Village of Holmen
Board Proceedings
October 8, 2026

President Barlow called the Holmen Village Board meeting to order at 7:00 pm on October 8, 2026, at the Holmen Village Hall.

Board members present: Patrick Barlow, Rich Anderson, Micah Wyss, Sam Kube, Dawn Kulcinski and Travis Elam. Doug Jorstad was excused. Also present were Joe Kovacevich, Administrator Heinig, Director of Operations & Finance/Clerk/Treasurer Hornberg, Chief Collins, Public Works Director/Engineer Dahl and Park & Recreation Director Geary.

Public Comment
None.

Minutes
Rich Anderson/Travis Elam motioned to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2026 Board Meeting and September 28, 2026 Special Board Meeting as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

Planning Commission
Informational items only.

Park, Recreation and Library Committee
No meeting was held.

Director Geary announced the Halloween Trick-or-Treat Event at the Holmen Library on October 28th from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.

Law Enforcement
Travis Elam/Dawn Kulcinski motioned to approve the purchase of an air conditioner unit for the Police Department garage from Ziegler Heating & Air Conditioning in the amount of $11.898.00. The motion carried 6-0.

Travis Elam/Sam Kube motioned to approve front office remodel in the Police Department with Emmons Business Interiors in the amount of $12,200.00. The motion carried 6-0.

Chair Elam mentioned that the above purchases were non-budgeted items but would utilize impact fee funds to fund the costs.

Travis Elam/Dawn Kulcinski motioned to approve the purchase of two – 2027 Ford Interceptors from Ewald Automotive Group with a total of $95,122.00 for the two vehicles. These vehicles will be two of the four squads purchased with the 2027 budget. The motion carried 6-0.

Public Works Committee
No meeting was held.

Finance and Personnel Committee
Sam Kube/Dawn Kulcinski Elam motioned to approve payment of the claims as presented for the amount of $2,839,818.36. The motion carried 6-0.

Sam Kube/Rich Anderson motioned to approve Memorandum of Understanding for the Years ending December 31, 2026, 2027 and 2028 with Hawkins, Ash, CPAs for audit services. The motion carried 6-0.

Sam Kube/Travis Elam motioned to approve purchase a new Public Works 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 from Morrie's Onalaska Chevrolet LLC. in the amount of $51,155.00. This purchase is an emergency expense due to a blown transmission and was therefore not budgeted; the cost will be covered by Miscellaneous Capital Outlay budget funds. The motion carried 6-0.

Sam Kube/Rich Anderson motioned approve Resolution 5-2026, Fire District Levy Increase for the 2027 Budget and Change in Equalized Value, as presented. Kube noted that the joint agreement between the Town of Holland and Village of Holmen allows for a levy adjustment for the Fire Department budget in the amount of $79,521.00. The motion carried 6-0.

Sam Kube and Dawn Kulcinski motioned to approve the use of professional fireworks for Jingle Fest, pending a full staff review and approval. Kube explained that Jingle Fest had requested permission to hold a firework display between the Police Department and the Library, as the majority of festival activities take place in that area. He noted that Holmen only hosts two community-wide events and stated that the Committee felt that allowing fireworks at Jingle Fest would be justified. Kube acknowledged staff concerns regarding cleanup but noted that the Committee had been assured volunteers would remove all debris, potentially continuing cleanup into the spring. Administrator Heinig stated that all department heads, including the Fire Chief, would review the fireworks permit before the event could be approved. The motion carried 6-0.

Shared Ride Committee

Trustee Kube stated that he had communicated Holmen's fiscal concerns to Municipal Partners in the Shared Ride Group while also emphasizing the program's importance to residents. He reviewed the proposed fee increases and reported that, assuming ridership remains at anticipated levels and the program borrows against future federal funding, the program could be financially viable in 2027. However, he noted that costs would become unsustainable beginning in 2028 and that the only contract option currently available is a two-year agreement.

Municipal Court Update

Meeting will be held next week.

Fire Board Report

Trustee Elam reported that there was no progress regarding the fire station or fire pumper at the most recent Fire Board meeting. He stated that the department's finances are on track for 2026 and that the department plans to use 2% fire dues to offset increases in health insurance and retirement costs. Elam also noted that new masks will be required to meet Emplify's updated criteria, raising concerns about the masks' size, cost, and durability.

President Barlow announced that the Holmen Area Fire Department would host an open house from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 10, in recognition of Fire Prevention Week.

Bluffland Coalition Report

Trustee Kube presented the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Members of the Bluffland Coalition Regarding Bluffland Initiatives, which proposes an annual fee of $500 per participant. Administrator Heinig reviewed the coalition's history and evolution, noting that members had previously

been assured that fees would not be charged. However, he acknowledged that funding could be made available if the group wished to pursue it. Board members expressed concerns that the MOU did not clearly identify the need for the annual fees or explain how the funds would be used. Trustee Kulcinski asked whether continued participation in the coalition would be necessary to qualify for future project grants. Heinig stated that the MOU now does indeed require participation to receive future grant funding, but that there were no upcoming known projects in the foreseeable future anyway. Trustee Elam noted that the MOU did not specify which expenses the fees would cover and expressed concern that contributions from all participating members over five years would accumulate to a substantial amount without a clearly established need. Trustee Kube explained that the coalition had indicated some of the funds would be used to establish a website and apply for 501(c)(3) status to become eligible to receive donations. President Barlow noted that the program is funded through the County tax levy and that the Village's contribution would increase as the community grows. Trustee Wyss questioned why a volunteer-based coalition could not rely on volunteers to develop a website and apply for tax-exempt status. County Supervisor Joe Kovacevich offered to obtain additional information from La Crosse County regarding the intended use of the proposed funds.

Travis Elam/Rich Anderson motioned to table consideration and action on Memorandum of Understanding Between the Members of the Bluffland Coalition Regarding Bluffland Initiatives. The motion carried 6-0.

County Supervisor's Report

County Supervisor Kovacevich updated the Board on La Crosse County's 2027 budget. He reported that the fourth Data Center Meeting had taken place and that the group was preparing to review applicable ordinances to ensure they are prepared to ask informed questions if and when any data center projects move forward. Kovacevich also noted that the County had approved a reduced speed limit on County Road HD/McHugh/53.

President's Report

President Barlow reported that Explore La Crosse plans to transfer operation of the Beer, Wine and Cheese event to the City of Onalaska for next spring. He noted that the La Crosse Area Development Committee Board continues to work on revisions to its strategic plan, vision, and mission, as well as the creation of subcommittees to improve organization. Barlow also reported that, at the La Crosse Area Planning Committee, he learned an AmeriCorps volunteer had recently started serving as Mobility Manager. Additionally, he provided updates from the UW-La Crosse Chancellor's Community Breakfast, noting that the university is pursuing several grants to support future health care workforce training. He also highlighted that 2026 marks the 50th anniversary of the UW-La Crosse Physical Therapy program.

Other Items before the Board

Chief Collins reiterated the Holmen Area Fire Department's concerns regarding Emplify's new mask requirements and noted that equipment is often not returned.

At 7:54 pm, Travis Elam/Dawn Kulcinski motioned to convene into closed session per Wisconsin State Statute:

> *Authority: §19.85(1) (e)* Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session
>
> Purpose: Holmen Area Fire District Investments
> Purpose: Shared Ride Contract Negotiations with Municipal Partners

and

Authority: §19.85(1) (g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

Purpose: Possible Insurance Claim

The motion carried 6-0.

At 8:46 pm, Travis Elam/Sam Kube motioned to reconvene into open session per Wisconsin State Statute 19.85(2). The motion carried 6-0.

Travis Elam and Dawn Kulcinski motioned to deny participation in the proposed Shared Ride Contract, citing fiscal concerns and decisions that cannot be responsibly supported within the two-year agreement and the numerous unknown factors affecting the program; they stated that continued participation under the proposed terms would be fiscally irresponsible. The motion carried 6-0.

Rich Anderson/Travis Elam motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. The motion carried 6-0.

Angela A. Hornberg
Director of Operations & Finance/Clerk/Treasurer