

Village Board Meeting Minutes
VILLAGE OF ISLAND LAKE
3720 Greenleaf Avenue, Island Lake, IL 60042
February 12, 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. Absent: None. Also present: Mayor Richard McLaughlin, Village Clerk Georgine Cooper, Attorney Matt Walters, Public Works Director Chris Carlsen, Police Chief Jennifer Paulus and Engineer Steve Zehner
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Dan Ordaz
4. **Public Comment** included: Is [Wauconda Park District] taking over Before-and-After-School Club Program? Response: Still working on it; they are working on an IGA.
5. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Public Works: Trustee Mills
 - b. Parks Planning and Development: Trustee Alers
 - c. Business and Economic Development: Trustee Deasey
 - d. Building and Zoning: Trustee Cermak
 - e. Police, Public Safety, and Ordinances: Trustee Lewis
 - f. Finance and Administration: Trustee Ziegler

Action Items

6. **Parks Planning and Development Commission**

Candidates introduce themselves. Dan Ordaz, long-time resident; Suzanne Bram 5 year resident in Island Lake) is retiring and wants to contribute; Dawn Rugg: 10 year resident; member of Victory Garden, had positive experience and would like give more; Lois DeBolt: 3-year resident; "Island Lake found me" and she is excited to be part of Commission
7. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. **Approve minutes of the 1/22/2026 meeting**
 - b. **Authorize Mayor to sign the Grant Agreement between the State of Illinois, Law Enforcement Training and the Village of Island Lake for the receipt of \$57,000 in grant funds for officer-worn camera cloud data storage**
 - c. **Authorize Mayor to sign the contract with Skinner Amusements for 2026 Lake Fest carnival, June 12 – 14, 2026**
 - d. **Approve Mayor's appointment of Parks Planning and Development Commission Members: Lois DeBolt, Daniel Ordaz and Dawn Rugg and Commission Chair Suzanne Bram**
 - e. **Ratify approval of Capital Needs Assessment for the Village Hall building by EnviroBusiness Inc. (EBI) in the Amount of \$5,965**
 - f. **Authorize Mayor to sign gWorks proposal for Public Works Software in the amount of \$21,256 for 2 years**
 - g. **Authorize Mayor to sign GEOCON Professional Services, LLC (GEOCON) in an amount not to exceed \$7,000 for geotechnical engineering services—including 10 soil borings and testing—for 2026 and 2027 MFT Road Program and, if needed, \$3,000 per day for traffic control in an amount not to exceed \$9,000**

Discussion: Mayor McLaughlin: RE: item e, EBI; we're trying to get a grant to get a new Village Hall; Chief and Director Carlsen came up with the company; we need to have an assessment to go out to seek grants. Director Carlsen: Basically, needed a 3rd party non-biased; EBI has offices around the country; have done a good scope of work in the proposal; will do a Capital Needs Assessment; will quantify needs; have roof, plumbing, generator, HVAC issues. Trustee Lewis: If and when we do the report, once we have knowledge of it, we are liable for it; we need to determine what and if things need to be done. Scope of Work is good; as of September, they know longer have an agent in Illinois; we would have to have any legal actions in Massachusetts; it's only \$6,000 for proposal; it would cost us more in attorney fees to pursue action. They have a good reputation in the area.

Trustee Cermak: Are there other companies in our State that do it? Trustee Lewis: It is a miniscule reason not to go ahead. They have good ratings on the web. The scope of work is comprehensive for the amount. Trustee Cermak: Good opportunity to see where we're at. Trustee Deasey: It's a critical piece for getting financial help. It doesn't clearly state when we have to pay. Mayor McLaughlin: Senator Hill will come in and explore funding with us. Trustee Deasey: Proposal says payment due upon receipt of the report that may take 20 days and also says payment due right away; needs clarification. For GEOCON proposal needs to say the not to exceed \$9,000 in the contract; Engineer Zehner: Will contact them to revise it. Clerk Cooper clarified that if additional traffic control days were needed, it would have to come back to the Board. Engineer Zehner: Exceeding these days is not likely to happen. Director Carlsen: Our Public Works people are certified for flagging and we can use them if additional time is required.

Motion to adopt Consent Agenda items a – g adding not to exceed 3 days for item e for traffic control by Trustee Lewis, Second by Trustee Mills

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

8. Adopt Ordinance 1717-26 Amending Title 8, Chapter 1: Building Codes

Discussion: Clerk Cooper: Worked with Director Carlsen; needed to update codes; 2018 codes are compliant with State requirements; the codes are accessible online for free; later section will need updating.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 1717-26 Amending Title 8, Chapter 1: Building Codes by Trustee Ziegler, Second by Trustee Deasey

Questions:

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

9. Approve 2026 MFT Road Projects

Discussion: Steve Zehner: We can adopt ordinance for additional roads as needed; will have contractors bid the additional Fern Drive, but will back it out if we don't have the money; will include Converse Park in the quote. In order to be clear with IDOT, we will go out to bid, identify unit prices and negotiation separately for additional areas. Will go to IDOT at the end of March; want to have conversations. MFT pricing is competitive; we can ask for a discount for additional work. Director Carlsen: We want to get bid out early. Trustee Cermak: Was pushing for Fern as it is the worst road; would rather see extra money go for Converse this year; Fern can be next year; am happy to go with Board consensus. Mayor McLaughlin: We had hoped to use some impact fee money toward part of Fern. Trustee Deasey: May need property sale money to deal with our building.

No action.

10. Discussion Item

Rental Registration Inspections

Director Carlsen: We have been doing is counting on landlords to call for inspections; suggestion is to require landlords to provide an inspection by a certified inspector; onus on landlord.

11. Mayor Comments: Good things going on with parks; looking at pickle ball; 196 anglers at the Ice Fishing Derby; Public Works will begin spring clean-up. 176 will be repaired

12. Trustee and Staff Comments

Trustee Alers: Reiterated thanks to Police Department and Public Works; welcomed Parks Commission and thanked them for their commitment to the community; also enjoyed ice fishing derby. We are split in two counties, would like to have more representation for McHenry County residents; has been contact with the Pioneer Center. Trustee Cermak: Thanked the new Park Commission members and residents and Board. Trustee Deasey: Great to see our residents getting involved in Parks; praised Public Works for keeping roads safe; enjoyed ice fishing derby; thanked Georgine for her help. Trustee Lewis: Thanked Lois, Dan, Dawn and Suzanne for willingness to serve the community; the more ideas and input we get, the more we make the community the way we want it to be; ice fishing increase their number from 120 prior year to 196; money raised goes right back into community—kayak launch and pavilion, for example. Question about bill sheet twice a month; Mayor will talk to Finance Director to see whether it is needed. Trustee Mills: Asked which charity will benefit by Park'D disc gold fundraiser.

Director Carlsen received certificate of appreciation for his work to support the lake. MCCG meeting attended by Trustees Alers and Mills; was interesting to see what battles are being fought in Springfield. Happy Valentines Trustee Ziegler: Thanked Parks Planning and Development Commission; thanked Police Department.

Director Carlsen: Thanked Police Department for monitoring the roads and helping to get Public Works out to plow. Chief Paulus: Thanked the Board for the new phone system; thanked the Lions for the ice fishing derby, a great time. Clerk Cooper: Lincoln's birthday 2nd Inaugural Address on March 4, 1865, referred to healing the nation after the Civil War: *With malice toward none with charity for all with firmness in the right*; revising the Zoning packet to make it more user friendly: separating Special Use, Variance and Zoning Amendment; simplifying forms; administrator article in packets; we are in a courtship/getting to know you period with our new phones training next week.

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Cermak, Second by Trustee Mills
All were in favor. Motioned carried at 8:02 p.m.

Submitted by Georgine Cooper