

Village of Balsam Lake  
Regular Meeting of Trustees

Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

Meeting called to order by President Gary Johnson at 6:00p.m.

Members present on roll call: Gary Johnson, Corby Stark, Eric Jorgensen, Brian Nelson, Len Manning, Jamey Flaherty, Kellie Flaherty.

Others present: Jason Larson, Gretchen Bloss, Paul Mahler, James Duncan Jr. Chris Sondrol, Seth Ilgen, Curtis Nelson, Ben Campbell, Bruce Halverson, Quinn Johnson, Bryan Tahtinen, Zach Zelinski, Jessee Mattocks, Linda Heimstead.

To consider and possibly act to approve the March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, Regular Board meeting agenda. **Motion by Corby Stark to approve the March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, Regular Board meeting agenda. Second by Jamey Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried.**

To consider and possibly act to approve the February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes. **Motion by Len Manning to approve the February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried.**

Police Chief Report was given by Chief Jorgensen.

Library Director Report was given by Linda Heimstead.

Discussion and possible action regarding resignation of Zoning Administrator, Ben Campbell. Ben Campbell was in attendance and noted he is tendering he resignation as Zoning Administrator with the Village of Balsam Lake effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. It was noted he would still like to remain the building inspector. No action taken.

Discussion and possible action regarding Public Comment Policy. Wisconsin State Statute 19.85 states that open meeting law does not require a governmental body to allow members of the public to speak or actively participate in meetings. The law only grants citizens the right to attend and observe meetings. Attorney Paul Mahler was in attendance. It was noted that the Village should define a policy. The Village has the authority to have public comments on the agenda or not at all. If the Village allows public comments, they are to be addressed to the Board, and the Board should not comment on the public comment during the meeting. It was noted by Attorney Paul Maher that public comments are usually germane/ relevant to the agenda. It was also noted by Paul Mahler that an individual who wishes to speak under public comments shall not comment on reports, for example a member of the public cannot speak on behalf of the Library Director. **Motion by Brian Nelson to allow for public comments as time permits deemed by the Village President, Public Comments shall be germane to the agenda and public comments shall be no longer than two minutes per person and not more than fifteen minutes in total. Second by Len Manning. All in Favor. Carried.**

To consider and possibly act to hire Cedar Corporation for ongoing file and loan management for closed CBDG revolving loan fund program. **Motion by Corby Stark to hire Cedar Corporation for ongoing file and loan management for closed CBDG revolving loan fund program. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried.**

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Discussion and possible action regarding amending Special Development Standards, Zoning Code 300-28(A)(1) and (2). Standards for other specific uses. Five Flags Campground, Bruce Halvorson. It was noted by the Attorney, it would be helpful for Board review if the developer would submit more detailed plans of the proposed development, illustrating green space. It was also noted that campground rules, terms or conditions would should be provided to the respective board to review. Paul Mahler noted, it would be beneficial if setback requirements were reviewed for such project. It was noted by the developer that they have contacted the DOT for the Highway 46 permit and driveway for the property. No action taken, but it was noted the Village Board would like the Planning Commission to review the ordinances relating to said project.

Discussion and possible action regarding use of Police Meeting Room, Polk County Beekeepers. **Motion by Corby Stark to approve the Polk County Beekeepers use of the Police Meeting Room on the third Thursday of each month starting at 6:00 p.m. Second by Eric Jorgensen. All in Favor. Carried.**

Discussion and possible action regarding snowshoe race donations for Pine Park & White Pine Tree Project, James Duncan Jr. & Chris Sondrol. Chris Sondrol was in attendance. He noted that this year the snow shoe race with donations brought in \$1,000.00. It was noted this money has been given to the Village of Balsam Lake and set aside to expand electricity to more campsites. It was also noted that there is approximately \$1,500.00 in donations set aside for white pine trees. Chris Sondrol stated that this year the cost for a 4' white pine tree is \$90.00. James Duncan Jr. was in attendance. He noted that the white pine tree program started around 2010 and since that time, the Village has been able to plant 81 new trees within Pine Park. James Dunca Jr. also stated that in early 2000, there were over 300 trees that were removed due to storms. **Motion by Len Manning to approve purchasing 20 trees from Pro-Lawn that are at approximately 4' in height. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried.** No motion was made, but the Board agreed that the annual white pine tree planting date shall be April 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00 p.m.

Discussion and possible action regarding pay application #18 from Staab Construction Corporation. **Motion by Brian Nelson to approve pay application #18 from Staab Construction Corporation for \$17,740.00. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. On Roll Call: Corby Stark, yes; Eric Jorgensen, yes; Brian Nelson, yes; Len Manning, yes; Jamey Flaherty, yes; Kellie Flaherty, yes; Gary Johnson, yes. Carried.**

Parks Committee Report was given by Kellie Flaherty.

Discussion regarding bench donation, Scott & Tristan Divine. David Patterson, DPW stated he spoke with Scott & Tristan Divine regarding the bench donation. He stated he had no issues with the bench materials or location and stated he would work with the Divine family to place the donated bench in Pine Park. No action was taken.

Finance Committee Report was given by Gary Johnson.

To consider and possibly act to approve the February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Treasurers Report. **Motion by Len Manning to approve the February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Treasurers Report. Second by Corby Stark. All in Favor. Carried.**

**Motion by Len Manning to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85 exemptions (1) (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Discussion and possible action regarding Old County Highway Property, Parcel 106-00240-0200,**

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**Balsam Lake Hotel, LLC. & Discussion and possible action regarding Parcel 106-00598-0000, JP Mahl Development LLC & Parcel 106-00598-0001 Village Outlot. And to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85 exemptions (1) (g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. Discussion and possible action regarding Citizen Complaints. Second by Corby Stark. All in Favor. Carried.**

To consider and possibly act to go into open session. Motion by Kellie Flaherty to go into open session. Second by Eric Jorgensen. All in Favor. Carried.

Possible action on any closed session items. **Motion by Kellie Flaherty to not move forward on amending the current developer's agreement for the Old County Highway Property, Parcel 106-00240-0200. Second by Eric Jorgensen. All in Favor. Carried. Jamey Flaherty abstained.**

No statement from closed session was made.

Building Permit Log Report was reviewed.

No committee meetings were set for March 2026.

Announcements: BOR is set for Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. It was noted that Kellie Flaherty, Jamey Flaherty and Eric Jorgensen would be members of the BOR Board and Eric Jorgensen would complete the annually required training for this year.

**Motion by Lenn Manning to adjourn the meeting. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried. 8:24 p.m.**

Amy Wilson, Clerk Treasurer  
Ann Ball, Deputy Clerk Treasure