

Village of Gilman

P.O. Box 157
Gilman, WI 54433-0157

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 6 PM
Municipal Building
385 East Main Street
Gilman, WI 54433

Minutes

Village President Jane DeStaercke called the regular meeting to order in open session at 6:00 PM. Board members present were Jane DeStaercke, Cheryl Rosemeyer, Mark Person, Dee Bornheimer, Karen James, Russell Baker and Ericka Mottee at 6:01pm. Village Clerk Candice Grunseth, Police Chief Tom Tallier, and Village Public Works Director Dave Kroepelin were present. Ginna Young from the Star News was present. Dan Cooper from Rural Water.

Village Trustee Mark Person led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Order of Business: Walter Leipart, Gilman School superintendent, was present to give an update on the referendum for the April 7 election. The referendum would be for \$700,000 for the next 4 years, which is down from the \$900,000 that was levied this year. He stated that they worked hard to find funding for the school outside the local tax base and have brought in 2 million dollars' worth of grants in the past 4 years. They want a vibrant community to go with their vibrant school.

Special Order of Business: Jeremiah Wendt was present and Thad Webb virtually present from SEH engineering to discuss the Village's facility plan that is due March 31. This plan needs to be submitted by March 31 April 15 to qualify for Clean Water grant/loan. Thad discussed the treatment deadline for Ecoli is 2029 and Phosphorus is 2033. The facility plan has two options in it but the one is more cost effective. The current plant is 17 years old and has 5 miles of sanitary sewer lines. They evaluated the system and it looks like the Village has water (?) infiltration per the televising of the lines. Our current plant is not designed for treatment of Ecoli or Phosphorus. They also stated that the plant needs some maintenance like the ventilation system and alarm dialer. Baseline alternatives are Chemical treatment, ultraviolet disinfection and Water Quality Trading. The lagoons from the old plant are currently available as bypass but cannot be used as they have a clay base and the water would not seep through. The lagoons were discontinued because the DNR told the village they were leaking. There is a 2nd alternative, but it is pricey and would need major construction of 2 pump stations, piping installed and sprinkler system. The loan for 1st alternative would be \$1,779,000. If the Village was approved for Clean Water Principal Forgiveness then we would receive approximately \$259,000 in Principal forgiveness for the Phosphorus removal and then 60% principal forgiveness on the rest which would be about \$912,000. Leaving \$608,000 to pay for. This would look to be a \$36,000 debt payment plus extra O&M costs for water quality trading, chemicals, etc. The sewer bills would double but still be under the 2% per the state to be affordable. Village Clerk/Treasurer Candice Grunseth stated that this was a huge concern as there are already people that cant afford their water/sewer bills and doubling the sewer would be hard. SEH did state that the Water Quality part could be delayed as that is not needed until 2033 but we may not get that Principal forgiveness as that is going away after 2027. There is other funding options such as CDBG and USDA. Trustee Cheryl

Regular Board Meeting

3/11/2026

Page 2

Rosemeyer asked about the funding for CDBG and it is a 2 (CDBG) to 1 (Village) match. This is also a competitive loan/grant. USDA is what we currently have and they usually only give grants if you are above the 2% for MHI. Village Clerk/Treasurer Candice Grunseth stated that this is the time to ask all the questions that are needed from the engineer or from Rural Water. She stressed that the board needs to understand this so they can answer questions to the public. SEH did discuss if we wanted to pursue the Clean Water grant/loan we would need a public hearing. This meeting would be scheduled with the regular board meeting in April. There was a schedule in the facility plan going forward. The next step is public hearing, then approval of plan by Village. Then to apply for the loan/grant in September and start bidding out in January 2027. It was referenced that the Village has to decide now if they continue with SEH or look for a different engineer as the EPA technical assistance is done as of March 31. There were no more questions for SEH. The board thanked Thad and Jeremiah for their time. Candice stated that they did have a meeting scheduled with DNR Friday to further discuss options. It was suggested to invite our DNR rep to the public meeting on the 8th.

Immediate Public Concerns: None

Trustee Karen James made a motion to approve the following minutes and Trustee Ericka Motte seconded the motion: the Regular Board Minutes on February 11, 2026; the Tree Board on March 2, 2026; Planning Committee on March 10, 2026; the Finance Committee on March 09, 2026. The motion carries all were in favor.

A motion by Trustee Cheryl Rosemeyer to approve the vouchers/bills as presented. POOLED CASH for SSCU, 32769-32775 & FORWARD 15674-15707, and vouchers V1634 -V1667, JE 0587-JE 0588 WRS/WDC/TASC/EFTPS/DOR/XCEL, No RESTRICTED, CDBG or RLF. The motion carries on a roll call vote of 7-0.

Reports:

President Jane DeStaercke reported on the Taylor County meeting solar energy. Jane also discussed the THRIVE Grant from WEDC Rural Prosperity. This is a 2-year grant and there will be an official press release down the road. Jane discussed a concern of property by 2 different residents located by Gilman Cheese

Treasurer's Report – There was a report in the board packet for the fund balances February 12, 2026 through March 11, 2026 for the pooled cash accounts at Forward and the other accounts for the Village. The Restricted Account breakout is included along with the CD report in the board packet as well. Trustee Cheryl Rosemeyer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's reports and Trustee Mark Person seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Clerk's Report – A copy of the Clerk's report was in the Board packet for review. Village Clerk/Treasurer Candice Grunseth noted the EPA meetings for Sewer, along with the extra DNR meetings. She discussed the copier spreadsheet that Cheryl completed for review and finance recommending BBT.

Chief of Police presented a written report for the Board and noted 15 new complaints for the month of January.

Regular Board Meeting

3/11/2026

Page 3

Public Works Director Dave Kroeplin had a written report for the Village Board. He noted in his report the rebuilding of a pump at the lift station and the jar testing at the end of the month.

Village Clerk/Treasurer Candice Grunseth noted the 2026 budget is about 10 weeks with an income of 16.002.41% and expense of 13.32% and had the written report in the packet to review.

Old Business:

Village Clerk Candice Grunseth updated the board on the Country Wireless agreement/contract and that Police Chief was looking into WIFI options in the park/campgrounds. No action was taken.

New Business:

Village Clerk Candice Grunseth noted that she had sent over the proposals for the copiers from current vendor EO JOHNSON, BBT who works with the school, Tri State, and OneSource. Finance Chair Cheryl Rosemeyer completed a spreadsheet to show the comparison and finance recommends BBT. Trustee Ericka Motte made a motion to approve all 3 copiers with BBT and Trustee Dee Bornheimer seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.

The Village has a \$940.56 past due water/sewer balance from a mobile home account 10 years ago. This was not recovered through the TRIP program, so Village Clerk Candice Grunseth asked the auditors and Finance Committee to look to write it off. The auditors would like Village Board official approval. Trustee Dee Bornheimer made a motion to approve the auditor to make an audit entry for the Village to write this amount off and Trustee Mark Person seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.

Public Works Sale of Equipment- Trustee Russell Baker just wanted to make everyone aware of the Public Works department had old equipment to sell. The board gave authority for PW Director Dave Kroeplin to set the criteria for the sale.

Trustee Russell Baker made a motion to approve Operator's License for Trevor Derksen and Christina Wright and Trustee Karen James seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Committee dates were set as follows:

Finance Committee on April 6, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Improvements on April 1, 2026 @ 4PM

There is nothing scheduled for Parks, Personnel, Public Safety, or RLF.

Agenda Items: Country Wireless, Public Nuisance, playground, Assessor proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34pm motion from Trustee Dee Bornheimer and seconded by Trustee Karen James. Motion carried all in favor.

Candice Grunseth, WCMC
Village Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Gilman