



## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**April 2, 2026**

Present: Chad Walden, Ray Wilson, Cheryl West, Nancy Black, Taryn Cross

Absent: Megan Lopez and Brent Beyer

Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 P.M.

The pledge of allegiance was said by all present.

All board members present reviewed the March 2026 meeting minutes and voted to approve the minutes with two date changes for the fire department events.

Taryn Cross made a motion to approve the minutes; Cheryl West seconded the motion.

Ayes: Ray Wilson, Nancy Black, Cheryl West, Taryn Cross

Nays: None

### **Public Comment**

No comments were made.

### **Finance**

Chad Walden provided the board with all account balances in the CIBM and Illinois Funds accounts for the month of March 2026. The monthly financial report for March had been provided to the board members in advance for their review.

### **Property and Grounds**

Benjamin Lawn Care and Landscaping and Chad discussed the village mowing agreement for the summer of 2026. The board was informed that Benjamin Lawn Care proposed the same program as 2025 without any cost increase. The board discussed the offer and agreed to continue the villages lawn service for 2026 with Benjamin Lawn Care.

### **Water/Garbage and Recycling**

Chad Walden provided the monthly revenue report for March 2026 for water and garbage collections.

Chad shared with the board that the United States Post Office is considering upping the cost of a stamp to \$1.00 per stamp sometime soon. The village mails out 97 water bills a month and because of this potential rate increase, the village might have to start charging a “paper billing fee” to any individual that still wants a paper bill. Customers are able to receive an electronic bill as long as the water department has a valid email address on file. If you would like to switch to an electronic bill, please email Andrea at [voa.water@gmail.com](mailto:voa.water@gmail.com) and let her know. You can still pay your bill online or through the slot at the water department building. The water department will be evaluating costs and performing a cost study later this year to evaluate a rate increase later in 2026 or early 2027.

### **Ordinance Processes and Enforcement**

Chad asked the board members present if we could change the monthly meeting date to Wednesday nights instead of Thursdays nights. The meetings will still be at 7:00pm. The board discussed it and didn't have any issues with moving the monthly meetings to Wednesdays.

Cheryl West made a motion to move the meeting date to the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm and Nancy Black seconded.

Ayes: Taryn Cross, Ray Wilson, Nancy Black, Cheryl West

Nays:

This change will take place beginning with the May meeting.

### **Streets/Alleys and Drainage:**

The board was informed that a storm water tile under East Ulmer Street is blocked again and causing water to back up creating flooding and drainage issues on the south and north side of the railroad tracks. The village has had this tile jetted 4 times in the last 10 years with the most recent being last fall. Ray suggested that the tile needs to be dug up and replaced due to the unknown condition of the tile. There also appears to be a second unknown tile tied in under the street with the line from the north. Ray stated that even though there wasn't any water moving from through the north inlet, there was still a steady amount of water flowing through the inlet on the south side of Ulmer Street.

It was discussed that performing the work early this spring will allow the road surface to be sealed back in with this year's chip and seal program. The board agreed that the village has already spent too much money trying to keep this tile open and that it needs to be replaced. Chad will notify Benjamin Landscaping of the plan and will schedule the work as soon as possible.

### **Community Relations/Website Information:**

Erthel Rose scholarship award:

Cheryl West shared with all board members present that 3 students had applied for this year's scholarship. She went over each application and discussed extra curriculars, class rank, and individual essays of each student. The future careers were discussed as well. The board members were allowed to review each of the student applications without knowing the name of the student. Following a

discussion of each application the board decided to award the \$400 Erthel Rose scholarship to Caleb Lopez.

Taryn Cross made a motion to award the \$400 Erthel Rose scholarship to Caleb Lopez and Nancy Black seconded.

Ayes: Taryn Cross, Nancy Black, Ray Wilson, Cheryl West

Nays:

Chad will request the check, and Cheryl will let the Ridgeview High School know. The announcement will be made the night of the Academic Award ceremony. The ceremony will take place Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Community Center rentals and information:

There are currently rental reservations on March 17<sup>th</sup> for elections, May 16 and 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 29-31<sup>st</sup>, Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, September 5<sup>th</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup> (Veteran's breakfast), 22<sup>nd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup> on the 2026 calendar. New dates to add to the calendar are April 11<sup>th</sup> for a rental.

**Beautification Committee updates:** The committee has decided to not hold a fundraiser this year. It is too much work to do for the small amount of committee members. Taryn asked how much money the fundraiser usually makes and Cheryl and Nancy stated it was around \$1000.

March 18<sup>th</sup> will be the first meeting date for 2026. The committee gained a new member and lost a member.

Chad asked Cheryl and Nancy to consider the possibility of moving the war memorial stone uptown down to the Community Center park to create a new space for it. Chad stated that the village was going to need to perform repairs to the memorials base in the next few years which might be a good time to move it to a new location. This will be taken back to the Beautification Committee members for their input and opinions.

**Board Calendar Items:**

Chad and Megan will start working on the 2026/2027 budget for approval at the June 2026 meeting.

Chad provided an update on GBH Fiber/Internet and the fiber laying work from Saybrook to Arrowsmith. This work is being held up by a permit issue with the county.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.