



VILLAGE OF SOLON SPRINGS BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Monday, March 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Solon Springs Community Center, 11523 S. Business Hwy. 53, Solon Springs, WI 54873

President: Ben Evans

Trustees: Jon Brostowitz, Ashley Nelson, Todd Gilbert and Carl Wahl

1. CALL TO ORDER

Village President Ben Evans called the Village Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Brostowitz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk called roll call with the following trustees present: Ben Evans, Carl Wahl, Todd Gilbert and Ashley Nelson via phone; absent/excused: Jon Brostowitz; Staff present: Clerk Kathy Burger and Treasurer Rebecca Nordskog and village operators Chad Spinner and Dean Magariner, village resident Beth Magomolla, Craig Krenz and Dave Krenz for Jackpine Riders Snowmobile & ATV Club, Peter Hopke, Superintendent from Solon Springs School, Bethany Kois and Brandan Burger regarding Connect Communities Program.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Gilbert second by Wahl to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Craig Krenz addressed the board for input on Business 53 improvement project for groomed a snowmobile route along Business 53 near the four-way stop to reduce safety issues and keep sleds off railroad property. Evans spoke on the ideas he has shared with the county and will continue advocating with county and engineers for designated snowmobile corridor through the village.

Bethany Kois spoke on exploration of economic development support via Wisconsin's Connect Communities program. Program benefits include mentors, skills training, connecting individuals and businesses with state leaders to advance projects. Requested engagement with the economic development commission to ask general questions. Clerk will send contact information.

Peter Hopke was in attendance to discuss the school district facilities and referendum consideration due to aging buildings and space needs (off-site daycare; weight/fitness room occupying a classroom). There are rising expenses in salaries/benefits and decreased state funding increased local tax burden.

Legislature exploring a tax relief package affecting school funding; timing uncertain; declining enrollment trends affect finances.

Village resident Beth Magomolla requests public access to the village emergency plan and the possibility of a Q&A meeting. In 2019, updates were promised; access remained unclear and restricted to authorized personnel. Concerns raised about tornado shelters (Lutheran and the Catholic churches) and inconsistent communication. Village hall siren silenced. Magomolla submitted an EMP plan proposal for the record. Evans acknowledged the need to revisit emergency preparedness and welcomed the submitted plan for review.

6. CONSENT AGENDA - *there will be no separate action on these items unless a board member utilizes a vote. All licenses are contingent upon meeting village code and board approval.*

Motion by Wahl second by Gilbert to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

6.1 Approval of minutes for the regular monthly meetings 2/23/26.

6.2 Treasurers report for February – profit and loss and reconciliation detail

6.3 Approval for payments for general & sewer fund checking on expenditure report: 3/23/26

6.4 Approval of zoning permit applications: none

6.5 Approval of licenses:

- Operator licensed issued: none
- Consideration & approval of published liquor license applications: none
- Consideration & approval of Class “B”/Picnic license applications: none
- Consideration & approval of cigarette license: none

7. Old Business

7.1 Douglas County Land & Water Conservation – Cameron Bertsch

Bertsch outlined a follow-up to last year’s school infiltration project to address continued erosion from Lake Avenue down to the school with the removal of asphalt near school, installation of sand-based pollinator garden with native plants, grading to mitigate erosion and potential stair installation. Funding for \$8,000 grant received from Douglas County Environmental Reserve Fund; 50% available upfront, 50% reimbursed upon completion; village would need to pay contractors/materials upfront and seek reimbursement. Will be looking for volunteers and students to help design as well as of village loader and town dump truck; signage and barrier (e.g., road closed). Motion by Wahl second by Gilbert to approve moving forward with the project with an \$8,000 cap corresponding to the grant amount. Village to provide manpower and equipment and any overages to be revisited by the board. Motion carried.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Ballfield damages

Evans said claims assessor reviewed the new damage at the ballfield today and demolition can proceed. Multiple individuals inquired about handling demolition and one person offered to take materials if allowed. Attorney has been asked whether a private individual can dismantle and take materials without creating liability for the village and response is pending. Can then begin bid process for a replacement structure of the same size and design. Posts may be placed outside existing concrete slightly increasing width but not changing design.

8.2 April 7th election

Evans reminded the board of the upcoming spring election April 7th.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 **Administrative Committee** – no updates

9.2 **Buildings and Grounds** – Magariner said winter operations mostly complete. Trucks and

loader in good shape and lawnmower has been serviced.

Evans discussed County-led Business 53 corridor project will reduce lanes, add sidewalks, and pursue railroad quiet zone alignment, with the village primarily responsible for sidewalk costs. Scope and intentions of the county's Business 53 project:

- Work extends from the north-end on-ramp onto the highway to the south-end off-ramp off Main 53.
- South of Jack Pine: minimal rework; road dimensions unchanged past Jack Pine.
- From Jack Pine to Prevost the road will shrink to two lanes.
- Proposed installation of an 8- or 10-foot sidewalk from A to Jack Pine.
- Northbound configuration and crossing changes:
 - Transition to two lanes northbound up to the highway.
 - A (or Double A) and Business 53 crossing will be reworked to function more like a county road.
- Division of responsibilities and costs:
 - County to perform most work, including storm sewer, curb, and gutter.
 - Village's largest anticipated cost exposure is sidewalks.

9.3 **Public Works/Sanitary Sewer** –Magariner spoke on lift station 3 pumps from 1975 that are aging with limited backups. The current workaround would require retrofitting and rewiring. Quote received to replace both pumps with compatible units. One VFD already replaced and a potential additional \$1,300 VFD change if needed; estimated total \$36,000–\$37,000; quote received March 17, expires March 31. Lead times and price increases are concerns. Evans requested to obtain a quote for lift station 1 to understand future costs as well as extend the quote date beyond March 31.

9.4 **Fire Commission** – Wahl said the commission is researching funding exploration for a new fire hall as current fire hall is aging. Exploring grant options and other ideas. Bylaws are being revised due to conflicts between village and town ordinances and the commission seeks alignment. Fire inspections have begun via an external firm called First Strike. Letters were sent to local businesses. No reported inspections completed yet.

9.5 **Community Center Commission** – no updates.

9.6 **Airport Commission** – Evans reported an airplane over-braked and slid off the runway and then flipped. Pilot was not injured. Lake City turned it upright and it was later dismantled and hauled away.

9.7 **Planning Commission** – no updates

9.8 **Development Commission** – Evans said the commission met recently and funds were allocated to the snowmobile club due to its role in maintaining trails that drive tourism to the area. Additional funds were allocated to the historical museum.

9.9 **Recycling Commission** – Krenz, chair of the recycling commission in attendance said safety and facility improvements have been completed with plans for continued upgrades. Recent improvements include: Demolition ramp and on-site enhancements for safer operations and easier roll-off loading via poured concrete pad. New garage door openers, high-bay LED lighting, and a new security camera system. Septic system fixed to prevent winter freeze-ups. Future plans under discussion: Replace entrance doors and apply fresh paint. Continue asphalt improvements.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Wahl, second by Gilbert to adjourn this Village Board Meeting. Motion carried.

This Village Board Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

Kathy Burger, Village Clerk

