

Committee of the Whole
July 27, 2026
MINUTES
6:00pm

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

Call to Order

- 1) The Committee of the Whole meeting of July 27, 2026 was called to order by President Buss at 6:00 pm.

Public Participation

- 2) Joyce Roling gave an update on blighted homes. Movement was taking place for some time, but now there has been no progress.

Approval of Minutes – June 22, 2026 Committee of the Whole

- 3) On a motion by Peight second by Smith approving the meeting minutes from the June 22, 2026 Committee of the Whole. ALL AYE.

Engineer Report

- 4) Nott gave the following report: 1) Nott spoke with Route 73 property owner regarding the business parking lot drainage. 2) 101 Locust Arborvitaes; Attorney sent a letter and there has been no response at this time. 3) Beginning July 28: Sewer lining, punch-list items, re-televised areas that were not clear originally. Smoke/infiltration memo has been sent and work needs to be prioritized. 4) Townline Road dedication: residents are willing to sign documents. 5) Helm is continuing with storm sewer inlets. Double inlet structures are a week out. Bridgette Stocks gave the following updates: 1) Grant for Townline Road comes out next week; due September 16th, no match. No longer changing the road height, so the project is less than originally bid. The water treatment plant would be included in this plan. 2) ITEP due October 16th. IDOT has added a 'community scoring' to their grant process. Lena's ITEP community score is 45 which qualifies for a 10% match. 3) Safe Routes to School: 2027 application, 2028 construction. Including ADA and push button signals at Fremont near the school would likely be approved. 4) Tree Replacement: Arbor Foundation grant has been submitted. Giving trees to homeowner would require a stipulation that the trees are planted on their private land. Northwest Illinois Foundation. Keeffer offered the idea to nominate others for tree donation. Lena Lions is working on tree replacement within the Park District. Streets Department has a space to plant trees to be replanted later. 5) IEPA: Stocks spoke with IEPA today and it was stated to not expect any update until January. LaHood money for water main will not be available until 2027 either; dollar amounts should be known after the budget passes in October.

Discuss BOCA National Building Code Amendment

- 5) Rood explained the current codes follow the BOCA National Building Code. It was discussed what it would require to switch to the current ICC codes with regional amendments for zoning. Stephenson County has switched to ICC codes and the Village will request Attorney Green work on making the language change.

Discuss Battery Energy Storage Systems Ordinance

- 6) Nott updated the Board that Attorney Green was going to be reviewing the entire memo as if it were being added to the ordinance for the Board to choose what they want to keep. Fire Department Chief will be reviewing as well. Buss stated he would prefer to sign off on all revisions at this time.

Discuss 90-Day Storm Relief; Utility Suspension and Storage Containers

- 7) Buss said that the Board had loosely agreed on a 90-day suspension on certain rules or ordinances following the 4/17 tornado. As long as residents are making progress, the ordinance suspension will remain an additional 60 days (October 1). All situations will be handled individually. Fall Festival timing will be considered. Hazardous structures will need to be removed before the festival.

Discuss Municipal Disaster Relief Grant

- 8) Bridgette Stocks gave the following information regarding the municipal disaster relief grant the Village applied for: Public Hearing at the August Board Meeting, Stocks will get the materials to the Village to log all expenses. Must be within Village Boundaries to qualify.

Adjournment

- 9) On a motion by Peight second by Keeffer to adjourn the July 27, 2026 meeting at 7:30pm. ALL AYE.

Submitted by Claudia Simpson, Village Clerk