



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 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, January 8, 2025, 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**

#### **A. Swearing-in of Officer Max Engstrom**

Chief Walsh provided background on Officer Engstrom. Chief Walsh reported that he was a proud graduate of St. Lawrence High School, and attended Indiana Wesleyan University, where he obtained a criminal justice degree. Chief Walsh added that he was working full-time at Prairie State College while working part-time with the Village. Chief Walsh noted that, fortunately, the Village was able to bring him on as a lateral transfer, and said that Officer Engstrom had been working with them and doing a great job.

Chief Walsh then swore in Officer Engstrom.

#### **B. Presentation of Life Saving Award to Corporal Marty Milas**

Chief Walsh presented the award to Corporal Martin Milas in recognition of extraordinary courage, swift action, and unwavering commitment to the preservation of human life. He recounted that on January 17, 2026, Corporal Milas demonstrated exceptional presence of mind and selfless dedication by swiftly responding to a motor vehicle crash victim near I-294 and Wolf Road. At approximately 3:00 a.m., Corporal Milas located a single-vehicle crash where the driver was ejected from the wreckage.

Chief Walsh continued that Corporal Milas rushed to the scene and identified that the semi-conscious victim’s head was submerged underwater. He went into the near-freezing water, and referenced how cold it was at that time, to lift the person’s head until the fire department arrived and rendered aid. Chief Walsh remarked that his decisive actions reflected the highest ideals of the Indian Head Park Police Department and served as an inspiring example of bravery and compassion. He expressed deep gratitude and respect in honoring his heroic efforts.

Chief Walsh commented that Corporal Milas did a great job, and noted that, after watching the video, it was absolutely freezing out. Chief Walsh observed that Corporal Milas, without thought, jumped into the water, saw the person’s head was submerged, and lifted his head until the fire department arrived. Chief Walsh offered congratulations, commended him for a great job, and thanked him.

### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A.** Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2025
- B.** Approval of Payables for the Period Ending January 31, 2025
- C.** Approval of Preliminary Financial Report - Month ending January 31, 2025
- D.** Approval of Updated Financial Policies (Budget, Capital Assets, Investment, Purchasing)
- E.** Approval of Resolution 2026-02: Declaring: 2017 Ford Police Interceptor, 2019 Bobcat Predator Pro 7000 Riding Mower, 2000 Bobcat walk-behind mower as surplus property

**F. Consideration and Approval of Resolution 2026-03: Ratifying the purchase of a 2025 Ford Bronco for the Public Works Department**

**MOTION:** Saldana

**SECONDED:** Gazis

Mr. Morgan presented the Financial Report:

1. The Cash on Hand for December 31, 2025 included \$2,341,590.16.
2. Payables for January 2026 amounted to \$454,101.28.
3. Total Revenues for January 2026 amounted to \$517,416.63.
4. Ending Bank Balance on January 31, 2025 was \$2,404,905.51.

Trustee Eck asked if the Village had received the full amount of its owed property taxes from the County. Mr. Morgan stated that since January, another approximately \$500,000 have been sent to the Village, catching it up on what it was owed. Trustee Eck thanked him.

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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**

**G. Consideration and Approval of Resolution 2026-04: Suspending the purchasing rules and ratifying the purchase of a 2025 Ford Explorer for the Village of Indian Head Park Police Department**

**MOTION:** Saldana

**SECONDED:** Eck

Mr. Morgan explained that this was a time-sensitive vehicle purchase. Mr. Morgan reported that the Village had an opportunity to buy the vehicle from the provider responsible for the upfitting and aftermarket additions to the police vehicles. Mr. Morgan indicated that it was a sole-source purchase, which required the suspension of the rules.

Mr. Morgan explained that this action was authorized under the Illinois Municipal Code to set aside the competitive bidding requirements with a two-thirds vote. Mr. Morgan noted that the purchase had been approved by the President and the Finance Trustee under Village Code authority. Mr. Morgan further explained that the Village had completed the purchase and that the request before the Board that evening was for formal ratification for purposes of compliance and transparency.

Trustee Saldana asked how much the purchase was for.

Mr. Morgan asked the Chief if he remembered the amount, noting that the memo was not in front of him. Chief Walsh responded that the amount was \$47,800.

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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. Consideration and Approval of Resolution 2026-05: Authorizing the Village President to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Vicarious Multimedia for Village Communications Services**

**MOTION:** Saldana

**SECONDED:** Gazis

H. Approval of Resolution 2026-05 Authorizing the Village President to Execute an Agreement for Professional Communications Services

Mr. Morgan explained that the item would provide the Village with professional communications support. He noted that developing a comprehensive communications plan and strategy had been a goal since his arrival, as the Village previously lacked a holistic communications approach.

He reported that the proposed contract would be with Vicarious Media. He explained that the agreement would begin with an initial \$2,000 retainer to initiate the process, during

which the consultant would conduct an analysis of the Village's communications needs and identify appropriate strategies.

He further explained that following the initial analysis, the agreement would include an ongoing monthly cost of \$3,500. According to him, the consultant would bring a full team to manage the Village's social media and overall communications efforts.

He also noted that they had begun discussions with the consultant about working with CivicPlus to update the Village website, which had not been updated in several years. He explained that the goal was to make the website more user friendly, easier to navigate, and more helpful to residents by consolidating information in a single location. He added that the update would also improve the customer service aspect of the Village's online presence.

He explained that the broader goal of the communications program was to strengthen transparency, improve consistency, and provide professional communications support beyond what internal staff currently had the capacity to provide.

He added that the Village had reviewed several other providers and felt that Vicarious Media demonstrated a strong understanding of the Village's needs. According to him, the consultant had experience working with many small communities and regularly worked with municipalities associated with the Illinois City/County Management Association. He noted that this experience provided a strong understanding of the needs and perspectives of smaller municipalities.

He also indicated that discussions were underway about having the consultant assist with the Village's printed newsletter, the Village Voice, which is mailed to residents. He explained that this would help standardize the publication and create a smoother and more efficient production process.

He concluded by explaining that the request before the Board that evening was to authorize approval of the base agreement so the Village could begin planning and coordination with the consultant. He noted that the associated costs had been included in the proposed FY2027 budget, which would be presented to the Board during the March and April meetings.

Trustee Eck asked whether there was a maximum cost associated with the agreement and whether it included a term limit.

Mr. Morgan responded that the agreement would not exceed \$3,500 per month moving forward. He added that the Village would retain the ability to terminate the agreement at any time with 30 days' notice.

Trustee Gazis asked Mr. Morgan to briefly explain the specific functions the Village would receive under the agreement and how those responsibilities were currently being handled.

Mr. Morgan explained that the program would begin with weekly content coordination and departmental communications planning. He stated that the consultant would meet regularly with department heads and senior staff to develop short-term communication plans identifying upcoming topics and information to share with residents.

He explained that communications would include not only upcoming events but also information about ongoing work and accomplishments within the Village, such as infrastructure projects and Public Works operations. He noted that this could include items such as informational videos, for example a tour of the pump house, to help residents better understand Village operations.

He stated that the effort would help residents see how public funds, including property taxes, grants, and vehicle sticker revenue, were being used within the community. He observed that much of the Village's work occurs behind the scenes and often goes unnoticed unless a problem occurs, even though staff work to prevent those issues from happening. He explained that the consultant would also develop and maintain a content calendar that would be regularly updated through ongoing meetings with Village staff.

Mr. Morgan further reported that the firm would manage the Village's social media platforms by creating, scheduling, and publishing content for Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor. He noted that the Village planned to begin using Nextdoor more actively. He explained that social media postings on the administrative side were currently handled on an ad hoc basis when staff were available to post updates. He noted that the Police Department maintained a more consistent social media presence because a staff member regularly managed those updates.

Mr. Morgan added that the consultant would develop a monthly e-newsletter, including content creation, graphic design, formatting, and distribution. He also reported that the firm would develop a monthly blog to provide centralized information for residents. He explained that this could include information particularly useful for seniors and their families, such as fraud prevention guidance, fall prevention information, and updates related to senior luncheon programs.

He explained that organizing this information in one location would make it easier for residents and family members to locate relevant resources.

He also noted that the consultant would assist with redevelopment of the Village website and help ensure it remained updated and maintained over time.

Mr. Morgan concluded by explaining that these tasks were currently handled by staff and volunteer elected officials but that the process was inconsistent. He noted that while staff had wanted to create a more strategic and coordinated communications effort, other responsibilities often took priority, preventing the Village from dedicating sufficient time to the effort.

Trustee Eck calculated that at \$3,500 per month the annual cost would total approximately \$42,000 and observed that this amount was roughly equivalent to a half or one-third of a full-time employee.

Mr. Morgan responded that it would be less than half of a full-time employee when benefits and payroll taxes were considered. He explained that a full-time staff position would likely cost closer to \$100,000 annually when those additional costs were included. He noted that the agreement would instead provide the Village access to an entire team of communications professionals.

Trustee Eck asked whether that level of service would be sufficient to accomplish all of the tasks outlined in the proposed scope of work.

Mr. Morgan confirmed that it would.

Trustee Eck clarified that the tasks referenced were those listed in the consultant’s scope of work and asked whether the Village expected those items to be completed within the first year.

Mr. Morgan confirmed that expectation.

President Wittenberg added that certain services would be considered optional add-ons. He explained that the Village Voice newsletter and video production services were not included in the base agreement. He noted that the Village could potentially utilize its station manager, David, for video production and therefore did not want to commit to those services immediately. He added that the Village would have the option to add those services later if needed, and that a decision regarding the Village Voice would be made once the Village determined how it intended to proceed with that publication.

Trustee Eck concluded by noting that the purpose of the questions was simply to summarize the costs and benefits of the proposal and thanked Mr. Morgan and President Wittenberg.

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

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

As any vote creating liabilities for the Village requires a majority of the Village Board, and as under the Illinois Municipal Code the Village President may vote in such cases a majority of the corporate authorities (Village Board) is needed, Village Clerk Beltran called on President Wittenberg.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

**I. Consideration and Approval of Resolution 2026-06: Authorizing the Village President to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with SB Friedman to provide Development Advisory Services**

**MOTION:** Saldana

**SECONDED:** Gazis

Mr. Morgan explained that the item involved a market and redevelopment feasibility analysis for the Triangle area, where the Village recently established both a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district and a Business Development District. He noted that the analysis would benefit that area and represented an investment in the TIF district to better understand what types of development would be appropriate.

He explained that the purpose of the analysis was to determine what types of development would make sense in that location, what would be a reasonable expectation for redevelopment, and how the Village could help facilitate that development.

He reported that the Economic Development Committee reviewed the full proposed contract, which had been shared with the Board, and that the total amount would not exceed \$81,000.

Mr. Morgan further explained that the Committee recommended removing the portion of the proposal related to evaluating hospitality and entertainment uses. He noted that when considering the surrounding area, there was already a significant amount of hospitality-related development, and some of those businesses were closing. He added that there was substantial competition in nearby locations that may be more favorable. As a result, the Committee believed it might not be worthwhile to spend funds studying that particular component, although the remaining portions of the analysis were still considered valuable.

He stated that the study would provide a professional-level market analysis and feasibility study that would enhance the Village's ability to evaluate redevelopment opportunities. He also noted that the expenses would be eligible for future reimbursement from TIF and Business Development District revenues once those revenues began to accumulate. He added that completing the study would position the Village to make informed redevelopment decisions and guide future efforts to attract development.

Trustee Eck observed that the study could be utilized as part of the overall plan for the Triangle redevelopment area and referenced the potential for TIF reimbursement.

Mr. Morgan confirmed that it could. He explained that once revenue began accumulating in the TIF account, the Village would be able to reimburse itself for those costs.

President Wittenberg provided additional context for residents who may not have been following the redevelopment process. She explained that the Village frequently received feedback about the condition of the Triangle area, with residents describing it as outdated and an eyesore and asking what plans existed for the site.

She explained that over the previous eight months the Village had worked to establish both a Tax Increment Financing district and a Business Development District for the area. He noted that SB Friedman had completed the work required to establish those districts, which involved a detailed and legally prescribed process that was finalized and approved in January.

President Wittenberg explained that the proposed feasibility study represented the next step in the redevelopment process. The purpose of the study would be to determine what types of development were appropriate for the area based on market conditions and economic feasibility, and how the Village could best market the property to potential developers.

She clarified that although a redevelopment plan existed, there was not yet a specific developer identified and noted that this often caused confusion among residents who assumed that a redevelopment plan meant a project had already been selected. Instead, she explained that the Village was still in the stage of determining the most viable uses for the site before seeking developers.

President Wittenberg stated that the analysis would help identify the best economic uses for the property and provide the Village with the information necessary to approach potential developers or development groups interested in the site.

She acknowledged that the study represented a significant investment but explained that the Village had not previously had the opportunity to conduct this level of analysis. He stated that this represented an opportunity to help guide a successful redevelopment outcome. He also assured the Board and residents that updates would be provided as the process moved forward.

She noted that the anticipated timeline for the analysis was initially estimated at approximately three to four months. He indicated that SB Friedman would return to present its findings to the Board once the study was completed.

Mr. Morgan added that investing in this level of analysis would also signal to potential developers that the Village was serious about redeveloping the area in a way that aligned with community priorities while also generating broader benefits.

He noted that the timeline was likely to extend slightly beyond the original estimate and suggested the results might be available in approximately four to five months, possibly in June or July.

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

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

As any vote creating liabilities for the Village requires a majority of the Village Board, and as under the Illinois Municipal Code the Village President may vote in such cases a majority of the corporate authorities (Village Board) is needed, Village Clerk Beltran called on President Wittenberg.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

**J. Consideration and Approval of Ordinance 2026-05: Increasing Class AAA Liquor Licenses for Golden Century Cafe - WITHDRAWN**

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.

**K. Receiving and Filing the Zoning Commission Fence Regulation Report**

**MOTION:** Saldana

**SECONDED:** Gazis

Mr. Morgan clarified that the action before the Board did not involve adopting an ordinance that evening. He explained that the motion would only receive and file the Planning and Zoning Commission’s report on fences.

He stated that the report included the commission’s recommendation to allow fences along property lines adjacent to certain major roadways, including Wolf Road, Joliet Road, Plainfield Road, Willow Springs Road, and 65th Street. He noted that this was the Commission’s primary recommendation and that no additional recommendations were included.

He further explained that staff was seeking direction from the Board regarding the scope of a future ordinance. This included determining whether the ordinance should apply only to those roads or whether additional roadways should be considered. He added that staff also needed guidance regarding standards such as fence height, materials, openness, design, and

any additional conditions or review processes, including whether enclosed yards would be permitted.

He explained that once direction was provided, staff would consult with engineers and code experts to address technical issues and then develop a proposed ordinance for Board consideration. He indicated that a draft ordinance could potentially be presented as early as March, but more likely in April.

Trustee Saldana thanked the Planning and Zoning Commission for their work over several months. She noted that their review followed the presentation of data gathered through a resident questionnaire conducted by Village intern Brendan Fleisher, along with assistance from Mr. Morgan and Mr. Beltran. She stated that the collected data was presented to the Commission to help inform its evaluation and recommendations.

She stated that the Board now had a report and explained that moving forward would allow staff to prepare a properly structured ordinance for residents of Indian Head Park. She requested that staff proceed with engaging an engineering firm to draft specifications related to fence design, placement, functionality, restrictions, and setback requirements, taking into account the commission's recommendations and other relevant considerations.

She also suggested that the Village consider consulting additional professionals experienced in these matters, such as architects, landscape professionals, or others who have worked on similar regulatory efforts in small municipalities. She explained that once those recommendations and specifications were developed, staff should draft a proposed ordinance incorporating the findings, data, and recommendations and present it to the Board for consideration.

She then asked Mr. Morgan what timeline could reasonably be expected for preparing such an ordinance once experts were engaged.

Mr. Morgan responded that April was the most realistic target date. He explained that March could be possible if the process progressed quickly, but April would be a more reasonable expectation.

Trustee Saldana stated that the Board would then receive a draft ordinance as an agenda item at a future meeting, where it could be reviewed, discussed, and potentially amended before any final action.

Trustee Gazis added that, as the Board liaison to the Planning and Zoning Commission, he also wanted to recognize the commission's work gathering information and conducting its review. He requested that staff also consider allowing enclosed fencing on properties that abut the major roads identified, specifically Willow Springs Road, Joliet Road, and Wolf Road.

He further suggested that staff review existing Village code provisions related to dog runs and animal enclosures, which he believed were currently contained within Sections 42-14

and 42-15 of the code. He noted that the existing provisions were restrictive and suggested that they be evaluated as part of the ordinance review process.

He also stated that staff could review approaches taken by other nearby municipalities, noting that multiple neighboring communities had adopted similar regulations. He clarified that any new Village ordinance would not override the rules of existing Planned Unit Developments or Homeowners Associations within the Village, which already maintain their own guidelines and restrictions.

Trustee Saldana added that it was important for the ordinance to clearly establish the permit process so that residents understood that permits were required before constructing fences or dog runs. She emphasized that the ordinance should also require proper maintenance of such structures and include penalties if they were not properly maintained.

Mr. Morgan asked whether she was also requesting public information and education regarding the ordinance.

Trustee Saldana confirmed that public education would be important so residents understood their responsibilities regarding permits and property maintenance. She stated that enforcement provisions should be clearly outlined to allow the Village to address situations where fences, dog runs, or similar structures were not properly maintained.

She also suggested that the Village utilize its new communications services to help inform residents about the proposed changes. She recommended using social media, newsletters, and other communication channels to explain the ordinance and gather resident feedback during the drafting process.

She noted that clear communication would help avoid situations where residents constructed improvements without permits and later faced compliance issues. She concluded by reiterating the importance of ensuring that all fencing projects follow the proper permitting process.

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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**

Sandy Hayes indicated that she was confused and asked whether a recommendation had been made that fences would be allowed.

President Wittenberg clarified that the Board had received and filed the report from the Planning and Zoning Commission. She explained that this meant the Board had formally received the commission's report and recommendation.

She stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended allowing fences on busy roads. She added that the commission also responded to the five questions that the Board previously submitted to them, and those responses were included in the report that had been received and filed.

She further explained that the matter would now return to the Board for additional discussion and deliberation.

Ms. Hayes acknowledged the clarification and indicated that she had been confused about the process.

President Wittenberg responded that if there were any questions about the process, they could be addressed. She explained that the Board would now begin discussing the issue further. She noted that the commission had provided only a general framework in its recommendation, and that the Board would now work through the remaining details.

She explained that the commission had provided preferences related to basic elements such as architectural black aluminum fencing, along with general guidance regarding height and materials. She stated that the Board would now fill in the remaining details.

She added that if the Board wished to modify or add to the recommendations provided by the commission, it would have the authority to do so through further discussion and a vote.

Ms. Hayes expressed appreciation for the explanation.

President Wittenberg informed her that if she had additional questions, she could contact Mr. Morgan or Village staff for further clarification.

President Wittenberg asked if there were any public comments by email. Mr. Beltran indicated there was and he would read it into the record.

"In response to ICE and homeland security activities in Broadview, neighboring cities, and nationally, we are asking the village to:

- Adopt an ordinance or resolution declaring IHP a “welcoming community”, and prohibit the use of village property, personnel, or resources for civil immigration enforcement operations by any federal agency.
- Communicate with our residents on immigration topics through the village’s newsletter and web site. Share information on relevant topics re: preparedness, resources, and knowing your rights.
- Other local governments have adopted welcoming community ordinances— most recently in Lagrange. Some villages have prohibited the use of village property for immigration enforcement activities, as well.
- They are: Wilmette, Batavia, Berwyn, Carpentersville, Evanston, Skokie, Oak Park Downers Grove and La Grange. These actions would not be groundbreaking, but proactive for resident safety.

It is anticipated that ICE activities will resume in Illinois this Spring. Can an ordinance be adopted, and implemented here soon?

Thank you.

Dayle Holmquist”

**VIII. REPORTS**

**A. TRUSTEES**

Trustee Iannacco  
Absent

Trustee Saldana  
No Report

Trustee Eck  
No Report

Trustee Donnersberger  
Absent

Trustee Svestka  
Absent

Trustee Gazis  
No Report

**B. VILLAGE CLERK**

Mr. Beltran informed the Board that the Village had begun receiving building permit applications and noted that it was becoming permit season. He encouraged residents considering construction or improvement projects to contact the Village.

Mr. Beltran explained that the Village had implemented a new permit process through BS&A and that staff had been cross-trained on the system. He noted that the system improved speed and efficiency on the administrative side of the process and also allowed residents and contractors to submit online payments.

President Wittenberg thanked staff for their work related to the implementation of the new BS&A system. She explained that the system was primarily used for accounting but also included a module for building permits. The Village was in the process of optimizing the building permit process and noted that the implementation was being completed step by step.

President Wittenberg stated that residents and contractors could now make permit payments online through BS&A and indicated that additional improvements would be introduced in the future. She observed that the Village was transitioning from a somewhat archaic system to a more modernized platform and expressed appreciation for the staff's work on the transition.

#### **C. VILLAGE TREASURER**

No report.

#### **D. VILLAGE ATTORNEY**

No report.

#### **E. VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Morgan reported that he emailed the Board a Village Board calendar. He explained that it outlined the Board schedule along with key legal requirements and deadlines, allowing members to see the rhythm of the municipal year in one snapshot. He noted that it included the timing for the budget, the tax levy, the audit, and other required deadlines. He invited Board members to reach out if they had questions or needed clarification.

He also reported that shortly before the meeting began, he received a draft Project Use Agreement related to the regional disposal program associated with the new waste hauling franchise agreement. He stated that he would review it and likely present it to the Board at the March meeting.

He further reported that amendments to the Village's municipal code related to waste hauling would be brought forward so that everything aligned with the new franchise agreement the Board previously approved. He explained that the agreement had been finalized following the authorization and direction given at the last meeting. According to him, it had been sent to Shawn Flood at SBC and returned earlier in the week, confirming that the new program would begin May 1.

He also reported that the Village was expecting draft public education materials from the waste hauling provider. He explained that they would include information about the new program, composting, recycling, and other changes. Once received, staff would review them, return comments quickly, and distribute the materials to the public as soon as possible, noting that the Village had already been receiving many questions.

He added that residents who visited Village Hall during the week to purchase garbage stickers were advised to buy only enough to last through April, since stickers would no longer be required after May 1 under the new program.

He concluded by reporting that the Village budget process remained on schedule. The tentative budget would be presented at the March meeting and the final budget would come before the Board for approval in April. He noted that staff had been working closely with the Finance Committee to review the budget department by department and that the committee would review it once more before the March Board meeting.

## **F. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

### POLICE

Chief Walsh reported that he planned to meet with Chief Clem from Countryside to discuss the possibility of having them house Indian Head Park prisoners overnight.

He also reported that the Village had begun preparing for upcoming contract negotiations. He explained that he had been working with the President, the Village Administrator, and Ms. Azbil from accounting to develop a salary plan and other items in advance of negotiations. According to him, the goal was to stay ahead of the process and avoid prolonged negotiations or retroactive back pay, noting that some departments experience negotiations that extend for several years. He expressed confidence that they had established a strong foundation and indicated that he expected the negotiations to proceed smoothly.

He also announced that Lee Zetland, who had served as a part-time officer in Indian Head Park for 22 years and worked for 43 years at the Brookfield Zoo, would be holding a retirement party. He reported that it would take place at the Stadium Club at the MAX in McCook, located at 4740 Vernon Avenue. He stated that anyone seeking additional information could contact him and noted that it was expected to be well attended because Zetland was a well-respected officer and longtime ambassador for the community. He added that he planned to attend.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Coons provided several updates. He reported that a bid opening for the chlorine room project at the pump house was scheduled for Tuesday, February 24. He explained that this would be the second bid opening because no bids were received during the initial round. According to him, several companies had pulled the project specifications, suggesting bids would likely be received this time.

He also provided an update on the louver replacement project for the Public Works building. He explained that the plans had been completed and that he had begun contacting vendors to obtain pricing.

He further reported that the Village had been working on an Urban Forestry Management Plan with Pinh High Solutions. He explained that the firm prepared a comprehensive management plan and that staff made minor adjustments to ensure it remained budget friendly.

He stated that they now had a final draft and that he would discuss next steps with Mr. Morgan. He indicated that it would be presented to the Landscape Committee at its next meeting, with the goal of eventually adopting the plan.

He also reported that the Village had begun receiving salt deliveries for the winter season. According to him, the Village ordered 300 tons of salt and had already received the first 75 tons.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Saldana made the **MOTION** to adjourn. Trustee Gazis **SECONDED**. With no objections, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:54p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

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