

Committee of the Whole
July 28, 2025
MINUTES
6:00pm

Board present: Steve Buss, Claudia Simpson, Christin Keeffer, Brian Peight, Brooke Baldauf, Dean Rood, Brandon Smith, Joe Hallstrom, Nicole Callos. Not present: n/a. Also present: Brian Nott, Brandon Scheider, Lindsay Buss, Wayne Kurth, Pat Griffin, Donna Griffin, Louise Workinger. Joyce Roling, Brandon Wirtjes.

Call to Order

1) The Committee of the Whole meeting of July 28, 2025 was called to order by President Buss at 6:00pm.

Ipad Demonstration by Brandon Scheider

2) Board members received updated Ipads and instruction from Brandon Scheider with Spydes.

Public Participation

3) Wayne Kurth was present to express his concern over losing his ability to park in his front yard after Railroad Street was repaved. He requested having the curb removed at his residence. Nott stated he will be looking back in the plans to see what the options are.

Approval of Minutes – June 23, 2025

4) On a motion by Keeffer second by Peight approving the meeting minutes from June 23, 2025. ALL AYE.

Discuss Safe Routes to School Application

5) Brian Nott explained that the Safe Routes to School federal grant applications can be submitted through August 1st through October 13th. Last time, the Village missed it by 0.04 points. This will be the 3rd time the Village has applied. Fehr Graham's charge to complete the application was \$5,500 the 1st time it was applied for, and \$3,500 every time after (can be applied for every 2 years). Fehr-Graham would also handle the following: Correspondence with schools, walk-ability study, parent survey, teacher survey (elementary through High-school). Last available grant amount was \$200,000 and is now \$250,000. Engineering and design fees are not covered by the grant; only the project applied for would be covered. If awarded the money would be used for a sidewalk from Fremont Street to Lions Park entrance. Nott is inquiring whether it would be possible for the application fee of \$3,500 to be credited to engineering fees if the Village is awarded the grant. Notice of approval would be in April – May 2026. Sidewalks installed are required to be ADA compliant (5 foot is standard, if 4' wide, every 250' must have a 5' square).

Discuss Assistance on Reviewing Ordinances

5) Nott wanted the Board to be aware that Fehr-Graham has services that complete ordinances and utility permit assistance. For instance, when a permit is applied for from the Village, Fehr Graham would provide expectations of how work is to be done by the requester. Buss stated the fees for permits will be \$25. A major concern was the enforcement of permits if something was done incorrectly. Nott explained bigger towns have employees that inspect work to be sure it is compliant with the permit. Buss noted that smaller municipalities have a harder time due to having fewer employees.

Discuss Village Aggregate Energy Prices

6) The Board reviewed energy pricing listed from Rock River Energy Services Company. Dynergy was the best rate at this time. This will be reviewed again before approval of a contract.

Discuss Underground Fencing Ordinance

7) The Board reviewed a draft ordinance that will be including verbiage requiring underground fencing to be 6' from the sidewalk / property line. Individuals that have them now will be grandfathered in, unless there is a violation. Chapter 9:26 ordinance will be updated reflecting every point on the new application. It was agreed that underground fencing needs to follow the same rules as a standard fence, and notice that there is underground fencing must be posted visible on all sides. Keeffer will be working on this with Rood.

Discuss Grant Ordinance Changes

8) Smith confirmed that the ordinance updates are being drafted to include tax verification for applicants and to raise available grant amounts to be approved.

Discuss Blighted Homes

9) There was discussion held with concerned residents regarding hazardous, deserted homes. Brandon Wirjes explained the problems his family experiences living next to a vacant home. Buss explained that between the Village attorney and Chief of Police the Village is exploring options to handle each specific problem area. From time of inspection, the property owner will have 30 days to get the property compliant, or the Village can go forth with the demo process and place a lien. This requires a change in the budget to pay for demolition.

Adjournment

10) On a motion by Keeffer second by Rood to adjourn the July 28, 2025 Meeting at 7:25pm. ALL AYE.

Submitted by Claudia Simpson, Village Clerk