

Minutes of the Village of Waterman Board held at Village Hall 215 W. Adams St. Waterman, IL 60556 Tuesday, April 14, 2026

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

Roll Call: Feitlich, Genslinger, Johanningsmeier, Pearson, Jay and Radtke were present. Wade arrived at 6:55.

Approve Agenda: President Feitlich requested to add "Discuss Controlled Burn at 470 S. Elm under Public Safety." Trustee Genslinger motioned to approve amended agenda. Trustee Radtke 2nd. Roll call vote passed 5/0.

Approve Meeting Minutes: Trustee Genslinger motioned to table minutes from Regular Meeting March 10, 2026. Vote passed unanimously.

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

Accept Petty Cash Report: Trustee Johanningsmeier motioned to approve the Petty Cash Report as published. Trustee Genslinger 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:

Trustee Johanningsmeier motioned to approve the appointment of Jeff Wig as Chief of Police. Trustee Jay 2nd. Roll call vote passed 5/0. Mayor Feitlich swore in Jeff Wig as Police Chief. Feitlich thanked Interim Chief Kroll and the Special Hiring Committee for all of their hard work. Jeff Wig has spent more than 20 years serving Dekalb area. He is committed to public service, community safety, and small-town values. He progressed his leadership to the Deputy Chief of Police for Sycamore and he has been retired a little over a year. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and Northwestern University Police Staff and Command.

Request for Consideration: Presentation by Shawn Ajazi with Progressive Energy on Electric Supply Renewal. The Village contract expires end of May 2026. Usage is billed on the ComEd utility invoice to ensure the 10% US solar credit. ComEd's price right now is 10.2 cents going up to 11.5 cents. Recommendation would be to secure a 48-month contract for the supplier with the best price and that would be APG&E. Ajazi will return at the May board meeting with final recommendation.

Clerk Penton requested approval from the board to organize a Spring Cleanup weekend for residents to dispose of bulk items for free. Recommended using the remaining funds in Community Relations G/L to cover the cost. Vision Pickling has donated \$250 to the event.

Correspondence: Nothing

Public Comment: Beth Prestegaard is requesting a controlled burn of her sustainable prairie that she is maintaining on her property. Fire Chief Dave Lave agreed to help organize the burn. Board gave their approval.

Staff Reports

Chief Kroll – Kroll presented the January Stats Report to the board for review. Chief Wig should be licensed by the end of the week. Kroll attended the DCLEEA meetings which include Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, Commanders, States Attorney's, etc. Wig attended as Kroll's guest and the reception for him being the new Chief elect was tremendous. He is already connected to this region, well-liked and respected.

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Village Manager Nykaza – Applied for grants from Underwood, Duckworth, and Durbin’s offices for the Kishwaukee Reclamation District Project. We asked for 5 million from each one, have not heard back from Duckworth & Durbin. We did get a denial from Underwood’s office. We will also need funding for the Well #5 project, so we want to keep ourselves in front of them. Mark Eddington is in DC this week and will be speaking with all 3 offices about this project as well. Toddler Garden Planting Party is May 20th, 2026, at 10:00 am. Lennar is actively selling; they have 12 permits and more received this week. The Lion’s Club Easter Egg Hunt went very well, the grounds looked very nice after Public Works cleaned up and grass was mowed. Garfield Park’s sundial project is in the design stage. We finally got the agreement for the IDOT Local Project Funding, this was the \$198,600 reimbursement grant. I spoke to Scott Hunt regarding our speed sign on south Elm, he received the okay and will be getting the sign up in the next week or so. Public Works will then put the other signs up with the flags on them. Trying to get on the list for update on Rte 30 with IDOT, the issue is right of way with BNSF and will try and reach out to them directly as we’ve had success with that in the past. We will have some of the sidewalk repairs and asphalt repairs done within the next few weeks and the Lion’s Park much will be completed next Friday.

Attorney – Mr. Bhati did agree to accept service, and everything has been filed with the court and initial court date was held and continued court date of June 1st, 2026. The property is very behind on its property taxes. We will provide the status of the property taxes at the next meeting. The taxes were bought by another party which could affect our lien on the property.

Public Works – There are a couple of broken trash bins at the splash pad in Lion’s Park.

Committee Reports

Water & Sewer – Adam Pearson: Lennar finished connecting the water main loop at Deerfield and replaced the leaking pipe and the water results have come back clear.

Streets & Alleys – Arnie Johanningsmeier: Public Works did a great job on snow removal this past season. Amy is working on crack sealing roads.

Public Safety - Arnie Johanningsmeier: Moving forward with the controlled burn at 470 S. Elm, as long as the fire department is involved and it is not a windy day. We will notify Village residents of the controlled burn, but unsure of date as it is dictated by the weather.

Buildings & Grounds – Alison Genslinger: Meeting scheduled for April 30th, 2026.

Finance & Personnel – Adam Pearson: Updated on the meeting from March 26, 2026. Discussed FY27 budget and new Return to Work policy.

Economic Development – Sarah Radtke: Scheduled meeting on April 30th, 2026, to review a TIF application.

Zoning – Sarah Radtke: Nothing

Special Hiring – Taylor Jay: We met March 12th, 2026, to interview 3 candidates for Chief of Police. Met again March 26th, 2026, and President Feitlich spoke with both candidates with questions the committee had presented. Committee was comfortable with the answers and unanimously recommended Jeff Wig for the position. Recommendation is conditional on Jeff Wig passing a background check and psychological evaluation.

Planning Commission – John Ecker: Nothing

Regional Planning Commission – John Ecker: Nothing

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Old Business: Nothing

New Business:

Trustee Genslinger motioned to Adopt Resolution 2026-03 – Motorcycle Awareness Month. Johanningsmeier 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Trustee Wade motioned to Adopt Resolution 2026-04 – Dekalb City Salt Agreement. Trustee Jay 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to approve FY27 Annual Budget as presented. Trustee Radtke 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Trustee Pearson motioned to approve Return to Work Policy. Trustee Genslinger 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to approve MOU with Timberwolf Recreation NFP. Trustee Wade 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to approve bid for gutter and snow guard repair at Community Building. Trustee Johanningsmeier 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to approve IDOT Local Funding Project Agreement. Trustee Johanningsmeier 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Trustee Pearson motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-01 FY27 Annual Appropriation Ordinance. Trustee Genslinger 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Closed Session – Trustee Pearson motioned to enter executive session at 7:50 pm to discuss the appointment, employment compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees pursuant to ILCS 120/2 (c)(1). Discussion on litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed an is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (11). Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06,. Pursuant to 2(c)(21). Trustee Genslinger 2nd roll call vote passed 6/0. Trustee Genslinger motioned to exit executive session at 8:02 pm. Trustee Johanningsmeier 2nd roll call vote passed 6/0.

New Business continued:

Trustee Genslinger motioned to approve Closed Session Minutes from meeting of 12/23/24. Trustee Johanningsmeier 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0 with Trustees Wade and Jay abstaining.

Trustee Johanningsmeier motioned to approve Closed Session Minutes from meeting of 1/14/25. Trustee Radtke 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0 with Trustees Wade and Jay abstaining.

Trustee Johanningsmeier motioned to approve Closed Session Minutes from meeting of 1/16/25. Trustee Genslinger 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0 with Trustees Wade and Jay abstaining.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to approve Closed Session Minutes from meeting of 1/27/25. Trustee Radtke 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0 with Trustees Wade and Jay abstaining.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to approve Closed Session Minutes from meeting of 3/18/25. Trustee Radtke 2nd. Roll call vote passed 3/0 with President Feitlich voting and Trustees Wade, Johanningsmeier, Jay, and Genslinger abstaining.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to approve Closed Session Minutes from meeting of 5/13/25. Trustee Radtke 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0 with Johanningsmeier and Trustee Pearson abstaining.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to release Closed Session Minutes from meeting of 12/23/24. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote failed 0/6.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to release Closed Session Minutes from meeting of 1/14/25. Trustee Jay 2nd. Roll call vote failed 0/6.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to release Closed Session Minutes from meeting of 1/16/25. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote failed 0/6.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to release Closed Session Minutes from meeting of 1/27/25. Trustee Radtke 2nd. Roll call vote failed 1/5.

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Trustee Genslinger motioned to release Closed Session Minutes from meeting of 3/18/25. Trustee Radtke 2nd. Roll call vote failed 1/5.

Trustee Genslinger motioned to release Closed Session Minutes from meeting of 5/13/25. Trustee Radtke 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/3.

Adjournment:

Having no further business to conduct, Trustee Genslinger motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Trustee Johanningsmeier 2nd. Vote passed unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Penton, Village Clerk

Approved