



## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**May 6, 2026**

Present: Chad Walden, Ray Wilson, Cheryl West, Taryn Cross, Brent Beyer

Absent: Megan Lopez and Nancy Black

Guests: Joshua Dingler/Downs PD police chief

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

The pledge of allegiance was said by all present.

All board members present reviewed the April 2026 meeting minutes and voted to approve the minutes with one spelling error under the ordinance section.

Ray Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes; Taryn Cross seconded the motion.

Ayes: Ray Wilson, Cheryl West, Taryn Cross, Brent Beyer

Nays: None

### **Public Comment**

Chief Joshua Dingler from the Downs PD came to present to the board regarding the new format for billable hours for Arrowsmith coverage. The Village of Arrowsmith has had an intergovernmental agreement with Downs for police coverage under the current contract for the past 10 years. Chief Dingler informed the board that the billed hourly rate had continued to be partially billed at a “part-time” officer’s rate but that he is no longer able to find and hire part-time individuals. Beginning with the 2026 fiscal year (May 1<sup>st</sup>) all hours billed to the village for police coverage will be at a full-time officer rate which will increase the cost of coverage more than for just the contractual yearly increase due to increased insurance costs, raises etc.

### **Finance**

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

## **2024/2025 audit results:**

Chad Walden provided the results to the board from the annual audit review from Feller and Kuester findings are the same as they have been for the past several years. Due to the fact that the village does not have a treasurer and utilizes an accounting firm to keep its books, the audit strongly recommends that the board members receive and review the monthly financial reports to ensure awareness of the village's financials and spending. The financial report from the prior month is distributed to each board member each month prior to the board meeting to allow for questions from the board.

## **Property and Grounds**

Room updates in the community center: Chad asked the board members present if they are interested in having Bloomington Carpets come out and provide the board with an estimate on replacing the carpet squares in the room off of the gymnasium and in the office area. The carpet squares are at least 15 years old and were used prior to them being put down. The board decided to proceed with obtaining pricing for replacement of the carpet tiles. Chad will arrange with Bloomington Carpets to come out and measure and put together an estimate with a few different options for carpeting.

## **Water/Garbage and Recycling**

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

Sewer grant status and discussion: Chad informed the board that Matt from Fehr Graham had tasked him with asking the board the question of "what type of growth do you want to see in the future for the community". Matt stated that it is typical to become more visible once they install a public sewer system. In his initial design Matt needs to know what type of growth would the village like to see? Does the village want to see some minimal growth or do you want the village to stay the same? Matt suggested that we plan for at least a 10% growth to accommodate normal changes within the community for possible additions of homes on current vacant lots and a small business. Taryn suggested that we plan for 35 to 40% growth which the board agreed with.

## **Ordinance Processes and Enforcement**

Chad discussed with the board multiple properties in town with ordinance violations for vehicles, public nuisances including grass height, rubbish and other violations. The board agreed that letters needed to be sent to these property owners stating that they were in violation and needed to address the issues before further action would be taken by the village. Letters will be drafted and sent as Signature required certified letters.

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

Ray and Chad talked to the board members present about a spring brush pickup this year. Due to some instances where homeowners have taken advantage of the village paying for brush pickup by cutting down trees and then placing them out for brush pickup, there will NOT be a spring brush pick up this year. The village's budget can support collection of small piles of brush/sticks/limbs put out by homeowners a few times a year but not entire trees. The village will have brush picked up for the properties that the village owns.

**Community Relations/Website Information:**

Community Center rentals and information:

There are currently rental reservations on 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.

**Beautification Committee updates:** The committee has not met yet and there are not a lot of workers to help with projects around town. Things are getting worked on when they can be.

Chad made the board aware of a FOIA request from a company named Judiciocracy LLC. This FOIA request was completed in January 2026. The village did not hear anything further after the FOIA request had been completed per the villages understanding of the request. Today the Village received an email stating that the Village was being sued for non-compliance regarding the completed FOIA request. Chad has contacted Miller Hall and Triggs to review the suit allegations and obtain guidance for how to proceed. Chad stated that Jay Greening of Miller Hall and Trigg is going to reach out to the attorney for Judiciocracy LLC. to try to determine why it is felt that the villages response did not comply with the request. Additional information will be provided at the June meeting.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.