Village of New Milford - Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Timothy H. Owens

IN ATTENDANCE: Timothy H. Owens, Deanna Rodgers, Wendy Roop, Ron Colvin, Eileen Owens, Jim Stevens, Adam Bunge, Theresa Merriman, Loraine Humphries, and Jessica Lang.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Lorain Humphries initiated the motion to accept the evening's agenda, seconded by Deanna Rodgers. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Discussion

A. President's Report: Tim Owens

1. Data center updates

During the Public Discussions, Kevin McCarthy (District 11, Winnebago County) addressed attendees regarding the recently enacted canvassing ordinance, which requires businesses to register with the county prior to canvassing neighborhoods. President Owens requested that New Milford be included in this ordinance via an intergovernmental agreement.

John Penney (District 9, Winnebago County) spoke to the audience about ongoing developments in his district, such as the introduction of leash laws and noise ordinances in unincorporated areas. Addressing questions about a possible data center in the City of Rockford, Mr. Penney clarified that he had no additional information beyond what was published in the media and hadn't signed or been informed of any NDA agreements. He did share general knowledge about data centers and their construction, based on his 27 years in the industry and experience with similar projects. Audience members voiced concerns about the proposed data center, including issues with resource allocation, infrastructure pressure, environmental effects, and public health. Mr. Penney

encouraged everyone to keep sharing their perspectives and committed to passing along constituent concerns once he identified the proper recipient, as currently, there is no project proposal being reviewed. President Owens also urged residents to voice their opinions and participate in public meetings.

Jan Malone addressed Mr. Penney to thank him for his prompt response to her emails and the information provided during the meeting. She noted that she has been a resident of Rockford Township and a part of the New Milford community since 1989 and expressed her hope that county officials will continue to act in the best interest of the community. Kevin McCarthy responded that they will be informing Chairman Joe Chiarelli of all concerns expressed during the meeting.

John Sweeney (District 20, Winnebago County) spoke to the audience about the importance of transparency between the government and the public. He clarified that no NDAs have been signed concerning the data center project, and he has not been asked to participate in any economic development meetings. Additionally, he pointed out that there is currently no suitable power source for the site, and that further infrastructure would be needed to provide the necessary capacity.

President Owens updated the board that he was contacted by Xerox regarding the contract for printer services. The contract is currently in place until June 2026, which will be invoiced for $583. Once the contract is finalized, a new service contract may be possible with Rockford Business Systems. Winnebago County Clerk's office informed the board that issues with the Wi-Fi strength at the New Milford fire station may inhibit its ability to host future elections. Chief Scott Schaben will investigate what can be done to improve the signal.

B. Clerk's Report: Jessica Lang

Clerk Jessica Lang had no updates to report.

C. Engineer's Report: Adam Bunge

Engineer Adam Bunge will assess curbs for inclusion in 2026 street project proposals. Additional soil bores were completed for the Harrisville Road sanitation and sewer extension to guide excavation estimates. Negotiations with Rock Roads on final quantities for the 10th Street overlay are finished; a change order will be prepared for approval at the April 14th board meeting.

D. Attorney's Report: Jim Stevens

Attorney Jim Stevens submitted a sample amendment ordinance packet for upcoming annexations, which included maps of proposed properties on 11th Street and Rotary Road, a notice of publication in the Rock River Times, letters addressed to Winnebago

County Chairman Joseph Chiarelli, property owners, and taxpayers, as well as the text amendment ordinance and annexation ordinance. The ordinances are scheduled for review and approval at the board meeting on April 14th.

E. Trustee Reports

1. Deanna Rodgers

Trustee Deanna Rodgers confirmed the Winnebago County deputy's attendance for movie night at the fire station on October 10th at 6:00 pm. She will contact Rockford Business Systems about a future service contract.

2. Eileen Owens

Trustee Eileen Owens had no updates to report.

3. Ron Colvin

Ron Colvin reported that the software and calendar for the village sign have been updated and that he will be available to train other trustees in its use. He also offered to place the village's stance on the data center on the sign. Attorney Stevens to investigate whether this is allowed.

4. Wendy Roop

Wendy Roop reported an incident involving salt dumped from a plow truck at the intersection of Ryberg and Rotary Road. Greg Tucker estimated that approximately 400 pounds of salt was left. Photos were collected and will be submitted to Adam Bunge for further discussion with Stenstrom Excavation. The restroom at Victory Park has been opened for the season, and the water fountain is expected to be activated next week, weather permitting.

5. Loraine Humphries

Loraine Humphries asked about the car lot fire cleanup and ordinance violations. Jim Stevens said letters will be sent to property owners in early April.

6. Theresa Merriman

Theresa Merriman raised concerns about restroom maintenance and rust in the toilets due to the village hall's water filtration system. President Owens agreed that the system needs updating, noting the Fire Department recently improved theirs and will share details. Mrs. Merriman also reported that she successfully retrieved financial records out of the previous software system from 1993 onward and discovered appropriations were

missing from budget tracking. She suggested forming a finance committee to review processes. Jessica Lang clarified that the current accounting system has appropriations entered to ensure accurate budget tracking. President Owens agreed to the creation of a financial committee and encouraged board members to suggest other committees based on their strengths.

President Owens then informed the board that the committee meeting scheduled for April 28th will need to be rescheduled for April 27th at 6:30 pm.

F. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, Wendy Roop initiated the motion for adjournment, seconded by Deanna Rodgers. All present voted unanimously; motion carried.

Transcribed 03/25/2026 by Jessica Lang, Clerk.