

**REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2026
MINUTES
6:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER

- 1) The Regular Board Meeting on August 10, 2026 was called to order by President Steve Buss at 6:00pm.

Board present: Steve Buss, Claudia Simpson, Christin Keeffer, Brian Peight, Brooke Baldauf, Dean Rood, Brandon Smith, Tillie Coomber, Nicole Callos. Not present: N/A. Also Present: Brian Nott, Bridgette Stocks, Tom Green, Brody Ortiz, Jacqueline Ortiz, Louise Worker, Josh Kraft.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

- 2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 13, 2026**

On a motion by Peight second by Smith approving the minutes from July 13, 2026. ALL AYE.

- 3) **APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE REPORT**

On a motion by Rood second by Keeffer approving the Bills Payable Report as presented. ALL AYE.

- 4) **TREASURER'S REPORT ACCEPTANCE**

Callos presented the report for July. On a motion by Peight second by Baldauf to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. ALL AYE

- 5) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Brody Ortiz presented his Eagle Scout Project, See Me Flags, to increase awareness for pedestrians. Illinois is rated #9 in the Country for dangerous street conditions, and having flags available is aimed to decrease hazard. Brody Ortiz stated he is able to create and install the See Me Flag bins himself. Maintenance would be done by the Village Streets Department. He will be conducting fundraising within the Village and accepting donations. Esling has reached out to IDOT for Route 73 access. Brody Ortiz stated he could have these ready for the Spring of 2027.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, ZONING & PLANNING, CEMETERY BOARD – NO REPORT / LISTED ON THE AGENDA

VILLAGE ENGINEER

Nott reported the following updates: 1) Helm is continuing on street maintenance/inlet repair. Will begin curb and gutter on Railroad soon. 2) Locust Arborvitae letter from July 14 has been received but not responded to; next steps can be taken.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Tom Green stated he will have the BESS ordinance 26-014 reviewed for September's Board Meeting. 2) a letter will be drafted for the Village insurance company in regard to recent claims. Minimal response has been received so far. Callos has kept a detailed list of damage and correspondence Attorney Green will review.

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Discussion was held regarding building code. Chapter 23 will be updated to reflect the newer codes to coincide with Stephenson County. Tom Green stated he will send an example ordinance to the Village.

WATER & SEWER

Smith gave the following updates: 1) Cleaned sludge out of lagoon for \$62,000. 2) Kory Polhill and Smith decided the South Center Street alternate would be best use of funds from the LaHood Grant that is earmarked for 2027. 3) Pressure washing of the water tower is due in the Spring; possible painting. 4) Storm Drainage through Townline update: IEPA had additional questions, but project is still moving along.

NEW BUSINESS

6) **DISCUSS/APPROVE GILLS CONTRACT**

The following discussion was held: Josh Kraft explained the majority of bins, approximately 150, have been replaced. Not all have been found. On a motion by Rood second by Keeffer approving the Gills Contract as presented. ALL AYE.

7) **DISCUSS/APPROVE NEW POLICE HIRE**

Keeffer stated the Police Department is looking to fill the fourth spot that has been open. Stephenson County helped source applicants and interviews have taken place. On a motion by Keeffer second by Rood to authorize the hiring of officer Chloe Grater, pending final review. ALL AYE.

8) **DISCUSS/APPROVE ORDINANCE 26-014; AMEND BATTERY ENERGY SYSTEMS**

Tom Green stated he will have the BESS ordinance 26-014 reviewed for September's Board Meeting.

9) **APPROVAL OF LENA PARK DISTRICT 5K RUN/WALK RESOLUTION 26-105**

On a motion by Peight second by Keeffer approving the Lena Park District 5K Run/Walk Resolution 26-105. ALL AYE.

10) **APPROVAL OF LENA LIONS CLUB FALL FESTIVAL RESOLUTION 26-106**

On a motion by Smith second by Keeffer approving the Lena Lions Club Fall Festival 26-106. ALL AYE.

11) **APPROVAL OF LENA LIONS CLUB FALL FESTIVAL PARADE/IDOT RESOLUTION 26-107**

On a motion by Smith second by Keeffer approving the Lena Lions Club Fall Festival Parade/IDOT Resolution 26-107. ALL AYE

12) **APPROVAL OF EXTENDED BAND HOURS FOR FALL FESTIVAL**

On a motion by Keeffer second by Peight approving extended band hours for Fall Festival for Iron Horse and Railside Pub. ALL AYE.

13) **APPROVAL OF SEE TRACK RAILWAY PROCLAMATION**

On a motion by Smith second by Keeffer approving the See Track Railway Proclamation. ALL AYE.

14) **DISCUSS/APPROVE RESOLUTION 26-108; DISASTER RELIEF GRANT**

On a motion by Peight second by Rood approving Resolution 26-108 for the Disaster Relief Grant discussed during the Public Hearing. ALL AYE.

15) **DISCUSS STORM DAMAGE UPDATES**

The Village insurance claim continues and has moved to Village Attorney review.

16) **DISCUSS UTILITY BILL SUSPENSION**

The following discussion was held: No shut-offs other than where demolitions have occurred. The Old School Apartments are occupied. This will be discussed further in September.

WELFARE OF THE VILLAGE

National Night Out will take place tomorrow, Tuesday August 11th 4-7pm
Volunteer Park is being updated

ADJOURNMENT

- 17) On a motion by Keeffer second by Smith to adjourn the August 10, 2026 Regular Board Meeting at 7:15pm.
ALL AYE.

CLAUDIA SIMPSON
VILLAGE CLERK

STEVE BUSS
VILLAGE PRESIDENT