

Minutes of the Village of Waterman Board held at Village Hall 215 W. Adams St. Waterman, IL 60556 Tuesday, January 13, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Village President Feitlich, Trustees Genslinger, Johanningsmeier, Jay, and Radtke were present. Wade was absent.

Approve Agenda: Trustee Radtke motioned to approve agenda. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote 5/0.

Approve Meeting Minutes:

Trustee Genslinger motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 9, 2025. Trustee Radtke 2nd. Roll call vote 4/0 with Pearson abstaining.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to table the meeting minutes of the public hearing from December 9, 2025. Trustee Jay 2nd. Vote passed unanimously.

Accept Council Approval Reports: Trustee Radtke motioned to accept the council approval Reports as published. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 5/0.

Accept Petty Cash Report: Trustee Johanningsmeier motioned to approve the petty cash report as published. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 5/0.

Accept Treasurer's Funds Report: Trustee Pearson motioned to approve the treasurer's fund report as published. Trustee Radtke 2nd. Roll call vote passed 5/0.

Mayor's Report: Feitlich swore in the interim Chief of Police Kenneth Kroll. Discussed he will be appointing Trustees Jay, Genslinger, and Johanningsmeier to the Special Hiring Committee. Ken will assist the committee with the hiring of a permanent Chief of Police. The goal is to have the new Chief in place by March so he can spend time with Ken for training.

Request for Consideration: Nothing

Correspondence: The Lion's Club was very appreciative of the police department's assistance at the annual Lion's Club Gobbler Gallop 2025. They helped make the race successful and safe.

Public Comment: Nothing

Staff Reports

Chief Kroll – Ken Kroll introduces himself and is very excited to be the interim Chief of Police. He takes his position seriously, and his favorite part of the job is when a citizen comes up to him and says, "Thank you for your service." Ken has had a warm welcome here in Waterman and is going to help recruit the next Chief. "It's our job to treat the community as a whole, with kindness, fairness and dignity." When this happens, we will serve the community very well. He wakes up happy to come to work and will leave Waterman a little better place than when I got here.

Village Manager Nykaza –We have been chosen to receive a donation in the amount of \$25,000 from the Bohman Fund through DCCF. Bob Bohman was passionate about improving Muingan Park and we will be using the funds to install a sundial this year. IDOT has all the documents needed to get our reimbursement of \$117,000 from the Elm Street paving project. Met with Mark Eddington with the Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District and Zeke from the nation. Due to lack of participation from other communities, we have halted all engineering going west. We are in the process of unwinding the agreement and will be creating a new agreement between Kishwaukee and Waterman. Engineering will continue going North and the addendum should be ready by the February meeting. Lennar Homes has submitted permit applications for the model homes and will be actively selling lots in Deerfield Crossing. They have applied for an IEPA permit to loop the water mains at no cost to the Village. President Feitlich and I attended the Metro Legislative Breakfast on January 9th. We met with Mayors and other Legislative personnel. The cost estimate for the water main between Route 30 and the railroad was considerably higher than we were expecting, so talking about replacing approximately ten feet of the pipe that had been repaired previously.

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Attorney Neveu – Provided an update on the collection of TIF funds issued to Nick Bhati, owner of Waterman Café. Starting legal steps to pursue entire funds due.

Public Works – Tree down in Muingan Park, just needs to be moved off the path.

Committee Reports

Water & Sewer – Adam Pearson: Nothing

Clerk Penton advised the new water meter system is much more efficient. There has been discussion about moving from quarterly billing to monthly. Postage costs are approximately \$500 a quarter. If we went monthly, it would be \$6000 annually. Maybe consider going back to postcards.

Streets & Alleys – Arnie Johanningsmeier: Nothing

Public Safety - Arnie Johanningsmeier: Construction workers doing fiber optics are parking equipment on the sidewalks, so we need to get this off the sidewalk for safety reasons.

Buildings & Grounds – Alison Genslinger: Sundial going in Muingan Park and there will be a meeting soon getting ready for spring and continuing discussion about lights for the baseball field.

Finance & Personnel – Adam Pearson: Nothing

Economic Development – Sarah Radtke: Meeting on December 17th, 2025, to discuss two TIF applications. Pub West requested \$74,730 to replace windows and doors and update gas lines for more efficiency. Off The Railz is a new project that originally asked for \$311,000 but after review, \$250,000 would qualify for TIF funding with the start up amount of \$150,000. We need to recoup the funds from the Waterman Café owner, and the Village will be taking legal action.

Zoning – Sarah Radtke: Nothing

Special Hiring – (Unassigned): Nothing

Planning Commission – John Ecker: Nothing

Regional Planning Commission – John Ecker: Nothing

Old Business: Nothing

New Business:

Trustee Genslinger motioned to Approve TIF Distribution for Kallan Welsh dba “Off the Railz” for \$150,000. Jay 2nd. Roll call vote passed 5/0.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to Approve TIF Distribution for Trent Taylor dba Pub West for \$74,430. Trustee Radtke 2nd. Roll call passed 5/0.

Trustee Johanningsmeier motioned to Approve Mowing Contract 2026-2028. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 5/0.

Trustee Radtke motioned to approve the appointment of Special Hiring Committee members Taylor Jay, Arnold Johanningsmeier, and Allison Genslinger. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 5/0.

Closed Session – Nothing

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January 13, 2026- continued**

Adjournment:

Having no further business to conduct, Trustee Pearson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Trustee Johanningsmeier 2nd. Vote passed unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Penton, Village Clerk

Approved