

Committee of the Whole
May 26, 2026
MINUTES
6:00pm

Board present: Steve Buss, Claudia Simpson, Christin Keeffer, Brooke Baldauf, Brandon Smith, Tillie Coomber, Nicole Callos. Not present: Dean Rood, Brian Peight. Also present: Brian Nott, Louise Workinger, Bridgette Stocks, Ashley Heilman

Call to Order

1) The Committee of the Whole meeting of May 26, 2026 was called to order by President Buss at 6:00 pm.

Public Participation

2) Small Business Association Update: Jim Accurso stated he walked the town with IEMA getting disaster assistance information out to residents. He gave the following information: There is no fee to apply, no obligations, can work with loan officer to modify payments/loan increases, SBA will work with insurance companies, the funding is from the US Treasury/tax revenue. Works with renters personal property \$100,000, and with homeowners limit of \$500,000, businesses 2 million. Credit scores are not factored the same as other loan sources. Generally an SBA center will be open two weeks; but if traffic continues, the center will be open longer. Residents affected by the 4/17/26 storm in surrounding counties are eligible to come to Lena to apply for an SBA loan in person; it can also be done online. SBA will be present at the Farmers Market.

Approval of Minutes – April 27 Committee of the Whole & Special Meeting

3) On a motion by Keeffer second by Baldauf approving all meeting minutes from the April 27, 2026 Committee of the Whole and Special Board Meetings. ALL AYE.

Discuss Water/Sewer Back-Up Generator

4) Smith explained the importance of acquiring a back-up generator for the waste water treatment plant to avoid a back up of sewage. He has established bids from two companies to far: The Electric Guys and Pro-Source. SCADA system has been quoted; Nott will be forwarding the information regarding the generator.

Discuss Decommissioning B.E.S.S

5) Nott explained items can be added to the ordinance going more into depth on requirements. Nott will be forwarding ideas to Buss so the ordinance draft can be sent to Attorney Green for review.

Discuss CDBG Program

6) Bridgette Stocks gave the following updates: Lena is not eligible for some loans considering median income being too high. ComEd has a grant that matches; opens in the Spring and will be on the docket. DNR grant will be applied for too. Buss confirmed with Jim Accurso that Lena was not eligible for public assistance from the County. Safe Routes to School Grant was not approved: Stocks will be meeting with the committee in the coming weeks to confirm, but potential issues that she is aware of from past experience include not a big enough project, and negative community responses.

Discuss USPS Mailbox Cluster Box Maintenance Update

7) Callos gave the following updates: Made Becke spoke with the new post master and got the impression the district post master will be putting in a maintenance ticket to the Chicago office.

Discuss Building Permits & Building Inspections

8) Buss stated that the attorney has this information. Buss advised Ashley Heilman to get a building permit for repairs at her properties.

Discuss Storm Updates

9) Buss stated the goal is to have sidewalks and safety hazards repaired and mitigated before Lena Fall Festival. Storage containers will be allowed in residential areas and commercial (commercial has \$250 a month fee that will be waived) for 90 days from the date of loss. The Village is awaiting bills from storm clean up; Gills and Docs.

Adjournment

10) On a motion by Keeffer second by Smith to adjourn the May 26, 2026 meeting at 7:00pm. ALL AYE.

Submitted by Claudia Simpson, Village Clerk