



City of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes
205 S. Lincoln Ave; Council Chambers
Monday, January 5, 2026
6:30 PM

1) Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting of the Operations Committee was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Chairperson Bonnett. Present: Joseph Bonnett, Jennifer Hiley, Elwood Lee Flaherty, Cris Olson, Andrew Perkins, Nancy Wild, Jeff Bierman, 7. Absent: None. Others in attendance – Bobbi Marck (Mayor), Todd Janssen (Director of Engineering), Jeremy Klug (Director of Utilities), Joe Lehner (Water Utility Supervisor), Kieran O'Day (City Attorney), Alderperson Keel, Terry Bell (WBEV), Roger Dusso (via zoom)

a) Approval of the December 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Cris Olson, second by Elwood Lee Flaherty, to approve. Motion carried by acclamation.

2) Discussion & Possible Action

a) Regarding Long Term Planning of Water Treatment Facility

Introduced by Klug followed by discussion. The existing Water Treatment Plant (WTP) was constructed in 1957 and last upgraded in 1998. The existing facility is well maintained but is experiencing deteriorating infrastructure. The existing facility also utilizes a lime softening process, which results in high operational and lime sludge disposal costs due to limited options for hauling/disposal and stricter WDNR disposal regulations. A 2023 Feasibility Study Alternative analysis evaluated the long-term cost/benefit to 1) continue lime softening, 2) eliminate central softening, 3) retrofit a new reverse osmosis system at the existing facility site, or 4) construct a new reverse osmosis water treatment facility. The said analysis recommended constructing a new reverse osmosis water treatment facility. The first step in constructing a new facility is to identify a property that can be built upon. Staff have identified two possible 5-acre properties – property #1 being privately owned land for sale near the intersection of Green Valley Rd/Dodge Dr, and property #2 being city owned land near the intersection of Commercial Dr/Woodland Dr. The estimated cost to construct a new facility on property #1 is \$32M while the estimated cost to construct a new facility on property #2 is \$43M. Therefore, staff recommend proceeding with negotiations to purchase property #1 for future construction of a new reverse osmosis water treatment facility.

Motion by Wild permitting staff to proceed with negotiating a land purchase of property #1, second by Hiley. The preceding motion passed by the following vote: Ayes: Joseph Bonnett, Jennifer Hiley, Elwood Lee Flaherty, Cris Olson, Andrew Perkins, Nancy Wild, 6. Noes: Jeff Bierman, 1.

b) Regarding Curbside Leaf Pickup

Introduced by Bonnett followed by discussion. Bonnett noted the discussion points as city communications, frequency of pickups, established start/stop dates, sources used to notify residents (newspaper, Facebook, website), and violation fees. Keel noted she has received constituent complaints regarding the irregular frequency with which leaves are picked up, lawn damage resulting from leaf pickup, and why public works crews were putting up Christmas lights when so many leaves still needed to be picked up. Keel also noted that she is ok with the current general leaf pickup timeframe of October to November rather than specifying particular dates. Perkins praised the leaf pickup process, but acknowledged weather this year made it a challenge, communication needs to be improved and concurred with no set specific start/stop dates for leaf pickup. Flaherty noted his experience with the irregular frequency of leaf pickup and questioned whether leaf pickup could be localized to one week like bulk trash. Flaherty also concurred that communication has been a challenge and the public is unsure when leaves should be put out for pickup. Janssen noted that leaves are picked up on a continual basis once announced and generally follow garbage pickup routes. Hiley noted her reliance on the city website for information to help answer questions from constituents and concurs with flexible pickup dates from October through November. Hiley also questioned if the leaf pickup service is required by the city or if the service could be eliminated. Olson noted that it was clear that consistency and communication are the major issues and suggested that the leaf pickup schedule (for the current day and at least 2 days beyond) be communicated on the city website. Perkins noted that he is ok with the hefty violation fee as a deterrent. Committee consensus was for public works to improve leaf pickup communication to the public, by leveraging the city website to publicize the anticipated pickup schedule based upon garbage pickup routes.

3) Adjourn

Motion by Jennifer Hiley, second by Nancy Wild, to adjourn. Motion carried by acclamation. Chairperson Bonnett adjourned the meeting at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Orth
Deputy City Clerk