



Village of Howards Grove  
Village Board Meeting  
Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

Howards Grove Village Hall  
913 S. Wisconsin Dr.  
Howards Grove, Wisconsin

## MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** President Wuestenhagen called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
- II. **Roll Call:** In attendance were President Wuestenhagen, Trustees Meyer, Bartz, Pieper, Horness, and Sixel. DPW Director Welsing and Deputy Clerk Grunwald were also present. Trustee Winter was absent.
- III. **Approve Minutes:** Approve meeting minutes from July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
  - Motion to approve the July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting minutes as written made by Trustee Horness, seconded by Trustee Sixel. Motion carried 6-0.
- IV. **Public Comments and Correspondence:** None
  - Note: under Public Comment The public can comment on any topic, but state open meeting laws do not allow for any discussion or action to be taken on issues not listed on the agenda.
- I. **Approval of J & H Controls Contract:**
  - The J & H Controls Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement was reviewed by the Village Board under the guidance of DPW Director Welsing. Covered under the contract is the American Auto-Matrix building automation system and Critical emergency service 24/7/365 required for the automation system's maintenance. The contract runs from 07/01/2025 through 06/30/2026 for a total annual payment of \$2176.00
  - Motion to approve the J & H Controls Contract was made by Trustee Bartz, seconded by Trustee Pieper. Motion carried 6-0 to approve the J & H Controls Contract as presented.
- II. **Discussion regarding changes to Ordinance Chapter §158-12- Prohibited and protected animals, fowl, reptiles and insects.**
  - Village resident Hepner appeared before the board to propose the addition of chickens as an allowed use in municipal code. Currently chickens are banned as stated under Chapter §158-12, subsection C, item 28:
    - o Except on farms in agricultural districts, horses, mules, ponies, donkeys, cows, pigs, goats, sheep, chickens, ducks, geese, pigeons, peacocks, emu, lama, alpaca or any animal raised for fur-bearing purposes unless otherwise permitted elsewhere in this Code.
  - Hepner advocated for every village resident to be allowed up to four hens and no roosters within the Village Limits. Additional recommendations were made for a \$20 mandatory permit and proof of a well-ventilated and roofed coop. A fence and proof of proper feed storage would also be required before permit approval. Hepner also presented a petition with 59 signatures, which was



accepted by the Village Board. Hepner argued that chickens would be a good source of food, pest control, and compost / fertilizer for Village Residents.

- A letter advocating for Ordinance Chapter §158-12 to be upheld and unaltered was read by President Wuestenhagen. The letter expressed concerns of noise, odor, and predators / pests owning chickens could bring to the village, as well as traffic hazards and aesthetic grievances.
- President Wuestenhagen recommended the discussion be sent to the Finance Committee to determine a Fines and Fees schedule for a potential permitting process. The Safety and Public Works Committees are to also review all safety concerns. The board will continue to receive petitions from Village residents in the meantime.

**III. Discussion regarding the addition of a Veteran's of Foreign Wars Statue to Memorial Park**

- The VFW has approached the Village with a proposal to install two to three statues and a tree in Memorial Park. Only preliminary discussions have been held at this time. The Village Board agreed to discuss the matter in more detail at a future meeting.

**IV. Discussion of various Village Ordinance Enforcements:**

- President Wuestenhagen reported that 117 N Wisconsin Dr is now in compliance with Village Ordinances.
- The Village Board is receiving quotes for the removal of a dilapidated shed on 128 N Wisconsin Dr. Staff confirmed that only one quote has been received at this time. A total of 3 was required before the Village Board takes action.
- A letter was to be sent to 820 College Ave regarding property maintenance violations.
- President Wuestenhagen recommended the Finance Committee review the fines and fees schedule with regards to ordinance violations in the Village of Howards Grove.

**V. Recommend approval of the Monthly Sanitary and Village Voucher Report:** Trustee Sixel moved to recommend approval of the Monthly Sanitary and Village Voucher Report. The motion was seconded by Trustee Pieper and carried.

**VI. Public Meeting Notices:**

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|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Finance Committee Mtg     | September 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 @ 5:15 PM |
| 2. Village Board Regular Mtg | September 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 @ 5:30 PM |
| 3. Public Works & Safety     | September 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2025 @ 4:00 PM  |
| 4. Parks                     | September 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2025 @ 4:00 PM  |
| 5. Personnel Meeting         | TBD   |

**VII. Adjournment:** Trustee Horness motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Sixel. Motion carried 6-0, meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Submitted by: Katharine A Grunwald, Deputy Clerk

Approved: September 17, 2025