



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2026**

“Pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2.06(3) minutes of the public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided and a record of the votes taken.”

I. CALL TO ORDER: President Amy Jo Wittenberg

The regular meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was convened by President Wittenberg at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Andrez Beltran, Assistant to the Village Administrator/Village Clerk

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
President Amy Jo Wittenberg	X	
Trustee Anthony Iannacco	X	
Trustee Cristina Saldana	X	
Trustee Charles Eck	X	
Trustee Eileen Donnersberger	X	
Trustee Danielle Svestka	X	
Trustee James Gazis	X	

Members present constituted a Quorum.

ALSO PRESENT

- Gavin Morgan, Village Administrator
- Rick Veenstra, Village Attorney
- Matt Walsh, Police Chief
- Joe Coons, Public Works Director
- Andrez Beltran, Assistant to the Village Administrator

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were 3 members of the public present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Wittenberg.

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Wittenberg welcomed attendees and commented that it was finally beginning to stay light later into the evening, noting the seasonal change and improved daylight conditions.

President Wittenberg introduced several items as part of the President's Report and directed attention to upcoming community events and initiatives.

President Wittenberg announced a free workshop titled Caring for the Indian Head Park Tree Canopy, scheduled for March 26 at 7:00 PM in the Village Hall. President Wittenberg stated that the workshop would focus on helping residents learn how to protect and grow the Village's tree canopy. The workshop would include information on the Village's urban forestry plan, which is currently being updated, as well as discussion of tree canopy health. President Wittenberg stated that the Village maintains maps and tracks the condition of the tree canopy. The workshop would also provide practical guidance for residents on caring for trees, including invasive plant removal and stewardship efforts.

President Wittenberg reported that a video had been produced by the Public Works Department and the Village's arborist consultant demonstrating how to remove invasive plant species. President Wittenberg stated that the video would be shown during the workshop and would also be available on the Village website and for replay on YouTube. President Wittenberg encouraged residents to attend the workshop in person to participate in discussion, while noting that the recording would be available for those unable to attend.

President Wittenberg next announced the Village's annual Easter egg hunt, scheduled for April 26 at Blackhawk Park. President Wittenberg stated that approximately 5,000 eggs would be distributed for children and that the egg hunt would begin promptly at 11:15 AM, organized by age groups. President Wittenberg advised attendees to bring their own Easter baskets. President Wittenberg further reported that the event would include pony rides, a petting zoo, photographs with the Easter Bunny, and a scavenger hunt. President Wittenberg encouraged all residents to attend, including those without children, and expressed hope for favorable weather.

President Wittenberg then discussed the monthly congregate lunch program, noting that it is supported by a grant from the Lyons Township Mental Health Commission and Aging Care Connections. President Wittenberg stated that the program is held on the third Thursday of each month at 1:30 PM. President Wittenberg reported that the topic for March would be hearing health, including a presentation on hearing aid maintenance by representatives from Costco, along with a full lunch for participants.

A. Arbor Day Proclamation

President Wittenberg proceeded to present the Arbor Day proclamation. President Wittenberg stated that Arbor Day was first observed in Nebraska in 1872 with the planting of more than one million trees and has since become a nationwide celebration recognizing the importance of trees. President Wittenberg stated that trees are a vital natural resource

contributing to the beauty and character of the Village of Indian Head Park and providing environmental, economic, and social benefits. President Wittenberg stated that trees improve air quality, conserve water, reduce soil erosion, moderate temperatures, provide wildlife habitat, enhance property values, and improve overall quality of life. President Wittenberg stated that the Village recognizes the importance of protecting and enhancing its urban forest for current and future generations. President Wittenberg stated that Arbor Day provides an opportunity for residents, schools, businesses, and organizations to plant trees and promote awareness of their benefits. President Wittenberg proclaimed April 24, 2026 as Arbor Day in the Village of Indian Head Park.

President Wittenberg discussed the Village's Arbor Day celebration, including planned tree planting activities. Discussion occurred regarding the selection of tree species and planting locations, which had not yet been finalized. It was confirmed that tree planting would occur on Arbor Day and that a luncheon would follow at the Public Works facility, where staff would prepare food. President Wittenberg encouraged residents to attend the event and noted that participation typically includes approximately 15 to 20 individuals, while expressing that increased participation is encouraged.

President Wittenberg concluded this portion of the report by transitioning to the vehicle sticker program update and introduced Administrative Assistant Sanders to provide the report.

Administrative Report – Vehicle Stickers

Ms. Sanders reported that she works in the Administrative Department and presented an update on the scofflaw program associated with the Village's vehicle sticker enforcement.

Ms. Sanders reported that since the beginning of the 2025–2026 vehicle sticker season in the spring of the previous year, a total of 2,640 vehicle stickers had been purchased. Ms. Sanders stated that the total amount collected from sticker sales, excluding late fees, was \$171,386. Ms. Sanders further reported that late fees generated an additional \$6,046.84 in revenue.

Ms. Sanders stated that revenue collected from the vehicle sticker program is used to fund maintenance of Village roadways. Ms. Sanders explained that, pursuant to the Village Municipal Code, any vehicle with a license plate registered to an address within Indian Head Park is required to be registered with the Village and display a valid vehicle sticker or, in the case of motorcycles and scooters, a registration tag affixed to the vehicle.

Ms. Sanders reported that, due to concerns regarding vehicles within the Village that did not display valid stickers, the Village requested and received a report from the Illinois Secretary of State identifying vehicles with license plates registered to Indian Head Park addresses. Ms. Sanders stated that staff compared the Secretary of State report with the Village's internal database, reviewing license plate numbers and addresses, and removed vehicles that had already purchased stickers for the current season.

Ms. Sanders reported that this review resulted in the identification of 692 vehicles that did not appear to have a valid sticker issued. Ms. Sanders stated that during the third week of February, letters were mailed to the registered owners of these vehicles. The letters informed recipients that a vehicle registered in their name did not have a Village sticker and instructed them to purchase a sticker if one had not been obtained, contact the Village if a sticker had already been purchased, or update records with the Secretary of State if the vehicle was no longer associated with an Indian Head Park address or had changed ownership.

Ms. Sanders reported that recipients were required to respond and resolve the issue by Monday, March 16 to avoid issuance of a police citation. Ms. Sanders stated that, as of 4:00 PM on the date of the meeting, the letter campaign had resulted in the sale of 91 additional vehicle stickers.

Ms. Sanders noted that, in addition to increased sticker sales, the program resulted in the correction of numerous outdated or inaccurate records, including discrepancies in license plate numbers and vehicle ownership information. Ms. Sanders clarified that individuals who received letters due to outdated or incorrect records were not required to purchase a sticker if they were not in violation.

Ms. Sanders reported that vehicles confirmed to be in violation were required to purchase a sticker and pay the applicable late fee. Ms. Sanders stated that, following the March 16 deadline, any individuals who had not responded by purchasing a sticker, updating records, or contacting the Village would receive a police citation in the amount of \$65, in addition to the cost of the sticker and late penalties.

Ms. Sanders reported that the Village Hall office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and provided contact information, including the Village phone number and email address for vehicle updates. Ms. Sanders advised residents not to wait until the deadline to resolve outstanding issues and noted that Village Hall would be closed on Tuesday, March 17 due to its use as a polling location for election day.

Ms. Sanders stated that, once citations are issued, vehicle owners may still contact the Village to provide updated or corrected information and may have their citations considered for reversal. Ms. Sanders further reported that an adjudication process would be available in April, during which individuals may appeal citations before the Village's adjudication judge.

Ms. Sanders reminded the Board and residents that current vehicle stickers expire on June 30, 2026, and that sales for the next sticker season would begin on May 1. Ms. Sanders stated that additional information regarding the renewal process would be provided at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Sanders reported that, moving forward, the Village intends to request updated vehicle registration reports from the State approximately every six months, including after the start of the next sticker cycle and at the beginning of each calendar year. Ms. Sanders stated that incorporating this process into routine operations will improve record accuracy, increase efficiency, and support consistent revenue collection to fund roadway improvements, snow removal, and other public works services.

Following the report, President Wittenberg asked whether residents are able to purchase vehicle stickers online. Ms. Sanders confirmed that an online payment option is available through a link provided in the letter and that residents may also contact Village Hall for assistance.

President Wittenberg acknowledged Ms. Sanders for leading the program and coordinating efforts with the Village’s third-party vendor, Third Millennium, as well as training front office staff to process payments, answer questions, and maintain records. President Wittenberg stated that the program improvements will result in a more efficient and accurate system moving forward.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- B.** Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2026
- C.** Approval of Payables for the Period Ending February 28, 2026
- D.** Approval of Preliminary Financial Report - Month ending February 28, 2026

MOTION: Saldana
SECONDED: Gazis

Mr. Morgan presented the Financial Report:

1. The Cash on Hand for January 31, 2025 included \$2,404,905.51.
2. Payables for February 2026 amounted to \$412,865.99.
3. Total Revenues for February 2026 amounted to \$420,878.38.
4. Ending Bank Balance on February 28, 2026 was \$2,412,917.90.

Hearing no questions, President Wittenberg asked for a roll call vote on the Consent Agenda.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Trustee Iannacco	X			
Trustee Saldana	X			
Trustee Eck	X			
Trustee Donnersberger	X			
Trustee Svestka	X			
Trustee Gazis	X			
President Wittenberg (If necessary)				

The Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

E. Presentation and Discussion of the Tentative FY 2026–2027 Budget

MOTION: Saldana moved accept the tentative Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget and authorize its posting for public inspection

SECONDED: Eck

Mr. Morgan presented the tentative Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget to the Board.

Mr. Morgan reported that the proposed budget reflects total revenues of approximately \$3.45 million and total expenditures of approximately \$3.83 million, resulting in a planned use of fund balance to cover the difference. Mr. Morgan stated that this approach is consistent with prior years and reflects the Village’s practice of conservative revenue projections and responsible financial planning.

Mr. Morgan explained that the tentative budget is the first formal step in the statutory budget adoption process. Mr. Morgan stated that, following Board acceptance of the tentative budget, the document would be made available for public inspection for a minimum of 30 days. Mr. Morgan further stated that a public hearing would be scheduled prior to final adoption, providing residents the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed budget.

Mr. Morgan noted that the budget incorporates operational expenses, capital improvements, and ongoing service obligations, including infrastructure maintenance and program funding. Mr. Morgan stated that the Village continues to evaluate expenditures carefully to ensure alignment with available resources while maintaining service levels.

Mr. Morgan stated that the tentative budget reflects anticipated revenues from property taxes, state-shared revenues, and local sources, and that the Village continues to monitor economic conditions that may impact revenue projections. Mr. Morgan explained that expenditures were developed based on departmental needs, ongoing contracts, and planned projects for the fiscal year.

Mr. Morgan stated that the Village’s financial position remains stable and that the use of fund balance is planned and controlled, consistent with maintaining adequate reserves. Mr. Morgan indicated that staff will continue to review the budget during the public inspection period and may present adjustments prior to final adoption if necessary.

Following the presentation, President Wittenberg asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board.

Trustees discussed aspects of the budget in greater detail, including overall expenditures, revenue assumptions, and the planned use of fund balance. Trustees asked questions regarding how revenue projections were developed and whether assumptions accounted for potential fluctuations in state-shared revenues and local income sources. Trustees discussed the Village’s approach to estimating revenues conservatively to avoid overreliance on uncertain funding streams.

Trustees also discussed expenditure categories, including operational costs, capital improvements, and ongoing contractual obligations. Trustees inquired about how departmental needs were prioritized within the budget and how staff evaluated competing funding demands. Discussion included consideration of maintaining service levels while managing costs and ensuring that planned expenditures align with available resources.

Trustees reviewed the use of fund balance to address the projected gap between revenues and expenditures. Trustees discussed the Village’s policy of maintaining adequate reserves and using fund balance in a controlled and intentional manner. Trustees noted that the planned use of fund balance is consistent with prior years and supports the completion of necessary projects and operations without compromising long-term financial stability.

Trustees acknowledged the Village’s overall conservative budgeting approach and emphasized the importance of ongoing monitoring and adjustments as needed throughout the fiscal year. Discussion reflected a general understanding that the tentative budget represents a planning document subject to refinement during the public review period prior to final adoption.

President Wittenberg asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, she called for a roll call vote.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Trustee Iannacco	X			
Trustee Saldana	X			
Trustee Eck	X			
Trustee Donnersberger	X			
Trustee Svestka	X			
Trustee Gazis	X			
President Wittenberg (If necessary)				

The Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

F. Discussion – Proposed Ordinance Amending Zoning Code Regulations for Fences

Mr. Morgan introduced the discussion regarding the proposed ordinance amending the zoning code regulations for fences. Mr. Morgan stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to establish clear standards governing fence height, materials, placement, drainage protection, and permitting requirements. Mr. Morgan stated that the proposal also considers allowing compatible residential fencing along major roadways in order to improve privacy, safety, and usability for residential properties located along those higher-traffic corridors. Mr. Morgan stated that the goal of the project is to create a consistent regulatory framework that balances residential needs with broader considerations such as roadway visibility, drainage, and infrastructure access. Mr. Morgan stated that the item was presented for discussion and direction from the Board.

Mr. Beltran stated that staff was seeking Board direction on two primary questions: first, what type of fencing, if any, should be permitted on properties located along the major roadways identified by the Plan Commission; and second, whether fencing should also be considered for residential properties not located along those corridors, and if so, in what yard areas such fencing should be allowed. Mr. Beltran stated that the draft ordinance had

been written in a generalized manner in order to give the Board flexibility in determining where fences could be permitted.

At the Board's request, Mr. Beltran reviewed the current proposed ordinance language for properties along busy streets. He stated that the draft establishes general standards including a maximum fence height of five feet; construction materials consisting of wrought iron, aluminum, or other corrosion-resistant materials; flat-top fence design; and placement entirely on private property. He stated that fences would be required to be set back a minimum of three feet from the public right-of-way unless otherwise addressed. Mr. Beltran further stated that, along interior property lines, fences could be placed on the property line only with written approval from the adjoining neighbor; otherwise, the fence would be required to be located three feet off the property line. He stated that a plat of survey would be required as part of the permit application.

Mr. Beltran also reviewed gate requirements for properties abutting major roads. He stated that gates could not swing outward into a sidewalk or public right-of-way, that vehicle gates would be required to be set back at least ten feet from the right-of-way so vehicles would not stop in the roadway while waiting for entry, and that gates may be required to include self-closing and latching mechanisms for safety and emergency access. Mr. Beltran identified the designated roadways under discussion as Wolf Road, Plainfield Road, Willow Springs Road, Joliet Road, and 65th Street.

With respect to interior residential properties, Mr. Beltran stated that the draft under discussion did not propose traditional perimeter fencing, but instead contemplated limited interior yard enclosures such as dog runs or small play areas. He stated that these enclosures would be permitted only in rear yards or interior side yards, would be required to remain open fencing, and would be limited in size. He stated that such enclosures also could not interfere with drainage or stormwater infrastructure and would remain subject to permitting requirements and restrictions related to easements.

Discussion then focused first on fencing for properties located on major roads. It was stated that the survey results and prior Plan Commission discussions appeared to support allowing fencing for yards running along major streets, while there appeared to be less support for fencing on non-designated roads. Discussion followed regarding whether the draft clearly distinguished between fencing only the yard area adjacent to a major road and allowing fencing around an entire parcel. It was noted that the language needed to be clarified so that the ordinance would clearly state what portion of a property could be enclosed.

Board discussion included whether fences on major roads should be limited to the yard area abutting the major road or whether full perimeter fencing of the entire property should be allowed. One position expressed was that residents on major roads should have the option to fence the entirety of their property for reasons including safety, property value, and use of the home. Another position expressed was that fencing should be limited to the yard area adjacent to the major roadway in order to preserve the open and wooded character of the neighborhood while still addressing safety concerns for residents along those roads. It was also noted that residents could choose to install no fence at all.

Discussion also addressed corner lots and lots with frontage on more than one major roadway. Mr. Morgan requested clarification from the Board as to whether both qualifying yard areas on such lots should be eligible for enclosure or whether only one yard should be eligible. It was indicated that the intent was to ensure that each portion of the property facing a major roadway could be addressed. The Board also discussed the need for more precise draft language specifying exactly where a fence would begin and end in relation to the house and lot configuration.

Questions were raised regarding gate setbacks, including whether a ten-foot setback from the right-of-way would be sufficient for larger vehicles, and how emergency access to gates would function. Mr. Beltran explained that emergency accessibility would require a mechanism allowing police or fire personnel access, whether through a code or other approved means, and that gates could still be locked so long as the required emergency access feature was provided.

Discussion then turned to the appearance and material standards for fencing. It was suggested that the ordinance should clarify the intended appearance of the fence, including whether black architectural aluminum should be specified. It was noted that the draft language allowed corrosion-resistant materials so that future comparable materials could be considered administratively, provided they met the code requirements and maintained the intended appearance. It was also discussed that fences should remain flat-topped without spikes.

The Board further discussed the three-foot setback requirement from property lines where adjoining neighbors do not agree to share a fence. Concerns were raised that if one neighbor constructed a fence three feet inside the property line and the other did not, an area of unmaintained land could remain between the fence and the line. In response, staff explained that those areas would still be required to be maintained by the property owner and that existing code enforcement procedures would apply if they were not maintained. Mr. Beltran also explained, based on his prior experience administering fence permits in another municipality, that a three-foot setback helps prevent accidental encroachment onto neighboring property caused by surveying or installation inaccuracies. It was noted that setback standards vary across municipalities, and that comparison data from fourteen municipalities had already been compiled and made available on the Village website.

After discussion of major-road properties, the Board turned to the question of interior residential lots. It was stated that the draft ordinance did not propose fences for non-designated roads, but did include the possibility of a limited non-perimeter enclosure in the backyard. Discussion followed regarding whether the proposed 400-square-foot limit was appropriate or whether a percentage of the rear yard would be a more workable standard. It was stated that a fixed square-footage allowance might be too large for some smaller lots and too small for larger lots. An alternative concept was discussed that would allow a partial rear yard fence attached to the principal structure and limited by a percentage of the total rear yard area after required setbacks were applied.

It was noted that similar partial yard fencing already exists in the Village for swimming pools and that the proposed enclosure concept was intended to address safety concerns for children and pets. Discussion also addressed whether such enclosures should be required to be attached to the house and whether setbacks rather than raw percentage alone would better define the allowable area.

Additional discussion involved the effect of any interior fencing regulations on townhouse and homeowners association developments. It was noted that existing HOA rules in certain subdivisions do not currently permit backyard fences, and that any change in Village policy would not automatically override HOA restrictions. It was further clarified that plan unit developments already have a mechanism to seek approval for perimeter or subdivision fencing through amendment of their special use approval, and that such situations were distinct from the residential fence ordinance under discussion. It was also clarified that commercial screening fences already authorized elsewhere in the zoning code were not the subject of this ordinance.

Discussion continued as to whether interior fences should be allowed at all. One view expressed was that allowing only a limited percentage-based enclosure attached to the home could provide residents with a reasonable area for pets, gardening, or children's play without significantly changing the wooded, open character of the Village. Another view expressed was that one size does not fit all in Indian Head Park due to the wide variation in lot sizes and shapes, and that if fencing were to be allowed in interior rear yards, residents should be permitted to fence their entire backyard rather than only a percentage. A further view expressed was that interior fencing should not be expanded because doing so could alter the existing natural and pastoral character of the community. It was also noted that if interior fencing standards are adopted, they should be coordinated with whatever standard is ultimately chosen for properties on major roads so that properties on major roads are not subject to more restrictive treatment than interior properties.

The Board also discussed interpretation of prior public survey results. It was noted that survey responses and public comments reflected a range of opinions and may not have uniformly contemplated the same type of fencing arrangement, particularly with respect to whether "fences on major roads" meant a standalone fence facing the road or a perimeter enclosure. It was stated that the verbatim community comments available on the Village website should be reviewed as part of the Board's ongoing consideration.

Near the conclusion of the discussion, it was summarized that opinions appeared divided between allowing only partial fencing on major roads, allowing perimeter fencing for properties on major roads, and remaining undecided. It was stated that staff would need direction in order to revise the proposed ordinance for further consideration at a future meeting. The Board requested that staff continue refining the policy language with the Village consultant and return with revised draft language. A suggestion was also made that residents receive additional notice before the next discussion, and it was stated that a news flash would be issued to encourage public attendance and comment at the next meeting.

No motion was made and no vote was taken on this item.

G. Consideration and Approval of Resolution 2026-07: Authorizing Participation in the Regional Disposal Program

MOTION: Saldana
SECONDED: Gazis

Mr. Morgan introduced Ordinance 2026-06, which amends Chapter 28 of the Village Code of Ordinances regarding solid waste. Mr. Morgan explained that the purpose of the ordinance is to align the Village’s municipal code with the terms and requirements of the recently approved waste hauling franchise agreement.

Mr. Morgan stated that the amendments are intended to update and formalize regulations governing the collection, disposal, and handling of solid waste within the Village. Mr. Morgan explained that the ordinance incorporates provisions related to the authorized waste hauler, service standards, and compliance requirements consistent with the new franchise agreement.

Mr. Morgan further stated that the ordinance ensures that the Village maintains a consistent and enforceable framework for waste collection services, including residential service expectations, operational requirements for the hauler, and administrative oversight by the Village. Mr. Morgan noted that the updates are necessary to reflect current practices and contractual obligations and to ensure that the Village’s code accurately reflects the structure of the approved waste management program.

Mr. Morgan stated that adoption of the ordinance would provide clarity for residents regarding service provisions and would support efficient implementation of the waste hauling program.

Hearing no questions, President Wittenberg asked for a roll call vote.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Trustee Iannacco	X			
Trustee Saldana	X			
Trustee Eck	X			
Trustee Donnersberger	X			
Trustee Svestka	X			
Trustee Gazis	X			
President Wittenberg (If necessary)				

The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

H. Resolution 2026-08: Authorizing participation in the Suburban Tree Consortium

Mr. Morgan explained the application was withdrawn. Mr. Veenstra stated that there was no action needed to withdraw it on the agenda. As such, the Board moved to the next item. Mr. Morgan presented Resolution 2026-08, authorizing the Village’s participation in the Suburban Tree Consortium. Mr. Morgan explained that the Suburban Tree Consortium is a cooperative purchasing program that allows municipalities to obtain trees and related materials at reduced costs through collective bidding and procurement.

Mr. Morgan stated that participation in the consortium supports the Village’s ongoing forestry and tree management efforts, including parkway tree replacement, maintenance of the urban tree canopy, and implementation of the Village’s forestry plan. Mr. Morgan noted that participation provides access to a broader selection of tree species, promotes consistency in quality, and helps ensure competitive pricing through regional collaboration.

Mr. Morgan explained that the program also supports long-term sustainability goals by encouraging species diversity and reducing reliance on a limited number of tree types, which can improve resilience against disease and environmental stressors. Mr. Morgan stated that the consortium assists municipalities in planning and maintaining a healthy and balanced tree population.

Mr. Morgan further stated that participation in the consortium does not obligate the Village to purchase a specific quantity of trees but provides flexibility to procure materials as needed throughout the year. Mr. Morgan noted that the program is widely utilized by surrounding communities and is considered a best practice for municipal forestry management.

Following the presentation, the Board discussed the benefits of participation, including cost savings, improved access to tree inventory, and support for the Village’s tree canopy goals. Discussion reflected general support for continued investment in forestry initiatives and maintaining the character of the community through tree preservation and replacement efforts.

Hearing no questions, President Wittenberg asked for a roll call vote.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Trustee Iannacco	X			
Trustee Saldana	X			
Trustee Eck	X			
Trustee Donnersberger	X			
Trustee Svestka	X			
Trustee Gazis	X			
President Wittenberg (If necessary)				

The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

I. Resolution 2026-09: Authorizing the Village President to Execute a Professional Services Agreement for Redevelopment of Sacajawea Park

MOTION: Saldana

SECONDED: Iannacco

Mr. Morgan presented Resolution 2026-09, authorizing the Village President to execute a professional services agreement for the redevelopment of Sacajawea Park. Mr. Morgan explained that the agreement is intended to engage a qualified consultant to assist the Village with planning, design, and development of improvements to the park.

Mr. Morgan stated that the redevelopment of Sacajawea Park is part of the Village's ongoing efforts to enhance public spaces and recreational amenities for residents. Mr. Morgan explained that the professional services agreement would include preparation of conceptual designs, evaluation of existing park conditions, and development of recommendations for improvements that align with community needs and long-term planning goals.

Mr. Morgan stated that the consultant would work with Village staff to assess current site conditions, including existing infrastructure, accessibility, and usability of the park. Mr. Morgan further stated that the process would include consideration of potential upgrades such as improved recreational features, landscaping enhancements, and overall site layout to better serve residents.

Mr. Morgan explained that the agreement would also include opportunities for community input as part of the planning process, allowing residents to provide feedback on desired amenities and priorities for the park. Mr. Morgan stated that incorporating public input is an important component of the redevelopment effort to ensure that improvements reflect the needs and preferences of the community.

Mr. Morgan noted that the professional services agreement represents the initial phase of the redevelopment project and that additional steps, including final design, budgeting, and construction, would be brought before the Board at future meetings. Mr. Morgan stated that approval of the resolution would allow the Village to move forward with the planning and design phase in a timely manner.

Following the presentation, discussion occurred regarding the scope of services to be performed under the professional services agreement. Board members discussed the anticipated role of the consultant, including development of conceptual plans, evaluation of existing park conditions, and preparation of recommendations for future improvements. Discussion included the importance of ensuring that the consultant's scope provides sufficient flexibility to evaluate multiple design options and respond to community feedback as the project progresses.

Discussion also addressed the anticipated timeline for the redevelopment project. It was noted that the professional services agreement represents the initial phase of planning and

design, and that additional phases, including final design, cost estimating, and construction, would follow at future meetings. Board members discussed the importance of maintaining a clear project timeline while allowing adequate time for public input and refinement of design concepts.

Board members discussed the overall goals of the redevelopment project, including enhancing usability of the park, improving recreational opportunities, and updating existing amenities. Discussion included consideration of accessibility improvements to ensure that park facilities are usable for all residents, as well as the importance of maintaining safe and functional infrastructure within the park.

Discussion further addressed the need to balance new improvements with preservation of the existing character of the park and surrounding neighborhood. Board members discussed maintaining the natural features of the site, incorporating appropriate landscaping, and ensuring that any improvements are consistent with the Village’s aesthetic and long-term planning goals.

Board members also discussed the importance of incorporating community engagement into the planning process, including opportunities for residents to provide input on desired amenities and design preferences. Discussion reflected general support for moving forward with the professional services agreement in order to begin the planning process and advance the redevelopment of Sacajawea Park.

Hearing no further questions, President Wittenberg asked for a roll call vote.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Trustee Iannacco	X			
Trustee Saldana	X			
Trustee Eck	X			
Trustee Donnersberger	X			
Trustee Svestka	X			
Trustee Gazis	X			
President Wittenberg (If necessary)				

The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

J. Consideration and Approval of Ordinance 2026-06: Amending Chapter 28 of the Code of Ordinances Regarding Solid Waste

MOTION: Saldana
SECONDED: Gazis

Mr. Morgan presented Ordinance 2026-06, which amends Chapter 28 of the Village Code of Ordinances regarding solid waste. Mr. Morgan stated that the ordinance is intended to align the Village’s municipal code with the provisions of the recently approved waste hauling franchise agreement. Mr. Morgan explained that updating the code ensures that

all regulations governing solid waste collection, disposal, and handling are consistent with the terms of the current agreement.

Mr. Morgan stated that the amendments clarify the role of the authorized waste hauler and establish updated service standards for residential collection. Mr. Morgan explained that the ordinance incorporates requirements related to collection schedules, acceptable waste materials, and operational expectations for the hauler in order to ensure consistent service delivery throughout the Village.

Mr. Morgan further stated that the ordinance addresses compliance and enforcement provisions, including ensuring that residents and the authorized hauler adhere to the established guidelines for waste disposal. Mr. Morgan noted that the updated language provides clearer administrative authority for the Village to oversee the waste hauling program and respond to service-related issues as they arise.

Mr. Morgan explained that the ordinance also formalizes provisions related to recycling and waste management practices consistent with current environmental and regulatory standards. Mr. Morgan stated that the amendments support efficient and organized waste collection while promoting responsible disposal practices within the community.

Mr. Morgan stated that adoption of the ordinance would provide clarity to residents regarding service expectations and ensure that the Village's code accurately reflects the structure and requirements of the approved waste management program. Mr. Morgan noted that the updates are administrative in nature but are necessary to maintain consistency between the Village Code and the executed franchise agreement.

Following the presentation, Board members discussed the ordinance and its relationship to the previously approved waste hauling contract in greater detail. Board members discussed how the amendments to Chapter 28 are intended to codify the operational terms of the franchise agreement within the Village Code to ensure consistency between contractual obligations and enforceable municipal regulations. Board members discussed the importance of having clearly defined standards within the Code so that expectations for both the authorized waste hauler and residents are uniformly understood and administered.

Board members discussed the importance of ensuring reliable and consistent waste collection services for residents, including adherence to established collection schedules, proper handling of refuse and recyclables, and responsiveness to service issues. Board members discussed the need for the ordinance to clearly define acceptable practices for waste disposal and to provide guidance to residents regarding compliance with Village requirements.

Discussion also included consideration of enforcement mechanisms associated with the updated code provisions. Board members discussed how incorporating the terms of the franchise agreement into the Code strengthens the Village's ability to address service deficiencies, enforce compliance, and respond to violations when necessary. Board

members discussed the importance of maintaining administrative oversight and ensuring that both the service provider and residents adhere to the established regulations.

Board members further discussed how the updated provisions will support improved coordination between the Village and the waste hauler, including addressing service complaints, monitoring performance, and maintaining accountability under the terms of the agreement. Discussion reflected general agreement that the ordinance provides a clearer and more structured framework for waste management operations and will improve overall service delivery for the community.

Hearing no further questions, President Wittenberg asked for a roll call vote.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Trustee Iannacco	X			
Trustee Saldana	X			
Trustee Eck	X			
Trustee Donnersberger	X			
Trustee Svestka	X			
Trustee Gazis	X			
President Wittenberg (If necessary)				

The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Cochran addressed the Board and stated that the discussion was difficult to follow and that the complexity of the issue suggested that the original approach of not allowing fences may have been appropriate. He stated that his interpretation of the Planning and Zoning Commission’s recommendation was that fencing was intended only along major roadways and not for side yards or full perimeter fencing. He stated that there was no contemplation of full perimeter fencing and that the Commission had not recommended changes for interior properties.

Mr. Cochrane stated that allowing full perimeter fencing along major roads could create a loophole whereby properties with frontage on those roads could effectively fence their entire backyard, which would not address the original intent of providing separation from busy roadways. He questioned whether additional provisions such as expanded dog runs were necessary and asked whether such proposals were solutions in search of a problem.

Mr. Cochrane further stated that if full perimeter fencing were considered, setbacks should be required to preserve elements of the community’s character, including wildlife movement. He questioned how fencing would impact trees and noted that no discussion had occurred regarding that issue. He stated that none of the residents had chosen to live in surrounding

communities where fences are common and suggested that this should be considered by the Board.

Lori Davis addressed the Board and stated that she agreed with the prior comments. Ms. Davis questioned the purpose of the survey if the Board was not going to follow the preferences expressed by residents, particularly those living west of Wolf Road. She stated that residents moved to the Village knowing that fences were not permitted and noted that the community has a wide variety of lot sizes, ranging from smaller lots to properties over an acre, and therefore is not a one-size-fits-all community.

Sandy Hayes addressed the Board and stated that she supports fencing along major streets but does not support enclosing entire properties or allowing interior fences. Ms. Hayes questioned how dog runs or attached enclosures would be monitored and whether permits would be required to ensure compliance with any adopted standards.

Joe Cheseri addressed the Board and stated that the proposed changes have the potential to alter the character of the community. Mr. Cheseri stated that Planning and Zoning discussions focused on fencing along yards abutting major streets, and that expanding fencing to interior areas, including dog runs of varying sizes, would change the overall appearance of the Village. He stated that such changes would result in a loss of the open, pastoral character of Indian Head Park and lead to the introduction of more enclosed and structured residential environments.

Tom Davis addressed the Board and described observing deer resting in his backyard during the winter, stating that the presence of wildlife contributes significantly to the character and appeal of the community. Mr. Davis stated that any type of fencing would impede the movement of wildlife and diminish the natural environment. He stated that while fencing along major roadways may be acceptable, full perimeter fencing would fundamentally change the Village and make it more similar to neighboring communities. Mr. Davis stated that such changes would detract from the identity of Indian Head Park as a park-like environment.

VIII. REPORTS

A. TRUSTEES

Trustee Iannacco

No Report

Trustee Saldana

No Report

Trustee Eck

Trustee Eck reported that the Finance Committee will meet on April 8 at 4:00 PM. Trustee Eck stated that the meeting will serve as the final session prior to formal approval of the

upcoming fiscal year budget and will include final adjustments and refinements. Trustee Eck noted that the public is invited to attend committee meetings.

Trustee Donnersberger

Trustee Donnersberger reported on the progress of the Economic Development Committee and discussed ongoing efforts related to the potential establishment of a TIF for the Triangle area. Trustee Donnersberger also reported on the Heritage Center site and stated that preliminary drawings are being developed to explore possible concepts for the site. Trustee Donnersberger expressed that the concepts are encouraging and stated that a public hearing will be held prior to any decisions being made. She added that the next Heritage Site Committee meeting will be held on April 1 at 6:00 PM at Village Hall and stated that all residents are invited to attend.

Trustee Svestka

Trustee Svestka stated a reminder of the tree canopy meeting scheduled for March 26

Trustee Gazis

No Report

B. VILLAGE CLERK

Mr. Beltran reported that permit season is beginning to increase and reminded residents that anyone planning construction, remodeling, or similar work should contact the Village to obtain the necessary permits. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that all required permits are secured prior to beginning work.

Mr. Beltran clarified that the Village does not require roofing permits unless the structure of the roof is being altered. He noted that following recent hail and wind events, the Village typically receives an increased number of inquiries regarding roofing permits and provided this clarification for residents.

Mr. Beltran further reported that staff is in the process of completing a review of Chapter 8 of the Village Code related to business licenses. He stated that the section has not been modernized and is being updated to improve clarity, efficiency, and overall effectiveness. He noted that the review includes use of updated tools and assistance from staff to refine language and improve administration of the code provisions.

C. VILLAGE TREASURER

No report.

D. VILLAGE ATTORNEY

No report.

E. VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Morgan reported that the Village will be implementing a high deductible health plan option for employees, paired with a health savings account, effective July 1. Mr. Morgan stated that this initiative has been a long-term goal of the Village. Mr. Morgan explained that the Village's insurance underwriters analyzed multiple participation scenarios, including transitions from PPO and HMO plans to the high deductible plan, and that in each scenario the Village would realize cost savings. Mr. Morgan further stated that the program will also provide financial benefits to employees and described the change as a mutually beneficial outcome. Mr. Morgan stated that the Village will provide education and informational resources to employees to ensure they understand the plan and its benefits.

Mr. Morgan reported that the Village has initiated work with Vicarious Media, a communications firm recently approved by the Board. Mr. Morgan stated that an initial kickoff meeting has been completed and that department-level meetings will be held to identify communication needs. Mr. Morgan explained that the Village will then establish regular coordination with the firm to develop messaging and content for public communication. Mr. Morgan thanked the Board for approving the engagement.

Mr. Morgan reported on several grant initiatives currently underway. Mr. Morgan stated that staff is working with the Village's tree consultant to apply for a ComEd rain garden grant to support the development of a rain garden at Blackhawk Park and address drainage concerns. Mr. Morgan further reported that the Village has applied for federal funding through Congressman Casten's office to support water main improvements identified in the Village's five-year plan.

Mr. Morgan also reported that the Village is applying for a ComEd energy efficiency grant for electronic display signage at Village Hall. Mr. Morgan stated that the proposed signage would consist of informational display boards at the front and rear entrances of the building rather than large-scale signage.

Mr. Morgan reported that staff is preparing an application for an Invest in Cook transportation grant to support roadway improvement projects within the Village.

Mr. Morgan additionally addressed an issue related to the waste hauling program, noting that the Village identified approximately 18 households that do not have accounts with the authorized waste hauler and instead had been using a sticker-based system. Mr. Morgan stated that this arrangement will no longer be permitted under the new franchise agreement. Mr. Morgan further stated that staff is reviewing the list to determine which households remain in the Village and will present options to the Board at a future meeting regarding how to address these situations.

F. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

POLICE

Police Chief's Report

Chief Walsh reported that earlier in the day there was a traffic accident on Joliet Road just west of Wolf Road. He stated that the driver reported dropping an item and, while attempting to retrieve it, traffic had stopped ahead. He stated that the driver swerved to avoid a collision, resulting in a crash that struck a power line. Chief Walsh reported that the incident caused a power outage affecting the area, including Wolf's Head Plaza, and that power was out for over five hours. He stated that ComEd responded and restored traffic signals and power, noting that it was a prolonged disruption for those affected.

Chief Walsh reported on ongoing grant efforts, including a body-worn camera and in-car camera grant application. He stated that the application has been delayed due to requirements from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board for detailed pricing information. He stated that he has been working with the vendor to obtain the necessary documentation and plans to continue working on the submission to meet the deadline. Chief Walsh further reported that the department's training records were not fully reflected in the system, which initially impacted eligibility. He stated that all required training has been completed and that he is coordinating with the training center to ensure records are properly updated.

Chief Walsh reported that the department has received funding related to retail theft enforcement and is pursuing additional funding for the following year. He stated that the department intends to use funds for surveillance-related equipment and noted that thermal binoculars have been acquired. Chief Walsh reported that there has been a significant increase in incidents targeting gaming machines in surrounding areas. He stated that multiple jurisdictions have experienced break-ins involving organized groups and that regional law enforcement agencies are coordinating through a task force. Chief Walsh reported that recent apprehensions were made in a neighboring community following a pursuit. He stated that local officers are conducting additional patrols in commercial areas, particularly those with gaming establishments, to deter similar incidents.

Chief Walsh reported on the Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program grant and stated that coordination is underway for the upcoming grant cycle. He noted that enforcement activities will take place from March 12 through March 22 in connection with the St. Patrick's Day holiday period and that results will be reported at a future meeting.

Chief Walsh reported on ongoing union-related matters and stated that discussions have begun regarding negotiation topics. He stated that communication has been initiated with union leadership to identify concerns and schedule further discussions.

Chief Walsh reported on a public safety concern involving a family that has obtained orders of protection against an individual. He stated that the individual remains in custody following a status hearing but expressed concern regarding potential release and the impact on the affected family. He reported that the department is monitoring the case and coordinating efforts, including potential court observation. Chief Walsh stated that additional charges related to misuse of emergency services are being pursued and may impact the individual's custody status.

Chief Walsh reported on personnel matters, stating that the Police and Fire Commission conducted interviews for a vacant position. He stated that one candidate was interviewed and received a conditional offer of employment, with an additional candidate to be rescheduled. Chief Walsh explained that the vacancy resulted from the resignation of an officer who left to accept a position elsewhere, necessitating the hiring process to fill the position.

Chief Walsh concluded the report.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Coons reported on several Public Works activities and ongoing projects. He stated that the Village's Tree City USA designation has been submitted and is currently pending final approval at the state level, noting that the remaining steps are procedural. He further reported that an application is being prepared for a Tree City USA Growth Award and that coordination with the Finance Department is underway to finalize required information for submission.

Mr. Coons reported that, in addition to previously discussed Arbor Day activities, the Village will continue participation in the Morton Arboretum grant program. He stated that tree planting will resume in the spring, with a goal of planting at least 25 additional trees, with the possibility of planting more depending on available funding.

Mr. Coons reported that Strand Associates submitted a project plan to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for six water main projects, and that the plan has been approved. He stated that the project has been publicly advertised as required and will remain available for review for a ten-day period before finalization. He explained that approval of the project plan will support the Village's ability to pursue loans for upcoming water main improvements, depending on eligibility and scoring criteria.

Mr. Coons reported that the Village received a permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the chlorine system conversion at the pump house. He stated that bid opening for the project is scheduled for the 19th and noted that multiple contractors have already obtained plans, indicating anticipated participation in the bidding process.

Mr. Coons reported that the Cook County hazard mitigation report has been completed. He also reported that Public Works responded to a sanitary sewer blockage on Keokuk Road, which was resolved, and that the system is currently operating normally.

Mr. Coons reported that the Village has placed an order for approximately 100 tons of salt, which will complete the Village's supply for the current season. He stated that coordination will begin with the State for procurement of salt for the next season.

Mr. Coons reported that the Village’s surplus squad vehicle is scheduled for pickup on the 16th. He also reported that staff members attended a pipeline safety training course and received certification.

Mr. Coons reported that the Village continues to update its GIS system and has incorporated storm and sanitary infrastructure data. He stated that the next steps include adding zoning mapping and tree inventory data to the system.

In response to a question regarding pipeline mapping within the GIS system, Mr. Coons stated that pipeline data is not currently included but can be requested and incorporated.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Iannaco made the **MOTION** to adjourn. Trustee Saldana **SECONDED**. With no objections, the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:02p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrez Beltran
Assistant to the Village Administrator/Village Clerk

DRAFT