

August 12, 2026- Regular Meeting

This meeting was called to order by chairman Tom Kearns. The meeting was posted in accordance with WI State Statutes. Roll call board members present. Minutes from July's meeting were read and approved as read. Treasurer's report read. Motion to approve by Don Lenzendorf, 2nd by Dan Snyder, motion carried. Motion to pay claims by Don Lenzendorf, 2nd by Dan Snyder, motion carried.

Appearance of Citizens: Alex Osterkamp, Mark Johnson, Charles Clark and Sarah Sime present to discuss Seneca School Referendum. Alex spoke on how school haven't been funded correctly in the State of Wisconsin. Funding is currently \$325 per child and 69 schools have had to close doors. There are also insufficient funds for special education. There has been declining enrollment state wide as more people are moving out of state. The school is proposing a referendum this fall however there has not been a decision whether it will be a recurring vs non-recurring referendum and the amount of the referendum has not yet been determined. Alex noted the school has been taking from the fund balance to deter deficit to make up costs. Alex also spoke regarding revenue limits. The school fund balance is at 23% this year, next year will be at 13% and will be negative the following year. He also noted the school has not raised the revenue limit for 18 years. They have already cut staffing, bookkeeping, bus driver, special ed, altered health insurance plans, refinanced, received grants, and now operating expenses are cutting into fund balance. Alex also noted Seneca has one of the lowest mill rates in CESA3 at \$5.66. The yearly operating budget for the school is \$4.5-5 million. Once the referendum amount is determined the school will hold informational meetings.

Ron Hartley, Brian Reynolds, and Mark Beutow present to discuss the fire station. Ron spoke of visit to Glen Haven fire station which was building in 2019. Glen Haven received a USDA grant. Ron asked the board what the next steps should be. He noted Kate heard back from Greg Wavernick from Tammy Baldwin's office about different grant opportunities. Karen Snyder asked how much more farmers can afford. She noted she just sat through talk of school referendum, talking about fire station, and the county is building a \$7 million building. Brian Reynolds explained the county purchase land and is looking at county workers preparing the land. They are just prepping the land at this time and are looking at funding sources but as of right now, no building. Dan Snyder asked why the county needs another building, Brian noted they feel there is a need, the current building in Gays Mills has mold and it would take less equipment. The board suggested getting building plans so we are ready to move forward.

Old Business: Tom updated the tornado siren is not repairable. Discussion held regarding purchasing new siren.

Motion to adjourn at 9:18 pm by Don Lenzendorf, 2nd by Don Snyder, motion carried **Julie Payne, Clerk**