

**REGULAR MEETING  
VILLAGE OF DE SOTO  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026**

The De Soto Village Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the village hall.

Village President Timothy Gillespie called the regular board meeting to order with roll call as follows: Tim Gillespie-. present, Scott DuCharme-present, Mitchell Schiffer-present. Carrie Brudos-clerk.

Motion made by Mitchell Schiffer and seconded by Scott DuCharme to approve the January 6, 2026 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mitchell Schiffer and seconded by Scott DuCharme to approve the January 27, 2026 Special Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Scott DuCharme and seconded by Mitchell Schiffer to approve the agenda with correction of new Business Item D changing Adam Yaun to Jordan Yaun. Motion carried.

**A. CONNECT COMMUNITIES – WEDC MARK TALLMAN**

Mark Tallman explained the connect communities' program. We have lots of things going for us: New Paved Main St, River Good and Gifts opening on Main St soon, Great River Road-All American Road right outside our front door. An Empty storefront costs the community \$133,000 in economic activity. There is a 4-point approach. 1.Promotion. 2. Design. 3.Organization. 4. Economic Vitality. Communication is vital. We need to involve county officials and legislatures. Businesses in communities that are part of the Connect Communities program, and which are at least 50% owned by women, minorities, or military veterans, are eligible to get Kiva Loans (0% interest) through a WEDC program. Ordinance enforcement is a must. We will need a 3<sup>rd</sup> party from the outside to take care of enforcement. We need a plan to enhance our village and attract investors.

**B. VERNON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – AMY OLIVER**

Amy Oliver discussed the Vernon County Economic Development role in our revitalization efforts. They can provide guidance, resources, strategies and action steps to take. Amy also does grants. We need to identify our priorities.

**C. 7 RIVERS ALLIANCE – CHRIS HARDIE**

Chris talked about Strategic planning. We need to identify key stake holders who will help carry out our project. An analysis allows for the assessment of the internal strengths and weaknesses of a community with respect to physical, social, and economic development infrastructure. The analysis can help community developers to determine the strengths on which to build, the weaknesses to avoid or overcome, and the eternal positive and negative factors that may enable or impede community development efforts. Have a community listening session and make sure all voices are heard.

**PUBLIC COMMENT TIME**

No one present for Public Comment Time.

Public comment time closed.

Motion made by Mitchell Schiffer, seconded by Scott DuCharme to approve the January 26 (check#26711-26730) general bills. Motion carried.

Motion made by Scott DuCharme, seconded by Mitchell Schiffer to approve the January 26 (check#10793-10805) sewer bills. Motion carried.

**REPORTS:**

**SEWER/MAINTENANCE:** Nothing to report.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Chris Mussatti reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> Responder truck is infor repair. They are using the Brush Truck until the 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Truck gets back. They will have Ice Rescue Training on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The financial statements were reviewed. Motion made by Mitchell Schiffer seconded by Scott DuCharme to approve the financial statements. Motion carried.

**COMMUNITY CENTER:** Nothing to Report.

**PARK COMMITTEE:** Having a meeting.

**LIBRARY:** A new heater was installed in the vestibule.

**CEMETERY:** Nothing to report

**JOINT SHARING COMMITTEE:** Nothing to report

**ZONING:** Nothing to report

**LONG RANGE PLANNING:**

**Road Improvements:** Nothing to report

**Recycling Center Building:** Nothing to report

**Bird City Wisconsin –** Nothing to report

**Recreational Opportunity Committee –** Nothing to report

**Mill Park Bridge Replacement –** See Old Business, Item C

**Tourism Commission-**Reconciling financial information

**Boat Landing –** Nothing to report

**Law Enforcement –**Asked for reports.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

TIMOTHY GILLESPIE: Nothing to report

SCOTT DUCHARME: There has been an uptick of law enforcement in the village lately.

MITCHELL SCHIFFER: Nothing to report

CLERK: Nothing to report

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. VIEW LETTERS TO ORDINANCE VIOLATORS**

1. Property owner at 1093 Main St- Monitoring
2. Property owner at 168 S Mill Park Dr.-Clean up and unregistered vehicles are being monitored.
3. Property owner at 625 Ridge St – Clean up in spring
4. Property owner at 635 Ridge St – Letter
5. Property owner at 272 American Heritage Rd – Monitoring.
6. Property owner at 1042 Main St- Monitoring
7. Property owner at 474 Main St and 502 Wall St – Monitoring.
8. Property owner at 145 and 165 Main St – Timothy Gillespie will talk to the owner.
9. Property owner at 222 Mill Park Dr – Timothy Gillespie will talk to the owner.
10. Property owner at 816 S Treadwell St- Needs another notice.

**B. JAMEY MAKEPEACE ENGINEERING-SEWER PLANT GRANT UPDATE**

We will have a special meeting to discuss the sewer project with Jamey Makepeace is trying to get the DNR to give up 10 more points on our Clean Water Fund application.

**C. DISCUSS/REVIEW MILL PARK DR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT STATUS**

The bids for the bridge replacement came in higher than expected. The village might have to pay an additional cost for our share of project.

**D. DISCUSSION ON CHANGING CLERK/TREASURER POSITION FROM ELECTED TO APPOINTED.**

In Progress

**E.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**D.**

**E.**

Motion made by Scott DuCharme, seconded by Mitchell Schiffer to set the next regular board meeting for Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at the De Soto Village Hall: 7:00 pm. Motion carried.

Motion made by Scott DuCharme seconded by Mitchell Schiffer to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Carrie Brudos, Village Clerk.