



VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Kronenwetter Municipal Center - 1582 Kronenwetter Drive Board Room (Lower Level)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Dan Joling called the May 11, 2026 Village Board Meeting to order at 6 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Those in attendance were invited to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call

PRESENT: *President Dan Joling, Trustee Aaron Myszka, Trustee Craig Mortensen, Trustee Jessica Stowell, Trustee Dan Lesniak, Trustee Kelly Coyle*

STAFF: *Administrator James Davel, Finance Director John Jacobs, Fire Chief Theresa O'Brien, Police Lt. Chris Smart, Clerk Jennifer Poyer*

2. MOTION TO DEVIATE

No action taken.

3. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

No comments made.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

President Joling announced there would be a closed session during the meeting.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Charneski – 2604 16th Road, Kronenwetter, WI, 54455 – *Comment attached to the meeting minutes.*

Bernie Kramer – 2150 E. State Hwy. 153, Peplin, WI, 54455 – *Kramer commented on agenda item 8I. Quit Claim Deed Proposed Marathon County Highway Shop Facility. He said the board should listen to David Baker's previous public comment made during the CLIPP Committee meeting. He said the land should not be just given away for a project that has not even been approved.*

6. CONSENT AGENDA

C. April 27, 2026 Village Board Meeting Minutes

D. April 30, 2026 Special Village Board Meeting Minutes

Motion by Lesniak/Myszka to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried by voice vote. 6:0.

7. REPORTS FROM STAFF AND VENDORS

E. Police Chief Report

Police Lt. Chris Smart presented the police report. He commented on recent support the police department has received from Marathon County. He said they found a used radio for the department. He answered questions regarding traffic problems with the current county construction project.

F. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Theresa O'Brien presented her report. She said April was one of the busiest months she has seen. She thanked Marathon County for allowing the use of the three homes on their property for training purposes.

G. Administrator Report

Administrator James Davel presented his report. He spoke on the current applications for the vacant Community Development position and a meeting regarding East Nick Avenue.

H. Vouchers, ACH Transactions, and Credit Card Activity Transactions – Month of March 2026

Motion by Stowell/Myszka to accept the Vouchers, ACH Transactions, and Credit Card Activity Transactions – Month of March 2026 for a grand total of \$699,821. Motion carried by roll call vote. 6:0.

Finance Director John Jacobs presented the Vouchers, ACH Transactions, and Credit Card Activity Transactions for the month of March 2026. He and Administrator Davel answered questions regarding the bill for the lift station pump out.

8. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

I. Quit Claim Deed Proposed Marathon County Highway Shop Facility (CLIPP)

Motion by Coyle/Myszka to approve the Quit Claim Deed on the proposed property to Marathon County Highway Shop Facility. Motion carried by roll call vote. 6:0.

Trustee Myszka presented background information on this item. County officials were on hand and answered questions from the Village board regarding plans for the land, etc. Board members discussed “being a good neighbor” to the county, possibility of the county’s shop spawning an interchange on Kowalski Road in the future; and plans for the strip of land.

J. Wausau Metropolitan Planning Organization Draft Model E-Bike Ordinance (CLIPP)

Motion by Mortensen/Coyle to approve the bike ordinance. Motion carried by voice vote. 6:0.

Trustee Myszka presented the background on this item. Lt. Smart said the police have seen no issues with e-bikes. Discussed overlapping ordinances in nearby communities; influx of kids on e-bikes; and future safety issues.

K. Resolution 2026-007 Transportation Funding Solution

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-007 Transportation Funding Solution. Motion carried by roll call vote. 6:0.

Administrator Davel presented information on this item.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Lesniak/Myszka to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85 (1)(c) for consideration of employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – to wit staff’s annual evaluation and/or pay increases. Motion carried by roll call vote. 6:0.

TIME INTO CLOSED SESSION: 6:38 p.m.

PRESENT IN CLOSED SESSION: President Dan Joling, Trustee Aaron Myszka, Trustee Craig Mortensen, Trustee Jessica Stowell, Trustee Dan Lesniak, Trustee Kelly Coyle, Administrator James Davel, Finance Director John Jacobs.

Trustee Kelly Coyle and John Jacobs left closed session at 6:52 p.m.

Trustee Kelly Coyle returned to closed session at ~7:20 p.m.

10. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

Motion by Myszka/Coyle to reconvene into open session. Motion carried by roll call vote. 6:0.

TIME INTO OPEN SESSION: 7:32 p.m.

11. ACTION AFTER CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Myszka/Stowell to accept the recommendations by the board and direct the administrator to move on said recommendations. Motion carried by roll call vote. 5:0:1 – Trustee Coyle abstained from the vote.

12. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- *Priorities and goals of Village Board*
- *Village office hours*

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Stowell/Coyle to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote. 6:0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Once again Kronenwetter Administrator James Davel and President Dan Joling have flipped the bird to Village Taxpayers.

This time by seeking to literally give away Village property interests to Marathon County for their proposed Highway Department facility. The proposal at the May 4 CLIPP meeting was to simply hand over Village property to the County as a GIFT before any approvals were even granted. The committee voted in favor of it at Mr Davel's insistence and pressure from county officials present at the meeting. The motion has gone prematurely to the Village Board for a final decision tonight, Monday, May 11.

Take a listen to the audio, starting at about the 43:00 mark.

Davel begins his pitch on behalf of county interests by promoting one-sided rhetoric about "good neighbors", "partnership" and the Village's subordinate obligation to the county.

As a former trustee who consistently advocated first and foremost for the interests of village taxpayers, I found Mr. Davel's groveling to County interests to be a betrayal of those taxpayers that Davel is supposed to be working for. President Dan Joling was right at Davel's heels in full support of this nonsense.

In the 6 months of his employment with the Village, Mr Davel (and partner Joling for that matter) has demonstrated ongoing and profound incompetence, and disregard for law, ordinances, Village Policy, or any other rules, while occupying the administrator position. The current issue is no exception.

I will remind the public as well as all committee and Village Board members that Mr Davel has no oath of office; he does not live here, nor has he any stake in, loyalty to, or demonstrated concern for the long term well being of this village.

The thought of supporting Village interests, or of seeking any benefit at all to the residents, was dismissed out of hand when Davel said "the county doesn't work that way", which ironically, may have been the one true thing he said all night. The County really does have NO concern for Village interests; why should they?

With this being the case, I think that is exactly why our "leaders" should work to MAKE our village interests part of the County's concern. If they want to use a huge chunk of prime development land taken off of our potential tax base, then OUR concerns should become THEIR concerns.

Mr Davel's idea that the County is just going to suddenly "be nice" to the Village and offer us wonderful things from now on just because we were nice to them, is pure, childish ignorance. Village business needs to be conducted in a competent, business-like manner, not based on a "rainbows and unicorns" mentality. A sense of duty to the public seems to be absent.

What Davel and/or Joling neglected to say, is that just maybe, the Village "doesn't work that way" either. If there is this so-called "partnership" that Davel touts, then surely there should be an equal mutual benefit to both partners. Unfortunately there is not because it appears that Davel and Joling have not grasped this concept.

Just as they apparently arranged a one-sided windfall for private interests during the recent sand pit debacle thinking it was "growth", so also they appear to be putting in the "fix" to assure that the interests of the County has supreme priority over those of the Village; again, apparently considering it to be "growth".

Davel switched gears for a moment to making threats to the committee by saying "we don't want the County playing hardball" with us.

Really? They are our "good neighbors" and "partners" but they may beat us up if we don't give them what they want? Lawyers maybe?

Just to be clear as to who is who - The Village is an incorporated entity which is not subject to the wants or dictates of the County. As far as I am concerned, this is OUR village, not theirs; our jurisdiction, and our rules that they need to abide by.

I think that what we need here is competent, oath-keeping officials advocating for the people of the

Village, not weak, milquetoast leadership looking for every excuse to capitulate to county wants and demands.

Kronenwetter has NO obligation to carry the burden of hosting a freeloading county facility on the backs of our taxpayers, just because no other municipality in the county is dumb enough to allow it in their own jurisdiction.

Un-met Requirements

That highway facility will need both a zoning change approval and a conditional use permit before it can move ahead.

Under the scrutiny of an honest, diligent Plan Commission and/or Village Board it will be difficult if not impossible due to it's nature, for this highway facility to pass all the criteria necessary for approval. There is no "hardball" dirty politics necessary on our part. We merely need to do an honest evaluation as outlined in the ordinances and follow the procedure correctly. It is apparent from reading the relevant ordinances that either one or both the applications will not meet the criteria as things stand at the moment.

Just to be clear, this is NOT talking about "contract zoning" which says "we'll approve this, if you give us this". This village property is not a "bargaining chip" as Mr Joling mentioned in an email to me. Contract zoning is illegal and far be it from anyone at the Village to suggest such a thing.

Questions

Since the Village is the authority here, I think we should ask:

Why has the County just walked into Kronenwetter and proceeded with their project as if they own the place and this is already a done deal?

Why are the elected representatives of the taxpayers suddenly considered to be irrelevant or just a "rubber stamp" formality to this process some time in the future?

What secret promises or assurances if any, has Davel and Joling given to the County, that inspires such confidence on the County's part that this is already a done deal?

County Administrator Lance Leonhard said at the CLIPP meeting -"Mr Davel has done my job for me." (by promoting County interests). A true, candid statement. Why then, is Davel even on the Village payroll?

At a value of \$50-63 million dollars, this county facility COULD and should generate \$200-250,000 per year in revenue to the Village. That is a lot of roads, parks, and potential tax cuts to homeowners that Mr Davel has no authority to just throw away. Under his strong recommendation, the Village gets NOTHING out of this deal other than a pat on the head from the county.

The County apparently refuse to consider any of the conditions that might benefit the Village that former president Baker has suggested. They refuse to offer a PILOT - (payment in lieu of taxes), simply because they don't like it. That's fine. That is their choice.

Maybe we don't like their facility either. The Village has choices too. We can see that the County is acting more like an adversary in this process rather than the "partner" or "good neighbor" that Davel tried his best to convince us of.

This is a tremendous decision for trustees to make, with millions of dollars of Village loss or benefit riding on it. Time is on our side and this decision should not to be made quickly or lightly.

The decision in allowing this facility to be imposed here upon the Village, starts with this strip of land which is a Village asset more important than most people seem to realize.

Until the approval requirements are met and approved within the coming year, it makes absolutely no sense at all to give away Village property like this, at this early stage of the game. They can buy the land later if they want it..

As mentioned above, it is apparent to me that Davel does not care. Joling does not care. Weak and

unprincipled, they seem to be more interested in "making friends" at the County than having the guts or integrity to do their job for the people.

Is there anyone on the Board who will bring some sense to the table and reject this giveaway? I am hoping so.

Illegality

Someone seems to want this ramrodded through so badly, that it has gone straight from CLIPP to the Village Board (again at Davel's suggestion), instead of sending it to APC as the CLIPP agenda packet suggested. Bypassing APC in this process is a violation of Village ordinance Chapter 14.

But by now I guess we can all just expect that such lawlessness as becoming standard operating procedure with the current actors in place. What what some folks at Shawano seem so glad to get rid of, other folks at Kronenwetter seem to now embrace.