

EDITORIAL

Lone Rock has some explaining to do, potential violations of open meetings law

It has come to Valley Sentinel's attention that there may have been deficiencies in notice of recent Village of Lone Rock Board of Trustees meetings, potentially in violation of Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

On Oct. 31, the Village held a joint special meeting of the Public Safety Committee and the Village Board to purportedly go into closed session "for the purpose of discussing employment and performance evaluation data related to the police chief."

On Nov. 1, the Village held a public hearing regarding the proposed 2023 budget, followed by a Village Board meeting to purportedly take action on the proposed budget as well as the fire district budget, hiring of a public works director, accepting bids on a truck, tractor and ambulance, among other actions.

At this time, it does not appear Valley

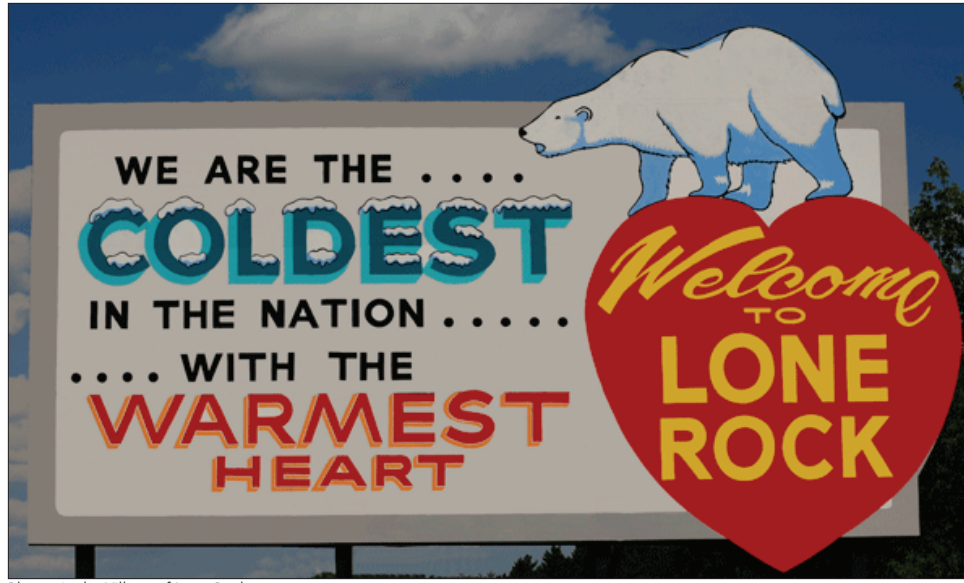


Photo via the Village of Lone Rock

Sentinel received any notice of the Oct. 31 special meeting, and received less than one hour notice for the Nov. 1 meeting, potentially in violation of Wis.

Stat. § 19.84(1)(b), among others. An initial, cursory review failed to find the required class 1 notice of the proposed budget and hearing in recent editions of

the Home News.

We are looking into the procedures followed by the Village and have submitted public records requests to ascertain whether or not proper notice was given to the public.

Wis. Stat. § 19.84(3) requires that every public notice of a meeting be given at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, unless "for good cause" such notice is "impossible or impractical." If "good cause" exists, the notice should be given as soon as possible and must be given at least two hours in advance of the meeting, according to the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law Compliance Guide published by the state attorney general's office.

If you had interest in attending these meetings and believe you failed to receive proper notice, please let us know at editor@valleysentinelnews.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Love for Wisdom

Dear Editor,

I physically grew up next to my first school. I attended Roosevelt Grade School, kindergarten through third grade. The school was closer than a stone throw, I could literally jump out of my bedroom window, with some pain, and land on the school playground.

During the '50s and '60s teachers were loved and respected and education was a privilege. Although I was born with dyslexia and I still struggle with it today, I knew early on that education, as difficult as it was for me, was a part in becoming a complete person.

I am saddened today to see so many disrespected teachers being underpaid and taken for granted. The main reason for so much ignorance towards education is the lack of wisdom in today's society. In college I majored in philosophy,

not the most useful study to major in. However, it was there I learned a definition for philosophy was the love for wisdom. Our society today is in a dumbing down mode because we lack the wisdom to understand the importance of education.

Among many in our society the love of wisdom is being kicked around like a soccer ball. I grow weary of politicians, some churches and ordinary citizens mocking wisdom as if it were the enemy. Education and wisdom are not the enemy. The enemy is the opposite of wisdom, foolishness, having a deaf ear to the assault going on with the poor, the pollution of our planet, disrespect for the rights of women,

Foolish people think they can do what they want according to the amount of money, power and influence they have.

Foolishness leads to careless speech, an incorrect understanding of the world we live in, prejudice, racism and the many other ism's.

Students of wisdom value life, strive for a healthy community for all, understand that life is good, that we are entrusted to care for the world,

Education alone can lead only to the gathering of facts to put another in their place. When we embrace wisdom and combine it with education, we are offered abundant life, a kinder universe in which to live. With the coupling of education and wisdom we strive to have a better relationship with our creator, have a better relationship with all creatures and a well-ordered world in which to live.

We are in an urgent time when the foolish and the simpletons seem to be winning the race. This trail will only lead

us to misery and death. Wisdom teaches we are all connected with one another in a moral coherence.

May we all strive harder through education coupled with wisdom to be more mindful of the people and other creatures around us, where we create a place for love and understanding where we study the world, dialogue with the world, and learn from the world. Wisdom has the ability to take information and transform it into something beautiful. When wisdom is used properly it can guide our thinking, our attitude, our mindset.

Wisdom leads to understanding. And understanding leads to acceptance, tolerance, and love.

Dennis Siebert  
Sylvan Township, Wisconsin

DONATION DRIVE

Recently we received word from our press that costs for materials have risen over 19% in the past few months and that our printing cost will go up accordingly.

If we charged \$1 for each copy of Valley Sentinel, just half of the copies that are picked up each week would entirely cover our printing costs — however, we are committed to remaining a free

publication with an accessible, hybrid model that allows anyone that wants to read local news to have access to it. We do not believe financial ability should be a barrier to reading local news.

We may be a free paper, but unfortunately it's not free to print papers.

Valley Sentinel will stay a free and truly independent and accessible paper. Please frequent our local businesses and let them

know you read Valley Sentinel each week.

What does independent news mean to us? It means NOT influenced by corporations or government, NO big corporate backers, NO corporate umbrella organizations, NO big money investors. Just a handful of people with a dream to build community.

Valley Sentinel is all-volunteer, independently owned and operated by its editors and is a majority woman-owned business. Community fueled and community focused. We only succeed if the community succeeds.

For more about Valley Sentinel and our model, visit us at [valleysentinelnews.com/about](http://valleysentinelnews.com/about)

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Have graphic design experience or interested in meetings, events or writing and becoming a community contributor? Let us know. Thank you to all of our contributors for believing in our community.

Editorial Policy

On certain topics in areas of great community interest, the editors of the Valley Sentinel may take positions they believe best represent and serve the interests of the community. Any opinions or positions taken by the editorial board are separate and distinct in labeling and substance from the community journalism that appears in the rest of the publication and does not affect the integrity and impartiality of our reporting.

Letter to the Editor Policy

Letters submitted for consideration are subject to fact-checking and editing for space and clarity. Submissions must have a compelling local community interest. Letters to the editor must fit within a 500-word limit, and include name, city and phone number. Phone numbers are for office use only and will not be published. Letters of a political nature, without chance of rebuttal, will not be published the week before an election.

Column Policy

Editors may feature opinion columns written by public figures, members of the public or other publication staff. Columns reflect the opinions of the individual contributors and do not represent positions of the publication. Guest columns of an anticipated length more than 500 words should seek prior editor authorization.

Community Discussion Policy

From time to time the editorial board may select letters to the editor of a particular compelling community interest where a public figure or accountable public action is the recipient of criticism and allow, in the same issue, the subject of the criticism chance for rebuttal, with expounded independent input. The format shall be point, counterpoint and expert analysis. This community discussion shall serve as a moderated dialogue that presents multiple views of important community topics.

Full and up-to-date policies available at: [www.valleysentinelnews.com](http://www.valleysentinelnews.com)



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Valley Sentinel is an independent, editor-owned, all-volunteer, free bi-weekly news publication, available on newsstands in the area.

Covering Arena, Lone Rock, Plain, Spring Green and the surrounding areas in Sauk, Iowa and Richland counties.

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