

CHAPTER 2

THE GOVERNING BODY

- 2.01 The Village Board
- 2.02 Meetings of the Village Board
- 2.03 Conduct of Meetings
- 2.04 Ordinances and Resolutions
- 2.05 Rules of Order
- 2.06 Committee

2.01 THE VILLAGE BOARD.

(A) **General.** The Village Board shall be composed of seven (7) Trustees which includes the President who shall be elected as provided by §61.20(1), Wis. Stats. The President of the Village Board of Trustees shall preside at all meetings of the Village Board. In the absence of the President, the Village Clerk/Treasurer shall call the meeting to order and preside until the members present select a Trustee to preside at that meeting.

(B) **Initial Terms of Office.** Three (3) Trustees shall be elected to a term which shall end on the 3rd Monday of April, 2017, and three (3) Trustees shall be elected for a term which shall end on the 3rd Monday of April, 2016. Thereafter, all Trustees shall be elected to two (2) year terms commencing on the 3rd Tuesday of April in the year of election.

2.02 MEETINGS OF THE VILLAGE BOARD.

All meetings of the Village Board shall be conducted in compliance with Section V Chapter 19, Wis. Stats. (Wisconsin Open Meetings Law) as may be amended or renumbered from time to time.

(A) **Regular Meetings.** Regular meetings of the Village Board shall be held on the second Wednesday of each calendar month at 5:30 p.m., unless changed by a majority vote of the Board for a good reason. Any regular meeting falling on a legal holiday may be held at any other secular day at the same hour and place as determined by the Village Board.

(B) **Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Village Board may be called by the President or by not less than two (2) Trustees per §61.32, Wis. Stats., by requesting the Clerk/Treasurer to call such meeting, stating the time and place for such meeting, which notice may be in writing, by electronic mail or by telephone. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting except for the purpose which was stated in the notice thereof.

(C) **Place of Meetings.** Meetings of the Village Board, including special and adjourned meetings, shall be held at the Village Hall. However, a meeting of the Village Board may be held at any designated place upon proper public notice of such meeting at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time for such meeting.

(D) **Quorum.** Four (4) Trustees shall constitute a quorum and the only business to be undertaken in the absence of a quorum shall be to adjourn from time to time or to compel the attendance of absent members.

(E) **Attendance at Meetings.** For purposes of establishing a quorum, a Trustee must attend a meeting either in person or by telephone conference call which provides the press and the public with an effective means to monitor the telephone conversations of any Trustee not personally in attendance. Any meeting at which a Trustee(s) anticipates not being personally present and participating by telephone conference must be properly noticed which shall include the intention that one (1) or more Trustees will participate by telephone or other electronic or video format which allows the press and/or the

public an equivalent ability to monitor the participation of Trustee(s) not personally present at the meeting. The attendance by a Trustee shall not be available by telephone for any meeting or any portion of a meeting which is a closed session of the Village Board pursuant to §19.85(1), Wis. Stats.

2.03 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS.

(A) **Order of Business**. The business of the Village Board shall be conducted in the following order:

- (1) Call to order by the presiding officer.
- (2) Pledge of allegiance to the flag.
- (3) Additions or corrections and approval of the minutes of previous meetings.
- (4) Board's audit of general funds and allowance or disallowance of accounts presented for payment.
- (5) Audit of other special, agency or utility district accounts.
- (6) Monthly reports.
- (7) Petitions and communications.
- (8) Citizen's comments.
 - (a) Procedure.
 - (i) Members of the public hearing wishing to address the Village of Somers Board are required to fill out a Registration for Participation in the Public Comment segment of the Board Agenda and present same to the Clerk/Treasurer prior to the start of the Village Board meeting.
 - (ii) Only those persons who have filled out the required registration form and presented it to the Clerk/Treasurer will be allowed to address the Village Board unless this requirement is waived by a majority of the Village Board.
 - (iii) A person shall be allowed to speak only once during the public comment period but may, at the discretion of the President and consent of the Trustees, be allowed to address the Board for additional comments.

(iv) Each registrant will be allowed a maximum of five (5) minutes to address the Village Board on the topic they have listed on their registration form.

(v) Village Board members are not to ask questions or engage in debate with the registrant.

(vi) Any materials which a person wishes Village Board members to review must be given to the Village Clerk/Treasurer prior to the meeting for distribution.

(vii) The Village Board President or other presiding officer, at their discretion, may refer the registrants to staff for follow-up on any information presented.

(b) Proper Decorum. Proper decorum must be observed by speakers in providing testimony and remarks during any public comment period. Speakers are expected to conduct themselves with civility and to accord a measure of dignity and respect.

(i) The Village Board President shall keep control of the meeting and require speakers and audience to refrain from abusive or profane remarks, disruptive outbursts, applause, protests or other conduct which disrupts or interferes with the orderly conduct of the business of the meeting.

(ii) Personal attacks on Village Board Trustees, Village staff, other officials or members of the public are not allowed. Engaging in such conduct will be grounds for ending a speaker's time at the podium or removal from the meeting room at the discretion of the Village Board President.

(9) Reports of standing, special or select committees and Plan Commission and other official advisory bodies.

(10) New business.

(11) Unfinished business.

(12) Adjournment.

(B) **Agenda.** The Clerk/Treasurer shall prepare a written agenda for each meeting and distribute the same in accordance with Chapter 19, Wis. Stats. (Open Meetings Law) as may be amended or renumbered from time to time.

2.04 ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

No ordinance, resolution or by-law shall be considered unless presented to the Board in writing. Ordinances, resolutions, by-laws, communications and other matters submitted to the Board shall be read, except that if requested by a Trustee before the final vote is taken, no ordinance, resolution or by-law need be read in full.

2.05 RULES OF ORDER.

(A) **General Rules.** The deliberations of the Board shall be conducted in accordance with the parliamentary rules contained in ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED, except as otherwise provided herein.

(B) **Addressing Board.** Except under "CITIZENS COMMENT", no person other than a member shall address the Board except by recognition of the President or upon request of a Board member with the Board's consent.

(C) **Discussion And Withdrawal of Motions.** No ordinance, resolution or other motion shall be discussed unless it has been moved and seconded. No motion shall be withdrawn without the consent of the person making the same and the person seconding it.

(D) **Members to Vote.** Every member shall vote when a question is put, unless the Board shall excuse him. The President, who is by virtue of his or her office a Trustee, is entitled to vote on every issue. The Clerk/Treasurer shall call the names of the members of the Board in alphabetical order on the roll call votes. Roll call votes may be requested by any member prior to the vote.

(E) **Precedence of Motions.** When a question is in debate, no action shall be in order except the following motions which shall have precedence in the order in which they stand:

- (1) To adjourn.
- (2) To lay on the table.
- (3) The previous question.
- (4) To postpone to a certain date.
- (5) To refer to a standing, select or special committee.
- (6) To amend.
- (7) To postpone indefinitely.

(F) **Reconsideration of Votes**. Any member in the majority may move for the reconsideration of any vote in question at the same meeting. A motion to reconsider being put and lost shall not be renewed.

(G) **Call For The Previous Question**. Any member desirous of terminating the debate may call the previous question when the question announced by the chair shall be "shall the main question be put?" If a majority of the members present vote in the affirmative, the main question shall be put without further debate, and its effect shall be to put an end to all debate and bring the Board to a direct vote, first upon the pending amendment, and then upon the main question.

(H) **Suspension of Rules**. These rules or any part thereof may be temporarily suspended in connection with any matter under consideration by a recorded vote of 2/3 of the members present.

2.06 COMMITTEE.

(A) **Committee Reports**. Each committee or commission shall report to the Board with a written report of all matters referred to it or considered by it. Such report shall recommend action to be taken by the Board. The Board may adopt, reject or modify any recommendation of any committee or commission reporting to the Board.