

Village Board Meeting Minutes
VILLAGE OF ISLAND LAKE
3720 Greenleaf Avenue, Island Lake, IL 60042
January 22, 2026, 7:00 p.m.



1. **Call to Order** at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor McLaughlin
2. **Roll Call** Present: Trustees Brittany Alers, Chuck Cermak, Steve Deasey, Thadd Lewis, Wendy Mills and Will Ziegler (remotely). Absent: None. Also present: Mayor Richard McLaughlin, Village Clerk Georgine Cooper, Attorney Matt Walters, Public Works Director Chris Carlsen and Engineer Steve Zehner
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Colleen Roos
4. **Presentation on United Health Care Health Insurance Renewal, Colleen Roos**
Colleen distributed packets 15% increase by UHC negotiated it to 10% can get them down to 2.41% increase. Copay has increased from \$10 to \$20; average is \$30. Recommended the United Health Care plan. Trustee Cermak: Asked why Clerk Cooper wasn't on the plan. Response: Medicare supplement is lower cost. Cash in lieu of benefits is an option; Section 125 IRS Code. You would have to do it for everyone who opts out. The Village would have to determine that amount and apply it uniformly. Mayor McLaughlin mentioned he would like the option as well.
5. **Public Comment** included: Noelle Taras: Asked about gift cards on bill sheet. They were covered by donation. Eleanor Sweet McDonnell of North Barrington: Running for Lake County Board in District 17 as a write-in; believes in protecting natural resources; was on plan commission and fire commission in North Barrington; is a business owner and pro-business. Talked about her background and experience. Has interfaced with Lake County for 6 ½ years. Resident: Asked about Park District Meeting [RE: Before and After School Club]; Response: Mayor did not attend, but spoke with director and should have an announcement soon.

Action Items

6. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. **Approve payment of bills in the amount of \$ 353,046.95**
 - b. **Approve minutes of the 1/08/2026 meeting**
 - c. **Adopt Resolution 1710-26 A Resolution Authorizing the Village Finance Director to Enter into a Contract for the Purchase of Electricity from the Lowest Cost Electricity Provider for the Purposes of Commercial Accounts through the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC) Bid Process**
 - d. **Renew the United Health Care Health Insurance Policy with new prescription and plan design changes at a 2.41% increase (+\$7,732 billed premium)**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda a - d by Trustee Alers Second by Trustee Lewis

Questions: Trustee Cermak asked about minutes item 8, Las Vegas trip; who can go? Mayor McLaughlin: Anyone. Trustee Alers: Other mayor's suggest you go and listen and hand out materials.

Ayes: Trustees Alers, Cermak, Deasey, Lewis, Mills and Ziegler. Nays: none. Motion carried.

7. **Adopt Resolution 1711-26 A Resolution Accepting a Donation to be used towards the Purchase and Installation of an Electronic Scoreboard at the Island Lake Village Hall Campus Ballfield and authorize Mayor to sign the Donation and Limited-Term Naming Agreement (Electronic Scoreboard – Island Lake Village Hall Campus Ballfield between the Village of Island Lake and Schnoll and Company, Inc.**

Discussion: Trustee Lewis: At November meeting, Attorney McArdle had concerns about equitable; was going to draft a policy. Do we need to have that to keep us out of a sticky situation? Clarified that the partial language did not mean Village will need to spend money. Attorney Walters: It is a limited timeline that buys the Village leeway; once you open that, you open floodgates. Passing it at this time does not prohibit a policy at a future meeting; shouldn't be any concerns that this would cause a problem. Mayor McLaughlin: If someone wants to donate property and have a name that is deemed not appropriate, do we have to allow it? Attorney Walters: You are under no obligation to accept it; if a donor later has some legal issues, you are under no obligation to keep the name. Trustee Deasey: We need to make

sure that a provision allows that.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 1711-26 A Resolution Accepting a Donation to be used towards the Purchase and Installation of an Electronic Scoreboard at the Island Lake Village Hall Campus Ballfield and authorize Mayor to sign the Donation and Limited-Term Naming Agreement (Electronic Scoreboard – Island Lake Village Hall Campus Ballfield between the Village of Island Lake and Schnoll and Company, Inc. by Trustee Lewis, Second by Trustee Mills

Ayes: Trustees Alers, Cermak, Deasey, Lewis, Mills and Ziegler. Nays: none. Motion carried.

8. Authorize Mayor to sign Robinson Engineering Task Order 23-R0748.07 for Janet Drive easement document preparation in the amount of \$38,800 to be billed on a time and materials basis

Discussion:

Motion to authorize Mayor to sign Robinson Engineering Task Order 23-R0748.07 for Janet Drive easement document preparation in the amount of \$38,800 to be billed on a time and materials basis by Trustee Lewis, Second by Trustee Alers

Ayes: Trustees Alers, Cermak, Deasey, Lewis, Mills and Ziegler. Nays: none. Motion carried.

9. Discussion Items

a. 2026 MFT Projects: Direction to Engineer

Engineer Zehner: You have a plan in your packet that includes the original roads; we discussed Fern at the end of the presentation. Fern is over \$400,000; needs direction on which roads the Board wants to do. We have \$350,000 to work with from MFT; if we do not fix River Oaks, the cost will increase from about \$29,000 to \$120,000. Would like to get MFT bid program going for best prices. We know that we need to spend a lot of money on our roads. Red and yellow conditions are higher; reds will go from \$6 per square foot to \$21 per. Do some \$6 this year to keep them from increasing to \$21. Mayor McLaughlin: If we fix Fern next year with MFT money, will that cover it? Zehner: We would need to add another \$100,000. Trustee Cermak: Worst on Fern is Eastway to Poplar. Auburn doesn't appear as serious as Fern. Trustee Lewis: We have to get the most value for our money; Robinson has given us good advice as our experts. Ask good questions and take their advice. Newport, Longacre are not as bad as Fern. Response: \$21 per square foot takes the road down to the base; the \$6 repair is not as radical. We want to migrate from fair to satisfactory with our limited dollars. We look to get the \$6 ones from increasing. Trustee Alers: Fern won't get any worse? Zehner: The cost of the paving could go up. Trustee Alers asked Director Carlsen if we have equipment to take care of roads to make them safe. Response: I agree that Fern is the worst; we get more bang for the buck by preventing other roads to getting that bad. We do have a mill to work on Fern to improve it. Mayor McLaughlin: If we wait until next year for Fern, we can focus on it next year with additional money. Director Carlsen: Can we do a bond to do all the roads? Zehner: It is \$30,000,000 for a total project; we don't have that money now or in the next few years. We need to set up priorities with Board direction; suggest we program Fern in next year; in the year after, we look at \$6 roads; the year after that, the \$21. Trustee Cermak: I would do the most serious ones now. Response: If we let roads degrade further, we will have increased costs. Direction is to follow the original recommendation and focus on Fern next year.

b. Bill sheet twice monthly: 2nd and 4th Thursdays

If we pay twice a month, we would avoid being late. Trustee Lewis: What does Finance Director Shane Johnson think about it? Mayor McLaughlin: Will discuss it with Shane.

10. Mayor Comments included: Village Hall is closed tomorrow for the cold; schools are closed. Trustee Deasey and Mayor are in conversation with Sticky Fingers restaurant; went to the Algonquin location and food was great; met with an individual who would like to bring a restaurant to Sofia's location; met with Jeff Schnoll about restaurant in the old bank building; Biggby Coffee wants to locate here. Public Works is keeping our streets clean. We have increased interest in the Village from businesses. Is working with KLM Builders to close the Walnut Glen property. There are 22 applicants for upcoming police testing.

11. Trustee and Staff Comments included:

Trustee Alers: Thanked Public Works and Director Carlsen for work; hope to have Parks Planning and Development Commission appointed a next meeting. Trustee Deasey: Support Lomeli's; Yolanda is happy with the cooperation from the Village; chose this site over Kenosha; support the new Mobile Station. Not a short-term issue, but would like to establish a strategic plan to replace the Village Hall

building; we need to assess options. Trustee Lewis: Thanked Public Works; Lions Ice Fishing Derby on February 7; have giveaways for kids. Trustee Mills: Businesses reached out to her about what businesses can do to help the school develop quality employees; a group is looking for help in writing a business plan; was good to hear about potential support for small businesses. Trustee Ziegler: Thanked Public Works and Police Department for working in rough weather.

Director Carlsen: Was glad to hear Trustee Deasey bring up building issue; we have had a number of issues arise that need repairs—including power issues. We need a roof repair; need guidance about how to proceed. Will pass along thanks to the crew who has been out at all hours. We are looking at lake quality under the ice; it's extremely good at this point. Mayor McLaughlin: \$1.5 million to make improvements. Clerk Cooper: Statement of Economic Interest filing request to come from Lake County.

12. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment, compensation and performance of specific employees 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and potential litigation to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), respectively]

Motion to go into **Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment, compensation and performance of specific employees 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and potential litigation/ collective bargaining 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) by Trustee Lewis, Second by Trustee Mills**

Ayes: Trustees Alers, Cermak, Deasey, Lewis, Mills and Ziegler. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Meeting returned to Open Session at 8:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Trustees Brittany Alers, Chuck Cermak, Steve Deasey, Thadd Lewis, Wendy Mills, Will Ziegler (remotely). Absent: None.

No action taken as a result of Executive Session.

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Cermak, Second by Trustee Alers
All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Submitted by Georgine Cooper