Committee of the Whole
September 28, 2026
MINUTES
6:00pm

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

Call to Order

1) The Committee of the Whole meeting of September 28, 2026 was called to order by President Buss at 6:00 pm.

Public Participation

2) There was no public participation at this time.

Approval of Minutes – August 24, 2026 Committee of the Whole

3) On a motion by Peight second by Smith approving the minutes from the August 24, 2026 Committee of the Whole. ALL AYE.

Discuss Village Newsletter

4) The following were addressed to be added to the Newsletter: Halloween hours 5-7pm on the 31st, leaf and stick pickup, Christmas Parade, update police officer introductions. Madi Becke plans to send the newsletter off to print 9/29.

Discuss Flock Cameras

5) Peight explained he had a few residents come to him asking questions about the Flock cameras. Buss addressed general concern regarding access to the camera footage, which is stored in FLOCKs database. The cameras are intended to be used for Amber Alerts, NCIC, IL Secretary of State, stolen tags, etc. Police Chief Brian Lamphere checks the recording logs weekly and confirmed the stipulations to access those logs. Stephenson County plans to keep their cameras. FLOCK cameras were in the Police Department budget and had not required Board approval. Buss stated if there was further information to please bring it to Board attention.

Discuss BESS Zoning Information

6) The ZBA meeting will be held October 5th. At this meeting, discussion will be held about adding safety information/regulation for the battery energy systems to the Ordinance to be adopted by the Village of Lena. Changes to Chapter 21 always need Zoning Board approval.

Discuss Zoning of Accessory Buildings

7) Peight inquired whether a tent canopy was considered an accessory building within the zoning ordinance. The specific occurrence will be addressed with Esling to determine whether the ordinance is being followed. Esling will still be handling permits and some zoning for the time being.

Discuss IMLRMA Insurance

8) Becke gave the Village insurance claim update: Correspondence has been minimal with the insurance company, claims have been confused. Pumps for sewer department were covered under a lightning strike claim from 2025. Checks for water department and water tower auxiliary roof have been sent from the hail claim. Police truck and Police Department roof were paid for under the tornado claim. Some buildings were covered ACV and some RCV. Other insurance companies will be researched.

Discuss Municipal Building Repairs

9) Buss explained the upstairs of Village Hall has cosmetic damage to the ceiling tiles. Bridgette Stocks filled out a form for an energy efficiency grant that partners with ComEd. Buss stated he would reach out to Ed Gaulrapp regarding an efficiency audit. The Village will be accepting bids for approved repairs.

Discuss Municipal Tree Replacement

10) Buss stated that the donation from Pamela Farris from Rochelle has gone far planting trees within the Village. Becke stated resident response has been positive. Buss explained trees were carefully placed regarding the future and utility right-of-way.

Welfare of the Village

11) Buss asked for volunteers to help with barricade placement and removal before and after Trick-or-Treating. 2) Utility charges will remain on hold at this time for displaced residents that are actively working on rebuilding their homes; this will be revisited by situation.

Adjournment

12) On a motion by Peight second by Smith to adjourn the September 28, 2026 meeting at 6:45pm. ALL AYE.
Submitted by Claudia Simpson, Village Clerk