



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES - Final
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025

President Cecola called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

PRESENT

- ❖ Brian D. Cecola, President
- ❖ David Riff, ProTem/Trustee
- ❖ Laura S. Ekstrom, Trustee, arrived 6:32 pm
- ❖ Thomas W. Strauss, Trustee
- ❖ Jessica Hoffmann, Trustee, arrived 6:31 PM
- ❖ Marsha McClary, Trustee
- ❖ Kyle Murphy, Chief of Police
- ❖ Anna Paul, Dir. of Administration
- ❖ Nikki Panos, Village Clerk
- ❖ Patrick Bond, Village Attorney
- ❖ Wes Levy, Village Treasurer, arrived 6:37 PM

ABSENT

- John Carpenter (JC) Clarke, Trustee

AUDIENCE

- Matt Holmes
- Jack Brennan

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 17, 2025

MOTION: Riff **SECOND:** Hoffmann

No comment.

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 (McClary, Hoffmann, Strauss, Ekstrom, Riff)
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 (Clarke)
 Abstain: 0

MOTION APPROVED

ACCEPT VILLAGE TREASURER’S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2025

MOTION: Riff **SECOND:** Hoffmann

Treasurer Levy reported that there are 16 days left in the fiscal year, and summarized the total cash and investments, revenue and expenses. Highlights included:

- The Village has not received Cook County’s tax distribution because of the late tax bill due date.
- Expenses for the year were less than anticipated.
- Defined working budget and appropriations.

Trustee Strauss inquired when the Village can anticipate receiving funds from Cook County to which Levy replied the County tends to distribute the funds when available, which could be at the end of the year.

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 (McClary, Hoffmann, Strauss, Ekstrom, Riff)
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 (Clarke)
 Abstain: 0

MOTION APPROVED

APPROVE INVOICES FOR DECEMBER 2025

MOTION: Riff **SECOND:** Ekstrom

Treasurer Levy highlighted the liability insurance renewal for 2026.

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 (McClary, Hoffmann, Strauss, Ekstrom, Riff)
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 (Clarke)
 Abstain: 0

MOTION APPROVED

APPROVE OVERTIME REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2025

MOTION: Riff **SECOND:** McClary

Trustee Strauss reported that payments were more than usual due to NIPAS (Northern Illinois Police Alarm System) which is beneficial to have, and for the traffic enforcement project which is refundable by IDOT.

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 (McClary, Hoffmann, Strauss, Ekstrom, Riff)
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 (Clarke)
 Abstain: 0

MOTION APPROVED

ACCEPT POLICE PENSION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2025

Treasurer Levy reported that there is nothing to approve as the only document in the packet is the consolidated fund statement. He shared that the reports will be included in the January 2026 Board packet.

VILLAGE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026

MOTION: Riff **SECOND:** Ekstrom

Treasurer Levy reported this document is the Village’s working budget document, not the appropriation ordinance, of which he provided a description and shared the process of approving the appropriation ordinance.

Levy highlighted:

- the Village kept the levy flat once again for FY 2025.
- a \$250,000 decrease proposed in road spending in FY 2026.
- majority of expenses are personnel related, most contractual related and provided an explanation.
- long term planning for cash reserves estimates that reserves and operating funds are projected to be at nine (9) months’ worth of expenses at the end of 2026.

PD Chief Murphy shared that there are anticipated retirements (7+) over the next five (5) years, and there is the necessity to replace personnel, and explained the hiring/training process. If the Department is not proactive, it will affect PD operations and public security. He explained the Department’s need for a Deputy Chief position and that time is needed to determine candidates.

Trustee Strauss reported on the Village’s levy history over the past 15 years, and that the Finance Committee felt the Village was in the position to keep the levy flat and mentioned a possible need for a levy bump in 2026. He thanked and commended Village Staff, the Finance Committee, and the Roads & Bridges Committee for their hard work in drafting the budget.

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 (McClary, Hoffmann, Strauss, Ekstrom, Riff)
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 (Clarke)
 Abstain: 0

MOTION APPROVED

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025, ORDINANCE 25 – 15

MOTION: Riff **SECOND:** Ekstrom

Discussed under the agenda item to approve the Village Budget FY 2026. No additional comment.

President Cecola thanked everyone for their hard work and highlighted that while other municipalities are increasing their levies, the Village is working diligently to either keep the levy flat or reduce it. This has been the trend the past 15 years.

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 (McClary, Hoffmann, Strauss, Ekstrom, Riff)
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 (Clarke)
 Abstain: 0

MOTION PASSED AS ORDINANCE 25 – 15

ROADS & BRIDGES REPORT - TRUSTEE EKSTROM

As submitted.

Trustee Ekstrom reported that the Roads & Bridges Committee met to discuss the 2026 road program. They are currently reviewing the engineer’s recommendations. She listed roads being considered for resurfacing, crack sealing, striping and for Reclamite application. She highlighted that the goal is to resurface not more than two (2) miles per year. She shared that it used to be 3 miles, of about 40 miles of road, and typically, the roads were resurfaced every 10 years. With the Reclamite applications, the roads are doing much better and for some roads, the need to resurface is extended to 15-20 years. The Committee wants to maintain that 2-year, 2-mile standard, which means the roads will be resurfaced every 20 years.

Trustee Riff inquired about the resurfacing of Sutton Road, to which Trustee Ekstrom replied that Cook County stated that Sutton and Donlea Roads were put on the schedule.

PUBLIC SAFETY - TRUSTEE RIFF

As submitted.

Trustee Riff reported that the Police Department (PD) has launched a new website. He recommended that residents traveling for the holidays place a House Watch request through the PD website and he explained the process.

PD Chief Murphy reported that December is the season for package theft and to reduce the risk, he suggested residents schedule delivery to a trusted neighbor or at a time when they can retrieve their packages.

The Department participated in the McHenry County Shop with a Cop Program. It’s the second year in which the police officers gave back.

PERMIT REPORT – TRUSTEE HOFFMANN

As submitted.

Trustee Hoffmann reported that 14 permits were issued.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT – TRUSTEE HOFFMANN

As submitted.

ZONING MONTHLY REPORT – TRUSTEE HOFFMANN

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet.

PLANNING MONTHLY REPORT – TRUSTEE MCCLARY

The Plan Commission did not meet.

President Cecola announced that Jack Brennan with Brennan Investment Group approached the Village regarding a possible data center they would like to develop in the Village. They were invited to share information with the Board.

Brennan shared that they have 110 acres under contract near Penny Road and IL 68. Points highlighted by the developer:

- It is an ideal site given the proximity to the ComEd lines.
- It would be fully enclosed with abundant landscaping and privacy.
- Limited traffic due few employees.
- Economic incentives to the Community: the site’s property taxes could increase from \$3,000 closer to \$20,000,000 reducing residents’ share of taxes owed. The electric utility tax could ultimately generate over \$10 million annually for the Village.
- Has end users that would move in quickly.

An extensive discussion ensued during which several concerns were raised, including:

- Groundwater usage
- Decibel levels/humming
- Resident quality of life
- Property size and building footprints
- Ingress/egress
- Timeline
- Police impact
- Energy usage/electricity bill impact
- How it fits in the Comprehensive Plan
- Landscaping budget
- Review expenses
- How financial figures were calculated
- Would ComEd accept the center

The Board’s consensus was that they should seek resident input. They asked Brennan Investment Group to present to the public at a Plan Commission meeting and for staff to facilitate receiving resident input.

INSURANCE MONTHLY REPORT – TRUSTEE CLARKE

The Insurance Committee did not meet.

HEALTH MONTHLY REPORT - TRUSTEE HOFFMANN

The Board of Health did not meet.

ENVIRONMENT – TRUSTEE CLARKE

The Environment Committee did not meet.

EQUESTRIAN MONTHLY REPORT – TRUSTEE EKSTROM

Trustee Ekstrom reported that the Equestrian Commission met. They discussed equestrian trails in a proposed subdivision at the end of Rock Ridge Road. Administrator Paul added that the subdivision application will be going back to the Plan Commission for a final review and then to the Board of Trustees. The subdivision proposes building one or two homes.

Additional topics at the Equestrian meeting included additional equestrian signage, a discussion about nonpermitted fireworks’ effect on horses, and increased messaging about its dangers.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MONTHLY REPORT – TRUSTEE RIFF

Administrator Paul reported that the Village is updating its administrative offices on the second floor, to include safety measures and ADA requirements. The demolition has been completed, and work is currently being done on the HVAC, tile and bathrooms. The MacArthur Room was scheduled for demo the day after the meeting.

PENDING LITIGATION REPORT – PATRICK BOND, ATTORNEY

Attorney Bond shared there was nothing to report

ADMINISTRATION

No Comment.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Trustee Ekstrom, seconded by Trustee Strauss. Upon all present Trustees voting Aye, the Motion to adjourn carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

MEETING ADJOURNED