



Minutes

Oelwein Schools & City of Oelwein - Joint Work Session
Oelwein Public Library, 201 East Charles, Oelwein, Iowa
February 02, 2026 - 6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order

Discussions

1. Legal Framework for 28E.

Mulfinger presented on what a 28E is and how the city and school use them to work together.

2. Enrichment Center.

William's Wellness Center.

Josh Ehn, Superintendent, discussed the relationship with the school and city on the Wellness Center. The school board and the city council asked the advisory group be brought back and meet more on a consistent basis. The advisory group needs to help the school board and city council make decisions.

DeVore emphasized that the loss in FY2025 was too large and must be smaller.

Steve Arndt said the relationship was not clear and the advisory group should be used more than it is currently being used.

William's Center for the Arts.

Josh Ehn provided an overview.

Little Husky Childcare.

Josh Ehn provided an overview.

3. Baseball/Softball Complex.

Mulfinger discussed the relationship with the school and city at the veterans sports complex.

5. Bike Trails.

Mulfinger thanked the school district for their support of the trail system and discussed the advantages it brings to the school district.

6. Future Opportunity.

SRO & Operational Sharing

Ehn discussed the future opportunities to partner with the city on a school resource officer.

Mulfinger noted the first relationship will need to be flexible with the city working the position into the city's current staffing levels.

Roads & Infrastructure

Mulfinger discussed the need to repair 8th Ave SE and the work that will need to be done with the school.

Sidewalks and Walkability of Oelwein

Mulfinger jumped on his soapbox and urged the school board to work with community members on a drive for more sidewalks. While the current city council supports healthy transportation options, road repairs often take precedent over any sidewalk additions. Mulfinger advised the school could be a great political partner on the need to make a more walkable community. Mulfinger said the first big win could be a sidewalk to the middle school.

Impacts of Property Tax Reform

Mulfinger advised all of the elected officials need to tell their story to state officials so they understand the importance of local taxes to help local services.

Ehn touched on the leadership of both entities and urged both groups to be aggressive on pushing the community for the next generation. Mulfinger advised both boards to dream big and push both entities toward bigger and better solutions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.