



**Meeting:** Village Board  
**Meeting Date:** 9/26/11  
**Agenda Item:** 6d

**Mission Statement**

Delivering quality services in a courteous, cost-effective and efficient manner.

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## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING STAFF REPORT

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**REPORT TO:** Village Board of Trustees

**REPORT FROM:** Burt R. McIntyre, President

**AGENDA ITEM:** Review and take action on proposal to change the number of trustees

**ACTION REQUESTED:** \_\_\_Ordinance \_\_\_Resolution   X  Motion \_\_\_Receive/File

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### **POLICY ISSUE**

Does the Village Board desire to change the number of trustees from 8 to 6?

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Village Board briefly discussed the idea of lowering the number of trustees during a previous closed session. The best time to make changes of the size of the Village Board of Trustees is after a federal census and before the ward lines are redrawn. Village staff is working on redistricting the ward boundaries and will need to know if the Board desires to lower the total number of trustees prior to completing their work on the redistricting project.

State Statutes read that all villages in the state shall have 6 trustees unless a local ordinance changes this number (see Attachment I, an excerpt from State Statutes and village ordinances). Most of the villages in the state have 6 trustees. Please see Attachment II that contains a listing of the number of trustees by village (listed in order of largest to smallest). This list is a partial listing of villages in the state.

Given we are currently experiencing loss in shared revenue in the 2012 budget year and the budget will be completed in the next two months, the decision to lower the number of trustees would also help lower overall budget costs in 2012 by at least \$12,500. It is my understanding that there are possibly two or three trustees that may choose not to run for office when their terms expire. Both of these factors give support to the idea of lowering the number of trustees in 2012.

I am seeking Village Board input on this issue. Approval of this concept would require additional work, namely an ordinance change to lower the number of trustees from 8 to 6. I would also recommend holding a public hearing at our next Board meeting to allow for public input on this subject.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

- |                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Is There A Fiscal Impact? | <u>Yes</u>  |
| 2. Is it Currently Budgeted? | <u>No</u>   |
| 3. If Budgeted, Which Line?  | <u>----</u> |

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

I recommend that we strongly consider lowering the number of trustees on the Village Board from 8 to 6.

If the Village Board agreed with this action, the following motion could be used, "*Motion to recommend staff bring back an ordinance to reduce the number of trustees from 8 to 6 and hold a public hearing at our next meeting to obtain public input.*"

**POLICY ALTERNATIVE(S)**

The Village Board could take the following actions:

- Leave the ordinances as is and make no change.

**ATTACHED INFORMATION**

- I. Wis. Statutes 61.20 and Village Code sec. 2-46
- II. Listing of Villages by population with number of Trustees

# ATTACHMENT I

## State Statutes

### 61.20 Election of trustees; terms; number.

**61.20(1)(1)** Villages shall have 6 trustees, except as provided otherwise in sub. (3), whose term of office shall be 2 years, 3 of whom shall be elected each year.

**(3)** Villages having a population of 350 or less shall have 2 trustees, who together with the president shall constitute the village board, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum. One trustee shall be elected each year for a term of 2 years.

**(4)** Any village may by ordinance change the number of trustees, but such change in the number of trustees shall not affect the term of office of trustees elected prior to the adoption of such ordinance authorizing such change.

## Village Ordinances

### Sec. 2-46. - Membership.

The village board shall consist of the village president, who is elected at-large, **and eight village trustees, who are elected by wards.**

(emphasis added)

## ATTACHMENT II

The following is generated from a list of the **largest municipalities (85) in the state of Wisconsin** according to the 2000 census and the U.S. Census Bureau's at the 2010 census. <sup>[1]</sup> This list is a breakout of all villages (20) with more than 10,000 inhabitants.

Rank	Municipality	Population (2010 Census)	Population (2000 Census)	Type	County	County	# Trustees
21	<a href="#">Menomonee Falls</a>	35,626	32,647	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Waukesha</a>		6
29	<a href="#">Mount Pleasant</a>	26,197	23,142	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Racine</a>		6
32	<a href="#">Caledonia</a>	24,705	23,614	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Racine</a>		6
<b>38</b>	<b><a href="#">Germantown</a></b>	<b>19,749</b>	<b>18,260</b>	<b><a href="#">Village</a></b>	<b><a href="#">Washington</a></b>		<b>8</b>
39	<a href="#">Pleasant Prairie</a>	19,719	16,136	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Kenosha</a>		4
<b>45</b>	<b><a href="#">Howard</a></b>	<b>17,399</b>	<b>13,546</b>	<b><a href="#">Village</a></b>	<b><a href="#">Brown,</a></b>	<b><a href="#">Outagamie</a></b>	<b>8</b>
47	<a href="#">Ashwaubenon</a>	16,963	17,634	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Brown</a>		6
53	<a href="#">Weston</a>	14,868	12,079	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Marathon</a>		6
54	<a href="#">Bellevue</a>	14,570	11,828	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Brown</a>		4
57	<a href="#">Whitefish Bay</a>	14,110	14,163	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Milwaukee</a>		6
58	<a href="#">Greendale</a>	14,046	14,405	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Milwaukee</a>		6
59	<a href="#">Allouez</a>	13,975	15,443	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Brown</a>		6
62	<a href="#">Shorewood</a>	13,162	13,763	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Milwaukee</a>		6
67	<a href="#">Plover</a>	12,123	10,520	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Portage</a>		6
68	<a href="#">Waunakee</a>	12,097	8,995	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Dane</a>		6
70	<a href="#">Brown Deer</a>	11,999	12,170	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Milwaukee</a>		6
72	<a href="#">Grafton</a>	11,459	10,312	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Ozaukee</a>		6
74	<a href="#">Suamico</a>	11,346	8,686	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Brown</a>		6
81	<a href="#">Sussex</a>	10,518	8,828	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Waukesha</a>		6
83	<a href="#">Little Chute</a>	10,449	10,476	<a href="#">Village</a>	<a href="#">Outagamie</a>		6