

**VILLAGE OF PEWAUKEE
SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MINUTES
JULY 21, 2026**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwX6XGLQlgo>

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence, and Roll Call

President Knutson called the meeting to order at approximately 5:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call was taken with the following Village Board members present: Trustee Bob Rhode, Trustee Kelli Belt, Trustee Rachel Pader, Trustee Kristen Kreuser, Trustee Jim Grabowski and President Jeff Knutson. Trustee Stauff arrived at 5:15 pm.

Also Present: Village Attorney, Matt Gralinski; Village Administrator, Matt Heiser; Village Clerk, Mackenzie Quigley, Deputy Clerk, Jessica Sweet, Parks and Recreation Director, Nick Phalen.

2. Old Business

a. Review, discussion and possible action on the prioritization of and progress on objectives, strategies and tactics of the strategic plan including a conceptual plan of improvements to the beach and Lakefront Park.

Heiser provided an overview of the proposed Downtown Triangle concept plan. The Board discussed key priorities, including safety along W. Wisconsin Avenue, aesthetics, ADA accessibility to the lakefront, and creating an inviting space for all users.

Trustee Rohde emphasized the importance of the Downtown Triangle as the heart of the Village, noting that the project is intended to serve the community for decades to come.

Trustee Grabowski stated the vision is to transform the area into a destination rather than solely a beach attraction, describing the proposal as a feasible and achievable opportunity that could have a significant long-term impact.

Knutson shared that the concept was inspired by the City of Oconomowoc and its active, vibrant downtown.

Director Phalen, speaking on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department, recommended expanding the project to include improvements to the Lakefront Park pavilion to enhance usability. He also advised against installing artificial turf near the lake. Additional ideas for improving the overall lakefront experience were discussed.

Knutson asked about the next steps.

Heiser explained that developing project costs and a timeline would be the next priority, emphasizing that the project represents a once-in-a-generation investment and should be approached with a long-term vision.

Trustee Grabowski noted that the concept plan is not final and can continue to be refined.

It was agreed that Village staff would meet with stakeholders and downtown business owners to further develop the plan.

Gralinski stated that no formal motion was necessary, provided there was clear direction from the Board.

Trustee Rohde, Trustee Grabowski, and Administrator Heiser will continue moving the project forward.

3. New Business

- a. Review, discussion and possible action on a request from the Pewaukee River Partnership for \$14,808 of seed money to apply for grants to fund planning and design of improvements to the Pewaukee River shoreline.**

Knutson expressed appreciation for the Village's ongoing partnership with the Pewaukee River Partnership.

Charlie Shong provided an update on the transition to a more comprehensive planning process, outlining the next steps and available grant opportunities.

Tom Kepp reported that the Partnership has met with the DNR and Village staff to discuss the dam and overall river improvements, including efforts to improve river depth and flow.

Nick Conner, W125S72124 Mukwonago, reviewed the anticipated project timeline, including fieldwork and surveys, development and review of the conceptual plan, funding opportunities expected from spring through late summer of next year, permitting, and future construction grant opportunities.

The Board and the Pewaukee River Partnership discussed the proposed planning process.

Trustee Grabowski motioned, seconded by Trustee Rohde to approve \$14,808 of seed money to apply for grants to fund planning and design of improvements to the Pewaukee River shoreline.
Motion carried: 7-0

4. Adjournment.

Trustee Kreuser motioned, seconded by Trustee Grabowski to adjourn the July 21, 2026, Special Village Board Meeting at approx. 6:00pm.

Motion carried: 7-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Sweet
Deputy Clerk