

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Village Hall Board Room 118 W. Cook Avenue Libertyville, IL 60048

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Mayor Johnson called to order a meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Mayor Donna Johnson, Village Trustees Scott Adams, Pete Garrity, Casey Rooney, Kara Macdonald, and Andrew Herrmann. Trustee Matt Krummick was absent. Also in attendance were Village Clerk Margaret Clark, and Village Attorney Hart Passman.

2. Items Not on the Agenda | *Presentation of items not on the Agenda will be limited to three (3) minutes*

Mayor Johnson asked for public comment for items not on the agenda:

Erin Murphy, 418 Prairie Ave, said she is a resident and business owner. It has come to her attention that a commissioner has made statements about women in our community. He said this area has become corrupted by AWFUL people: affluent, white, female, urban liberals. This is not about political disagreement; it fails to uphold the standards of leadership. Disparaging women is disrespectful and also economically irresponsible. Ms. Murphy runs a women owned business. She invests in this community because she believes in supporting this Village's success. The tone set by local government matters. Behavior without consequences matter. Respect, professionalism and accountability matter in our Village.

Jocelyn McGillian shared an abbreviated letter that was shared with the Mayor that was signed by many Libertyville women. They wanted to raise concerns about behavior by a commissioner. Commissioners are entrusted to represent the entire community and disparaging segments of the community should not be acceptable. Libertyville contains a wide range of experiences. The Village needs to meaningfully address this behavior. There is also a broader concern - the absence of a code of conduct for officials. This incident has brought this to light. Addressing these issues requires systematic improvement. They asked for the following: respond to the conduct of the commissioner, adopt a code of conduct, adopt a policy for equal and fair representation. These steps will help improve public trust.

Ms. McGillian added that personally, this is not an isolated incident. She has experiences inappropriate behavior from several elected and appointed Village officials. She has filed two formal complaints and has not received a follow-up or resolution. This underscores the importance of clear policies that lay the groundwork for accountability. The time has come for meaningful action.

Sharon Kocken said this is regarding Commissioner Steve Martin, on the Economic Development Commission. She said that Mr. Martin posted on Facebook that this area has been corrupted by AWFUL people - affluent, white, female, urban liberals. If this behavior is allowed, it is a sad story. He serves on the EDC, and she asked what does it say when a commissioner makes that kind of comment. She thanked Trustee Rooney, Trustee Macdonald, and Mayor Johnson for talking to her. It has been silence from the gentleman on the Board, Ms. Kocken said. This was an extreme statement and it happened weeks ago. The people want action. This behavior is not acceptable. Mr. Martin owns a business and she could not believe his employees could talk this way. The Mayor has appointed this person and should have Mr. Martin step down.

Brian Enochs of 125 Homewood Ave is currently serving on the Historical Preservation and Appearance Review Commissions, and this is the first time he has addressed this Board. One of the reasons he chose to serve was he believed the Village values the principals of mutual respect and courtesy and strives to treat valued residents like neighbors. Recently Mr. Steve Martin, member of the EDC, posted a comment about AWFUL people corrupting the town. A public expression like this is not consistent with the character of the Village he knows, Mr. Enochs said. It is insulting and should not be tolerated by the Village government. His continued affiliation with the government creates real questions about the character of those who serve as Mayor, Trustee, or appointed officials. He requests that Steve Martin be asked to resign his position and that the Village issue a statement disavowing his remarks.

Heather Fahrenkrog of 1138 Loyola Drive was a small business owner in this town for 12 years. She sold her business to a fellow Libertyville mom. She has been a prosecutor for many years. She serves the people of Libertyville and the people of Illinois. She is here to speak about this outrageous post. Politics do not matter. What matters is that those in public service should be respectful and inclusive. This is a wonderful town, and we are all better than this. When someone makes a statement like this we should move quickly to dismiss this. Ms. Fahrenkrog said we want to encourage young people to move here want women who live here to be respected and heard. Our number one job is to build the next generation we do that by modeling the proper behavior. Everyone should be heard our hope is that you follow the recommendations said earlier tonight. She suggested a new acronym: AWESOME. It better describes the women of Libertyville: Accomplished, Wise, Empowered, Strong, Observant, Mindful, Extraordinary.

Mary Kate Albrecht, 517 Hemlock Ln, was so moved by what she witnessed last night at the Zoning and Planning Commission meeting. It was a powerful reminder that the residents are deeply invested in the stewardship of our Village. The commission heard hours of thoughtful testimony and issued a unanimous vote against the proposed cannabis dispensary. We are grateful that the commission listened to the residents. The large number of public commenters were unanimous; not a single person commented in favor. The vote to deny this reflects a long-term commitment integrity of our community over short term interests. As the decision moves on to you, the Board of Trustees, know that the community will be closely and respectfully watching this process. She thanked the Board for their service.

Mayor Johnson stated the board packet for the dispensary will be on March 10 meeting.

Carol Nissen of 1028 Dawes is a 35-year resident. She moved here because it is a safe family-oriented village. Residents showed up last night to protest the dispensary; not one resident was in favor. We want our children to be protected from the normalization of cannabis. There was a unanimous vote against. Please do not approve the special use permit and the text amendment. Codes and amendments should be deliberate, logical and rooted in long-term planning, not subject to piecemeal change. Please do not move forward. show us you care about our children and care about maintaining Libertyville as a beautiful place in the country.

Robin Sherman, 842 Interlaken, is reluctant to speak as the pitchforks will come out, she said. She came speak on behalf of many women and men who have reached out to her on this subject about a commissioner in this town. She is here to represent another side. There are different opinions on the matter. The group assembled here does not represent her views or the majority of the town or the majority of women. Like clockwork, she will be attacked by them for daring to oppose their opinions. She has been attacked, stereotyped because she has a difference of opinion. She said the petition that has been circulated has been signed by out-of-town people and has incomplete signatures, yet it is being presented as grounds for action. Being offended is not sufficient cause. Volume should not be mistaken for consensus. This is just this month's outrage, Ms.

Sherman said. She asked the Board to view this situation carefully: a single generalized comment should not outweigh decades of service to this Village. For them to take offense is ironic as they deal in name calling, intolerance, harassment and contempt, but like everything else it is virtue signaling. The Board should act in the best interest of the Village.

Ms. Sherman asked: is AWFUL terrible? She said it could be terrible, but all the statements are true. That is what they stand for.

3. Omnibus Vote Agenda

A. Summary of Omnibus Vote Agenda Items

Mayor Johnson presented the Omnibus Vote Agenda and asked if there were any items requested for removal by the Village Board or any Board questions on items. There were none.

B. Approval of Minutes of the January 27, 2026 Village Board Meeting

C. Bills for Approval

D. **RESOLUTION NO. 26-R-22:** A Resolution to Award a Contract to Nedco LLC DBA Sawvell Tree Service for the Annual Dormant Parkway Tree Pruning Program

E. **RESOLUTION NO. 26-R-23:** A Resolution to Approve a Professional Services Agreement with Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc. for Code Compliance Engineering Plan Reviews

F. **ORDINANCE NO. 26-O-09:** An Ordinance Declaring Surplus Property

Motion made by Village Trustee Adams to approve the Omnibus Vote Agenda, Seconded by Village Trustee Garrity.

Voting Yea: Village Trustee Adams, Village Trustee Garrity, Village Trustee Rooney, Village Trustee Macdonald, Village Trustee Herrmann. The item was approved with a 5-0 vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. **ORDINANCE NO. 26-O-010: An Ordinance authorizing the issuance of Waterworks and Sewerage Revenue Bonds of the Village of Libertyville, Lake County, Illinois, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 or, in lieu thereof, General Obligation Bonds (Waterworks and Sewerage System Alternate Revenue Source) (said bonds being general obligation bonds for which real property taxes, unlimited as to rate or amount, may be levied, but which are expected to be paid from the net revenues of the combined waterworks and sewerage system of the Village) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs of improving the waterworks and sewerage system of the Village, including, but not limited to, water main replacements and lead service line replacements**

The Village of Libertyville continues to invest in critical infrastructure improvements to its waterworks and sewerage system to ensure reliable service, regulatory compliance, and long-term system

sustainability. Planned improvements include upgrades to water and sanitary sewer infrastructure, as well as improvements to the wastewater treatment plant.

To fund these improvements, the Village is proposing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Waterworks and Sewerage System Alternate Revenue Source), in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000. The revenue bonds would be payable from the net revenues of the Village's combined waterworks and sewerage system. If the alternate structure is utilized, the general obligation bonds would be backed by the full faith and credit of the Village but are expected to be repaid from system revenues.

The proposed ordinance authorizes the issuance of the bonds and sets forth the parameters under which the financing may be completed, including the maximum principal amount. The approval of this ordinance begins the process of selling alternate revenue bonds. There are several additional steps required under State statute before a transaction can be consummated. The next major Village Board milestone in this process is the Bond Issue Notification Act (BINA) hearing which will be held on March 10, 2026. The bond sale is tentatively scheduled for March 24, 2026, the results of which will be presented to the Village Board that evening.

Staff recommends that the Village Board approve an Ordinance authorizing the issuance of Waterworks and Sewerage Revenue Bonds of the Village of Libertyville, Lake County, Illinois, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 or, in lieu thereof, General Obligation Bonds (Waterworks and Sewerage System Alternate Revenue Source) (said bonds being general obligation bonds for which real property taxes, unlimited as to rate or amount, may be levied, but which are expected to be paid from the net revenues of the combined waterworks and sewerage system of the Village) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs of improving the waterworks and sewerage system of the Village, including, but not limited to, water main replacements and lead service line replacements.

Mayor Johnson asked for public comment on Agenda Item 4. There was none.

Trustee Garrity said this was vetted through the Finance Committee as being appropriate.

Motion made by Village Trustee Rooney to approve the Ordinance, Seconded by Village Trustee Adams.

Voting Yea: Village Trustee Adams, Village Trustee Garrity, Village Trustee Rooney, Village Trustee Macdonald, Village Trustee Herrmann. The item was approved with a 5-0 vote.

5. **ORDINANCE NO. 26-O-011: An Ordinance authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) of the Village of Libertyville, Lake County, Illinois, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$25,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs of building and equipping a new police station and improving the site thereof 1 Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda February 10, 2026 Any individual who would like to attend this meeting but because of a disability needs some accommodation to participate should contact the ADA Coordinator at 118 W. Cook Avenue, Libertyville, IL 60048, 847- 362- 2430. Assistive listening devices are available.**

The Village of Libertyville has identified the need to construct a new police station in order to meet current and future public safety demands. The existing facility has become functionally outdated due to space limitations, aging infrastructure, and the inability to effectively support modern policing

operations, technology, and personnel needs. A new facility will enhance operational efficiency, improve officer safety, and better serve the community.

To finance the construction for the new police station, the Village is proposing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$25,000,000. These bonds are expected to be repaid using the Village's Special Non-Home Rule Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax, which has been established as the revenue source in the New Building Revenue

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Mayor Johnson asked for public comment on Agenda Item 5. There was none.

Trustee Adams said we need a new police station, and this is one of the ways that is going to help us get there. This has gone through the Finance Committee and he supports it.

Trustee Garrity said half of the police station is self-financed and this is another part of it.

Mayor Johnson said there was a considerable amount of transparency around this process.

Trustee Rooney thanked the Board members before here and the Village staff for all the work that went before her and the responsible way this infrastructure improvement was approached.

Motion made by Village Trustee Rooney to approve the Ordinance, Seconded by Village Trustee Macdonald.

Voting Yea: Village Trustee Adams, Village Trustee Garrity, Village Trustee Rooney, Village Trustee Macdonald, Village Trustee Herrmann. The item was approved with a 5-0 vote.

6. ORDINANCE NO. 26-O-012: An Ordinance Amending Sunset Clause on Simplified Telecommunications Tax to expire June 30, 2029

In September 2009, the Village Board approved an ordinance increasing the Simplified Telecommunications Tax from 3.5% to 6% to help offset declines in sales tax and other revenues resulting from the Great Recession. At the time of adoption, the ordinance included a sunset clause to allow for periodic review and to determine, based on economic conditions, whether the tax could be reduced or eliminated. The tax is currently scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2026, unless renewed by the Village Board.

Revenue generated from the Simplified Telecommunications Tax is allocated as follows: 4% supports general operations, 1% funds infrastructure replacement, and 1% is dedicated to Village technology improvements.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Village Budget assumes this revenue stream will remain at the 6% tax rate, as receipts have been declining over the past several years due to changes in communication methods and technology. This was presented to the Finance Committee at its January 20, 2026 meeting. The Finance Committee concurred with staff's recommendation to amend the sunset clause to extend the Simplified Telecommunications Tax through June 30, 2029, with the stipulation that it be reviewed annually by the Finance Committee in or around January.

A total of \$525,000 in telecommunications tax revenue is included in the proposed FY 2026–27 budget: \$345,000 in the General Fund, \$90,000 in the Technology Equipment Replacement Fund (TERF), and \$90,000 in the Project Fund. If the Village Board elects to renew the tax, the corresponding telecommunications tax ordinance must be filed with the Illinois Department of Revenue no later than March 1, 2026, in accordance with the State's strict annual sunset filing timeline.

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance extending the Simplified Municipal Telecommunications tax at a rate of 6% with a new sunset date of June 30, 2029.

Mayor Johnson asked for public comment on Agenda Item 6. There was none.

Trustee Adams said he is glad this is reviewed regularly. The dollars are declining every year because the way people use technology is changing.

Trustee Garrity said this is something we should always look at. The funds are being used appropriately and going to new review cycle is more efficient and effective.

Trustee Macdonald asked if it can be extended beyond 2029. Attorney Passman said that it can be. The Board can amend this at its discretion.

Trustee Macdonald does not love this tax because she expects that it is being paid by mostly senior citizens, but we do not have anything to replace it, and it is a significant amount of revenue.

Mayor Johnson agreed and added that it is unknown what unfunded mandates will be put forward by Springfield.

Trustee Herrmann said this is also being paid by business landlines and agreed with what was proposed.

Motion made by Village Trustee Garrity to approve the Ordinance, Seconded by Village Trustee Herrmann.

Voting Yea: Village Trustee Adams, Village Trustee Garrity, Village Trustee Rooney, Village Trustee Macdonald, Village Trustee Herrmann. The item was approved with a 5-0 vote.

7. Mayor's Update

The Village Hall and all non-emergency Village Offices will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2026, for Presidents' Day.

The Firefighter Pension Fund Board will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, February 16, 2026, at the Libertyville Fire Department, 1551 N. Milwaukee Avenue.

The Appearance Review Commission/Historic Preservation Commission will meet at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 16, 2026.

The Economic Development Commission will meet at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

The Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026.

The Bicycle Advisory Commission will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

The Village Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

The Village Board will hold a Committee of the Whole at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2026, for the annual Budget Workshop.

BOARD COMMENT:

Trustee Rooney said that tonight was difficult and she wanted to address some of the things that were heard. Two things can be true at once: someone can make a hurtful comment and at the same time be a valued member of our business community. She said she believes in giving people the grace to learn from their mistakes rather than going to a punitive resolution. She believes a code of conduct is necessary.

Trustee Macdonald said tonight was challenging. She is sorry we are where we are and we have spent a lot of time on this matter and not enough time on more important matters. It is unfortunate that this has been a distraction. Thinking about last night at the Planning Commission meeting, and tonight as well, she is proud of this community for their engagement.

Trustee Macdonald said she recently went to a presentation by the Mano a Mano Organization about their family resource center for those who have been kidnapped by ICE. They are having two virtual seminars coming up. We have not seen the end of this, and she encouraged people to avail themselves of this information.

Trustee Herrmann thanked everyone for the important comments. He wanted to highlight the successes of the Parks and Rec Department. Director Pat Bodame explained the swim and camp brochure that was distributed and his department partnered with D70 to get them in every child's backpack. They had over \$300K in registration so far.

Mayor Johnson said it is her preference as a leader of the community to see all of people and not just one aspect of people. She is pursuing a code of conduct. She is working on a process, but it will take time. She asked people to give some grace as all those who serve the Village have to give a lot of their time and they are all here for the same reason – for Libertyville.

8. Village Administrator Update

The Village Administrator provided the following update:

The budget document will be available on Friday on our website.

9. Executive Session

Executive Session: There is a need to go into Executive Session to discuss the following:

Purchase/lease of real property for use by public body- 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5)

Collective bargaining negotiations-5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2)

Review of Minutes 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21)

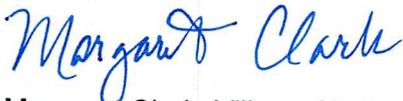
Motion made by Village Trustee Macdonald, Seconded by Village Trustee Adams.

Voting Yea: Village Trustee Adams, Village Trustee Garrity, Village Trustee Rooney, Village Trustee Macdonald, Village Trustee Herrmann. The item was approved with a 5-0 vote.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Village Trustee Herrmann moved to adjourn at 8:36 pm, Seconded by Village Trustee Garrity. The item was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret Clark, Village Clerk