

**PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES (PWUC) COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 8th, 2025 5:30 pm, Parkview Room**

1. Roll call.

Meeting was called to order at 5:39 pm by Mr. Schindler

Present: Mr. Schindler, Mr. Koleski, Mr. Eull, Ms. Schneider, Mr. Zwirlein, Mr. Harley and Mr. Olson (via Zoom)

Absent: Mr. Harley and Mr. Olson

Also Present: Mr. Harrigan via Zoom & Mr. Paul, Mr. Andy Petersen from Ruckert-Mielke

2: Review and act on minutes from October 13th 2025 Meeting

Mr. Zwirlein moved and Mr. Eull seconded to approve the October 30th, 2025 minutes with minor edits. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Zwirlein moved and Ms. Schneider seconded to approve the November 10th, 2025 minutes with minor edits. Motion carried 7-0.

3: Review and possible action on Master Services Agreement with Ruckert-Mielke for professional engineering services

Mr. Andy Petersen of Ruckert-Mielke walked the committee through the details of the edits of the MSA. Mr. Harrigan noted that the Village Attorney is comfortable moving forward with the agreement as recently amended.

Mr. Koleski clarified with Mr. Petersen the issue of interest in any disputed invoices, whether there was a more definitive mediation process and wanted to understand what rate schedule he was classified as.

Mr. Harrigan believed there was a definition on the mediation process. Other points of clarification and discussion related to percentage of mark up of sub contracted services which the committee agreed was reasonable at 10%, but the Village would have an option to sub contract directly if needed to reduce costs should there be a need.

The committee also reviewed the task Order regarding utilizing Andy Petersen as Village Engineer. Mr. Petersen noted that though this was comprehensive of a majority of the services that Ruckert-Mielke has engaged with the Village, should there be any larger projects that would be more involved or uncommon, a separate task order could be created.

It was identified that Mr. Petersen was an Engineer 6 in the rate schedule and that any tasks that could be handed off to other staff at lower rates would be considered whenever feasible as is the current practice.

Mr. Koleski moved to recommend approval of the MSA and Task Order identifying Mr. Petersen as the Village Engineer. Mr. Olson seconded. Motion carried. 7-0

4. Update on Underwood Creek Daylighting Project

Mr. Harrigan informed the committee that he had received the following information regarding the status of the tasks to move the Daylighting Project towards the goal of bidding on January 6th, 2026.

Rich Klein of Stantec provided the following update as to what he is working on currently:

The main changes to the physical features of the project consist of:

- Wall Street culvert (redesigned from arch to box culverts)
- East retaining wall near Watertown Plank Road (reduced length of wall)

- Channel banks (modified bank geometry to reduce quantity of quarry stone revetment)
Also modifying the specifications to provide greater Contractor flexibility regarding construction timeframe. We're still working out specific language for that modification. Proposed text will be provided to the Village for review next week.

5: Update on plantings in the ROW at 14161 Juneau Blvd

Mr. Paul informed the committee that the resident at 14161 Juneau Blvd whom planted arborvitae in the ROW and was required to relocate them back in the private property after being denied a ROW Indemnification Agreement has requested to resubmit to the committee with identification of a hardship. Due to the denial of the ROW Indemnification Agreement by the committee back in February of 2025, and after consulting with the Village Attorney, the resident's next option is to appeal to the Board of Trustees. The resident is looking to provide such appeal in the early part of 2026.

Committee members felt that it was a concluded issue as it was thoroughly discussed back in February and it was an action that was preventable considering the homeowner and contractor were made aware of the issue and not to plant therein advance of their work.

6. Update on 2026 Pathways and Public Information Meeting on 12/10/25

Mr. Harrigan reminded the committee that the Public Information Meeting for the 2026 Pathway Project (Highland Dr – Gebhardt Rd to Watertown Plank Rd) will be taking place on Wednesday, December 10th, 2025.

Committee members felt the presentation materials were well put together and discussed the opportunity for committee members to attend the meeting on Wednesday night at 5:30 pm

7: Discussion and possible action on matching the path grade with existing concrete driveway to avoid removing any concrete driveway that is currently existing.

Mr. Schindler pointed out to the committee that there were approximately 4 driveways south and 4 driveways north of Juneau Blvd along where the pathway is slated to be installed and wanted the committee to discuss what direction the committee may want to go in regards to allowing residents to keep the driveway in place and have the asphalt pathway butt up against it if the cross slopes and ADA requirements could be met, or to continue with the current process where driveway approaches and pathway would all be reinstalled with new asphalt.

The purpose of discussion is to see if there could be a benefit of cost savings by not replacing any decent existing concrete, and also allow for any concrete that is existing to stay to benefit the resident if the concrete was in decent condition. Challenges to the concept included matching proper cross sloping and match points for the new pathway, as well as how maintenance of that section would be handled in the future by the DPW, taking into consideration the process of replacing concrete vs. asphalt as is the current repair methods used.

Mr., Harrigan thought it was helpful to consider the overall user experience and how that may play into the idea of moving away from a complete asphalt pathway with intermittent concrete sections.

Mr. Eull felt that overall project utilizing continuous asphalt rides nicely as well as provides a cohesive aesthetic as the recent pathways have proved.

Mr. Koleski felt that if a resident felt strongly about their concrete being removed, and if the committee was to go down this road, they would have to prove a hardship.

Mr. Zwirlein recommended we request an opinion from Travis Brush of KL Engineering who is designing the pathway.

The committee can then reconvene and further discuss the topic at the next Public Works Meeting in January.

8: Discussion and possible action on a potential program for native plantings and assisting/partnering for shrubs/trees with affected landowners along the Highland Pathway

Mr. Schindler engaged the committee in a discussion on a potential program for native plantings to be allowed in the ROW, along with assistance/partnership in adding shrubs/trees for affected landowners along the Highland Pathway. The committee discussed the impact and whether or not a new ordinance would be required or a modification of the existing ordinance would be required should this discussion progress based upon whether or not there was any conflict with ordinance 2021-5 which better defined what can and cannot be permitted within the ROW, and at what setback, with a ROW Indemnification Agreement.

The overall idea is to work with homeowners adjacent to and impacted by a large Public Works project to assist with further restoration in the ROW beyond just turf grass and try to incorporate native plantings and perhaps stormwater plantings vs the typical method.

The committee has some split opinions on whether or not to proceed with such activity as there were reasons in 2021 to establish a more defined and encompassing ordinance that directly addressed items in the ROW (especially with the need to keep the first 20' from the road edge clear) relative to conflicts with utilities, repair and maintenance of such, stormwater conveyance and impacts to street paving and snow storage etc. Mr. Olson also noted it would have to be consistent and easily conveyed should it have to involve anything with Building Board approvals, etc.

Mr. Koleski felt it was important that any further discussion include Village Staff to understand the requirements of current staffing and gain their input to understand enforcement concerns.

The committee felt this could be revisited but at this time it was too preliminary.

9. Update on Public Works Projects

Mr. Paul also informed the committee that the main focus right now for the DPW has been snow removal and tree removal. The large storm even that occurred went fairly well, with the exception of a couple of instances where trucks went off the road due to traction issues. Salt reserve is still in a comfortable level.

Mr. Paul also noted that the department is expecting their replacement plow truck by the end of the month and that the aerial bucket truck finally came back and was ready to be placed into service.

Mr. Schindler informed the committee that there will be a site meeting with some residents on Verdant Dr to discuss and evaluate some flooding/stormwater concerns for the neighborhood with representatives from Ruekert-Mielke and Village Staff in attendance.

10. Other Business

Mr. Harrigan informed the committee that they had been looking into replacement solar lighting through the company that pilot tested their product in the City of Cudahy, but the designs they had to offer were not necessarily compatible with the current design aesthetic of Village Hall. A cut sheet/link to the product would be shared with the committee members via e-mail.

11: Adjourn

**MR. ZWIRLEIN MOTIONED AND MR. HARLEY SECONDED TO ADJORN. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.
7:24 P.M.**

Respectfully. Submitted
Richard Paul, Jr.
Public Works Director