing wages if it becomes part of the project. The DOT preliminary meeting is hopefully within the next couple of weeks to discuss what our options are. Motion to postpone this topic until after DOT review by Tremblay, seconded by Shemon. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding the Dog Park Pavilion Eagle Scout project by Jacob Koss.

Koss is looking to add a pavilion by the existing benches at the dog park. Chuck Pizzi states the diagram is not too scale. Said to start shortly as Koss is still raising funding. Motion to approve by Vogt, seconded by Shemon. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding Resolution 2026-03 regarding the Annual CMAR.

Report submitted to the DNR. Kapaun stated in Section 5.2.1, the explanation belongs in section 6.1. The village continues to struggle with the Phosphorus discharge into the lake. DNR issued noncompliance for phosphorous. Shemon asked if there was a possibility Flying J RV dumping site could be causing these high phosphorous levels. Kapaun states the report states it may be a potential cause but not 100% sure. Curtin was going to reach out to find out where these upsets are coming from. Motion to approve Resolution 2026-03 regarding the Annual CMAR with modification listed by Kapaun by Tremblay, seconded by Gerhardt. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding clarification on golf carts.

Kapaun reminded everyone of the last time this was brought up there was no change in the ordinance. Dull asked if the village should allow golf carts and leave the ordinance as is or implement an ordinance.

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Strohbusch stated based on the minutes last time this was brought up golf carts are allowed and is instructing Police Department staff if there are any complaints direct them to the board. Should they be registered? Tremblay stated they shouldn't require registration. Kapaun stated in the minutes they can operate golfcarts on the street. Strohbusch stated there needs to be an ordinance for the Police Department to enforce in the village. Tremblay brought up if e bikes and scooters are under the same rules as golf carts. Strohbusch stated there should be an age limit with the golf cart operators. He believes no one younger than 16 years old should be operating a golf cart on village streets. Tremblay states if ATVs, UTVs, and E bikes are allowed, golf carts should be allowed. Vogt states there should be SMV signs, and an age limit should be applied. Vogt asked if mobility scooters fall under this topic. Strohbusch said it is a completely different topic. Motion to move to July agenda by Vogt, seconded by Shemon. Motion carried.

Discussion/action about adding no parking (yellow paint to curb) on the corner of E. Maple and Park St from the Post Office towards the Boat Shop.

Chuck Pizzi stated that when there are people parked on the corner of Park St. and Maple St., it makes it a one lane road, and it is very hard to see around the corner when stopped at the stop sign. Discussed where no parking should be placed. On the boat side, from the corner of the fence to 4ft passed north of the stop sign on Park St. On the post office side, agree to post from the post office driveway around the corner to line up where the fence of the boat shop is. Motion to paint curb yellow and add no parking signs on the corner both sides of the road by Shemon, seconded by Kapaun. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding communication and letters sent by the Village with committee members' names on them.

Shemon doesn't mind that her name is on the letters, she just wants to know when they are going out. Dull stated the clerks can email her a list every time weed letters go out, it is an added step, or we can take her name off the letters. Shemon stated she still wanted her name on the letters and would like to be notified who got the letters and when they got sent out. Dull told her to plan on getting a list every week. Gerhardt stated he got a complaint about how the village should be better at maintaining their weeds if they are going to send out the weed letter religiously. Gerhardt also stated the village has the "best crop of dandelions" and the past public works director said Public Works can't spray the parks. Holmes stated Public Works can spray the parks, but they used personal equipment in the past, and the village put an end to that. If the village had the equipment Public Works could spray the parks. Gerhardt asked what the height to the weeds had to be to get a letter. Holmes started 8 inches. Dull clarified the weed letters went out for the purpose of cleaning the village up for Good Neighbor Days. Kapaun asked if people got the letters just for dandelions or if it was a non-mowing situation. Dull stated she just got a list from Public Works, so she is unsure. Kapaun feels people should not be getting a letter simply because dandelions are sticking up.

Items for future agendas.

- 90-day review of interim Public Works Director.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm by Gerhardt, seconded by Shemon. Motion carried.

Alexis Swanepoel
Water/Sewer Clerk

Megan Dull
Village Clerk