

Village of Arrowsmith

Board Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2025

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

Absent: Megan Lopez

Guests: Dee Lancaster

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M.

The pledge of allegiance was said by all present.

All board members present reviewed the August 2025 meeting minutes and voted to approve the minutes with one spelling change.

Cheryl West made a motion to approve the minutes; Nancy Black seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Public Comment

Dee asked if trick or treat hours could be moved from Friday October 31st to another time due to potential conflicts with Ridgeview school district activities. It was determined by looking at the Ridgeview school district calendar that there are no activities that would conflict with trick or treat hours or the trunk or treat annual event that is located at the community center so our annual event will not be moved.

Dee then asked if a community wide vendor show could be had at the community center sometime in November. Chad informed Dee that he was fine with this idea but more planning and details would be needed.

Dee also asked if a Christmas event had been considered at the community center this December. It was mentioned that the fire department used to put on a community children's Christmas party but it was not known if that is still the case. It was also noted that the community stopped supporting the Easter Egg hunt a few years ago so the village no longer puts that on. There is a concern that the same thing would happen with a Christmas event and the village has limited people resources to staff these types of events. Discussion was had around expectations that have come from some of the community but the village sees very little in community volunteers offering to assist with the desired events.

Finance (Brent arrived at 7:22 PM)

Taryn Cross provided the board with all account balances in the CIBM and Illinois Funds accounts for the month of August 2025. The board was sent the August financial reports from the village accountant prior to the meeting for their review.

SAFPD Representative District Report

This section will be removed from all future meeting agendas starting in November since the program that would give Ray the call reports for each month has been updated and is no longer working in a way that Ray has access to.

Property and Grounds

Community Center meeting room HVAC replacement:

The current unit is too loud to have it on half the time for use and Chad would like to have a split unit installed where the old unit is now. The current unit was donated to the village when the room was remodeled and can be kept as a backup for the pumphouse unit when it comes to its end of life.

The estimate came in at \$6388 for a split unit install, move the power, install above equipment, wireless remote control from Stiedinger Heating and Cooling of Fairbury.

After a lengthy discussion, the board decided to move forward with replacing the current HVAC unit with this new split unit. Chad will contact Loren and get this work scheduled.

Taryn Cross made a motion to accept the bid from Stiedinger, Ray Wilson seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Water/Garbage and Recycling

Chad Walden provided the monthly revenue report for August 2025 for water and garbage collections.

Chad informed the board that he will be meeting with Republic for the Garbage contract in November and we will discuss how we will proceed with looking at a new contract. This item will be on the next few months agenda for discussion.

IEPA Unsewered Communities Grant:

Matthew Johnson from Fehr Graham of Champaign Illinois contacted Chad about Arrowsmith being a rural unsewered community and that there is a \$35,000 planning grant (Phase 1) that the state of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is offering. The Fehr Graham engineering firm would help us write the grant and do all of the information gathering. Chad and Taryn met with Matthew and learned more about this grant and the potential benefits to Arrowsmith.

The construction grant is up to \$5,000,000 for Phase 2 of this process. The window for awarding these grants will open on January 1st 2026.

There would be an upfront cost of \$2,500 to \$5,000 to hire the grant writer at Fehr Graham to start the process. If we were awarded the phase 1 grant for \$35,000 then those upfront monies could be paid with the grant.

This whole process could take 3 to 4 years from the start to finish.

Chad asked the board to consider whether to make a motion to approve up to \$5,000 to start this unsewered communities grant process with Fehr Graham. The board decided to make and approve the motion.

Taryn Cross made a motion to approve up to \$5,000 for grant writing services, Ray Wilson seconded.

Ayes: Taryn Cross, Nancy Black, Cheryl West, Brent Beyer

Nays: None

Ordinance Processes and Enforcement

Notice to homeowners of violations:

Taryn Cross has verbally informed 3 separate homeowners that their chickens are not allowed in the village per village ordinance. Taryn will follow up with those homeowners in the next few weeks to see if the homeowners have gotten rid of the chickens. If it is found that the chickens are still being kept the ordinance enforcement process will begin with letters being sent to the homeowners followed by ticketing/fines until adherence has been met.

Streets/Alleys and Drainage:

Nothing to report.

Community Relations/Website Information:

Community Center rentals and information: No new rentals to report.

Beautification Committee updates: Nothing new to report.

Board Calendar Items:

2024/2025 financial audit preparation and review will begin in the next 60 days. Megan and Andrea are compiling documents as we speak.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.