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Village of PEPIN WISCONSIN
Birthsite of Laura Ingalls Wilder

"Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer"

508 Second Street, P.O. Box 277, Pepin, WI, 54759, Phone 715-442-2461
Emails: clerk@pepinwisconsin.org and treasurer@pepinwisconsin.org

VILLAGE OF PEPIN BOARD MEETING

Village of Pepin Municipal Building
Monday, August 17th, 2026, at 7:00pm

MINUTES -

1. **Call Meeting to Order -**Randy called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.
2. **Roll Call -**Randy Kallstrom, Pat Sandstrom, John Hurtley, Vicki Kosok, Mike Michaud, and Shannon Van Allen were all present. Kelsey was absent but zoomed in late to the meeting. Others present were Julie Fayerweather, Tracy Rundquist, Thomas Pawlak and Tina Cook.
3. **Public Comments-** No Public comments. Randy congratulated the clerk on her recent nuptials.
4. **Clerk's Report-** Approval of 07.13.2026 meeting minutes. -John made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 13, 2026, meeting as submitted. Second by Vicki. All ayes Motion approved.
5. **Treasurer's Report-** 1) Approval of Treasurer's Report. -Shannon made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Second by Pat. All ayes, Motion approved.
   2) Discussion/Action on loan for Sewer plant updates. - The Board discussed financing for sewer plant updates after USDA funding was deemed unlikely due to staffing delays and low odds of approval. A Bank of Alma loan option was reviewed for $249,000 to cover the screen replacement, previously approved valve work, and costs already incurred, including rolling approximately $73,000 from the Village's line of credit into the loan. The proposal included a 4.25% fixed interest rate for the first five years, with the rate to be reevaluated afterward, and options for either a 10-year or 15-year repayment term. Board members discussed the impact on utility rates, possible future sewer plant needs, lack of closing costs, potential ability to pay off early without penalty, and the benefit of choosing a longer term to reduce rate and payment impacts. A motion was made by Pat to proceed with the $249,000 loan on a 15-year term with quarterly payments of $5,657.66 for the first five years, subject to later rate reevaluation. Second by Mike and approved by roll call vote, with all members voting yes.
6. **Tourism Commission-** Discussion/Action on a new Tourism Commission member- The Board discussed appointing Lisa Schoeder to the Tourism Commission to fill the sixth seat vacated by Jenny Bullistron as presented by Chair Sue Fedie. Lisa was described as a full-time Pepin resident who relocated from the Twin Cities area

and has a 20-year career background in the Minnesota court system, with experience in professional development, organizational skills, customer motivation, and web development. A motion was made by Pat to add Lisa Schoeder to the Tourism Commission Committee. Second by Vicki. All ayes, motion approved.

7. **Utility Committee-**Review and Approve Public notice in connection with the DNR consent notice.
   Utility chair John Hurtley explained to the board the DNR consent order requirement for public notice to utility users regarding the Village's plans to address the order. Draft public notice materials and a letter to utility customers were reviewed. It was noted that the required pH adjustment equipment may be unnecessary because recent monitoring shows the Village's water averages approximately 7.5 pH, which is the DNR's target level. The Village has asked the DNR to reconsider the equipment requirement and expects a response by or before October 10. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mike to proceed with the public notice document and customer letter as presented. Second By Pat. All ayes, motion approved.

8. **Boat Landing Committee-**Presentation on creating a fish float. - Dave Brandt, representing the Boat Landing Committee, presented information regarding potential use for the dock/floating dock system purchased the previous year. The Committee discussed converting the existing dock sections into a floating fishing dock, potentially located inside the marina break wall where it would be protected. The marina verbally offered assistance with seasonal placement and winterization, including moving the dock into the lift well in the fall and returning it in the spring. The proposed setup would include bolting the dock sections together, installing a gangway from the break wall to the floating dock, and securing the dock with spud poles. Dave noted that additional research is needed before any commitments are made or funds are spent, including obtaining permission from the Corps of Engineers, DNR, and the Village Board; confirming ADA accessibility requirements, railing design, slope, measurements, and surface needs; consulting with AccuDock; and determining how the gangway would attach to the break wall. The Board discussed accessibility, potential handicap parking, existing public use of the area, possible school and community benefits, costs, insurance, maintenance responsibilities, and the need to address the marina operator's role through lease language if the project proceeds. It was noted that a prior DNR permit may already allow a similar dock at the old ramp location, though that site may be more difficult and costly due to exposure and anchoring needs. No formal action was taken. Dave was encouraged to continue researching the project and bring additional information back to the Board.

9. **Police Report-** The Police Report was presented. Chief Pawlak reported 63 calls for the month of July, down from June, and 25 traffic stops. His report included several assists to other law enforcement agencies, particularly during overnight hours

when only one deputy was available. Additional activity included a drug incident at BP, an OWI crash with injuries, and nuisance matters involving grass reminders and a rooster noise complaint. The rooster-related nuisance was resolved after a citation was issued. No further questions were raised.

10. **Ambulance Report-** The Ambulance Report was reviewed, with discussion focused on staffing challenges and housing needs for out-of-town EMTs. Tina reported that there continues to be a lack of local volunteers and that current and potential EMTs from outside the area sign up based on availability. Board members discussed the possibility of budgeting for lodging if EMTs need to stay overnight, including estimating hotel costs, number of nights needed, and sharing costs among the five municipalities. It was noted that EMTs are required to provide 60 hours per month, which may require a few nights of lodging per person, though exact costs are not yet known. The Board requested that Tina gather estimated costs and explore possible lodging options, including hotel accommodation, potential tax-deductible room donations, and whether the Parish House could be considered as a future option once remodeling is complete. Tina also noted that regional consolidation of ambulance services may become necessary as volunteer staffing continues to decline. No formal action was taken.

11. **Fire Department-** The Fire Department reported that the department officers spent approximately 200 hours repairing the tender, which is now fixed and will be placed back into service. The Scarab CAD boat only needs lights installed; decals are complete, it has been tuned, and it is ready to be placed in the water. The Scarab boat is expected back within the next week after repairs for damage sustained during a search-and-rescue operation when it struck debris. The repair cost was approximately $8,000, paid for by department savings. The turbo was also upgraded to a lower-maintenance version, which is expected to save approximately $1,400 every 200 hours by eliminating the need for regular rebuilding.
    The department also reported that payments continue on the loan from the first responders, with a few payments remaining before it rolls into next year's budget. Once the Jaws of Life are paid off, that payment will be redirected. The department continues to face volunteer recruitment challenges, with approximately 11 members, about nine of whom carry most of the workload. One member has been spending significant additional time on maintenance to keep equipment operational. The Board expressed appreciation for the work being done by the Fire Department and Ambulance Service and acknowledged the need for relief from the heavy workload.

12. **Zoning Administrator-** The Zoning Administrator was not present. The report indicated that there was not much activity. A board member raised a question about the proposed carport at 1403 2nd Street, noting that the property appears to consist of two lots and that the proposed carport location may be on the lot without the house. The board was unsure what rules or process apply when placing a structure on a separate lot. No action was taken, and it was noted that

the matter could be discussed further with the zoning administrator, who may already have an answer.

13. **Public Comments-** Public comments were reopened. Dan Fedie asked the Board to follow up on the Wisconsin DOT railroad crossing improvement project at First Street and Prairie Street, noting that the Village had received notice in October 2024 that HNTB had been contracted for the work but that no recent progress had been reported. He requested that the Infrastructure and Grounds Committee place the matter on its agenda and review possible safety improvements, including relocation of the power pole and coordination with Xcel Energy, the DOT, the railroad, and the TIF Committee. It was noted that the project appeared to be delayed and that the TIF Committee had not recently met on the matter.

    Mary Pellegrom expressed appreciation to David Brandt for his research and work on the proposed floating fishing dock. She stated that the dock would be a positive addition for the Village and thanked him for volunteering his time.

14. **Set the next meeting date.** The next meeting will be on Monday Sept.14th at 7:00pm.

15. **Adjourn-** The motion was made by Shannon to adjourn. Second by Pat. All ayes, the meeting adjourned.

    Julie Fayerweather-Clerk