

**Village of Stoddard
Village Board Meeting
April 14th, 2026, 6:00 p.m.**

The Village Board met in regular session. Roll call: Scott Chiples, Diane Olson, Bill Evans, Jancyn Lepke, Terry Berra and Clerk Kent Hatlestad. Karen Long – excused.

Minutes: Motion Lepke, second Berra to approve minutes from the March meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

Appearances: Garold Becker-Stoddard Lions Club.

Bills and Vouchers: Motion Berra, second Olson to approve check register #22227- #22255 in the amount of \$33,352.19. All aye, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Board of Appeals – No meeting.

Board of Review – No meeting. Next meeting May 5, 2026. 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Budget & Finance – No meeting.

Building/Zoning/Land Planning – No meeting.

Fire – Chief Lehmann reported that the Department is looking for room to store the training building that was purchased. Room will be found at the Treatment Plant. Department would like to set up a meeting to go over the emergency response training held with the Vernon County Emergency Management Department regarding a train derailment in the village. A date will be set soon.

Park – Park Committee Meeting, April 2, 2026, Stoddard Village Hall, 6:15 p.m.

Call to order at 6:15pm. Roll call: Rick Andersen, Tom Venner, Jancyn Lepke all present. Anderson motion to approve minutes, Lepke seconds
Ball field lights: park committee will start getting bids from grant writers to attempt to submit grants. Anderson has a list of grants available to potentially help fund ball field lights project. Committee members are going to start reaching out to area businesses to see if there is interest in 4' and 8' banner ads along the outfield fence to help raise funds for this project to offset the approximately \$7500/ year payment of a \$140,000 loan. Would the Village Board would like to move forward with taking out a \$140,000 loan for this project? We will bring the plan to board in May.

2026 Park Plans: Need to hire a Park Manager. We need to know from the Village Board how many hours we are allowed to hire for each week for summer help. We are requesting that a Park Committee member be involved in the hiring process of all Park related employment.

Approval of donation from De Soto High School Baseball Team to update press box and backstop, motion to approve Tom Venner, Lepke second

River Diamond needs to be weed free and drug to maintain properly. Lions presented a potential future project for sidewalk to serve shelter B. No action taken.

We would like to request John Davis and Jayne Lepke be appointed to the Park Committee. Anderson motions to adjourn, Lepke 2nds. Next Park Committee Meeting:

April 29 @ 5pm at Village Hall. Questions for Kent: Park committee needs to know if the deferred park maintenance from last year left any \$ funds to roll over for 2026 to put into ball field lighting fund? What is the annual revenue the Village Park and the River Park each generate? Does the Park Committee have the right to accept donations for the Park or does the Board have to do that?

Personnel – No meeting.

Public Works – No meeting.

W&S – Utilities Commission Meeting, March 23rd, 2026, 3:30 p.m., Stoddard Sewer Plant

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. Present - Mark Peterson, Mike Young and Russ Bolton. Village Trustee Scott Chiples and Village Clerk Kent Hatlestad also present. **Minutes:** Motion Bolton, second Young to approve minutes from previous meeting. All aye, motion carried. **Appearances:** None.

Bills and Vouchers: Sewer #3934 – #3936 = \$9,000.53. Water #3600 - #3604 = \$1,382.91. Motion Bolton, second Young to approve. All aye, motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion on disinfection project 2028. Hatlestad reported that he had contacted the WI DNR Project Engineer and asked about the section and code that the requirement for the disinfection project was located in. The WI DNR representative, Ben Wacker, said that there was no section or code requiring the disinfection project but that it was in the “best interest” to have it done. Hatlestad will contact the village engineer, Jamey Makepeace, and let him know that the village is not ready to move forward with the project.

New Business:

Discussion on Highway 162 project. Hatlestad reported that Makepeace Engineering has been working on the plans for the project and is meeting project milestones.

Discussion on Hillside Court. Hatlestad reported that he will contact contractors and get a price for repairs on Hillside Court.

Communications: None. **Public Comment:** None. Motion Bolton, second Young to adjourn at. All aye. Motion carried. Adjournment. Next meeting April 20, 2026.

Unfinished Business:

a) Discussion on 2026 proposed projects. The preparations for the 2026 Hwy 162 project continue to be made.

New Business:

a) Spring Election results

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT Chris Taylor (D) 126, Maria Lazar (R) 92

COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT 4 Rachel Graham 177

VERNON COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 1 Will Beitlich 172

STODDARD VILLAGE TRUSTEE Jancyn Lepke 177 Diane Olson 126 Doug Sinniger 123 Steve Zanter 87

DE SOTO SCHOOL BOARD – TOWN OF FREEMAN Holly Nickelatti 175

DE SOTO SCHOOL BOARD – TOWN OF GENOA Teresa Christianson 164

DE SOTO SCHOOL BOARD – TOWN OF WHEATLAND Nicole Johnson 165

b) Discussion on Open Book/Board of Review. Hatlestad announced that Open Book was held on April 14th, 4:00 – 6:00.

No appearances. Board of Review will be held on May 5th, 6:00 – 8:00. Terry Berra will conduct Open Book duties.

c) Proposed park improvements. Garold Becker presented a plan to install a handicap accessible sidewalk from the parking area in front of Shelter B to the cement pad. The sidewalk will be 4 ft. wide and 58 ft. long. The Stoddard Lions Club will pay \$1,500 to the project and is asking the Park Dept. to pick up \$500. Motion Olson, second Chiples to approve the sidewalk. Handicap Parking signs will be installed and lines painted on the parking lot. Becker also reported

that a grand opening ceremony for the new shade structure at the splash pad will be held on Memorial Day after the parade. Everyone is invited.

d) Proposed new equipment purchase – tabled.

Communications: None.

License Applications: Chad “Wild” Myhre Memorial Fishing Tournament – Picnic license – May 1&2. Motion Lepke, second Chiples to approve. All aye, motion carried.

Operator License: Connie Krause, Lonnie Krause. Motion Olson, second Lepke to approve. All aye, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Garold Becker voiced concerns about the turf management at the park. The grass is in poor condition. Becker asked that the board approve a program to bring the turf back into better condition. Total cost about \$1,000 over the next year. The money for this project is in the park budget. The Labor Day Committee also said they would help with the cost.

Kelly King gave a report on the Legion and where the sale of the property is at this time. Hatlestad will get the agreement to the village attorney. A deadline of Aug 11th is set for a decision.

Motion Berra, second Lepke to adjourn at 6:48. All aye. Motion carried.

Next meeting May 12th.