

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WILLOWBROOK HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025, AT 5:30 P.M. AT THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER, 825 MIDWAY DRIVE, WILLOWBROOK, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Frank Trilla.

2. ROLL CALL

Those physically present at roll call were Mayor Frank Trilla, Village Clerk Gretchen Boerwinkle, Trustees Mark Astrella, Sue Berglund, Michael Mistele, Gayle Neal, Gregory Ruffolo, Village Attorney Michael Durkin, Village Administrator Sean Halloran, Assistant Village Administrator Alex Arteaga, Chief Financial Officer Lora Flori, Director of Community Development Michael Krol, Director of Public Works Rick Valent, Chief Lauren Kaspar, and Deputy Clerk Christine Mardegan.

ABSENT: Trustee Umberto Davi and Director of Parks and Recreation Dustin Kleefisch.

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Trilla asked Mr. Brian Pabst to lead everyone in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. VISITORS' BUSINESS

None present.

5. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

- a. WAIVE READING OF THE MINUTES (APPROVE)
- b. MINUTES - BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, April 14, 2025 (APPROVE)

Mayor Trilla asked the Board if there were any items to be removed from the Omnibus Vote Agenda.

MOTION: Made by Trustee Ruffolo and seconded by Trustee Berglund to approve the Omnibus Vote Agenda as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Trustees Astrella, Berglund, Mistele, Neal, and Ruffolo. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Davi.

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- a. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (EDP) PRESENTATION

Administrator Halloran introduced Director Brian Pabst from the Willowbrook Economic Development Program (WEDP) to provide the annual progress presentation. The Administrator noted that this program was funded in 2022 for a 3-year period which will expire in October 2025. Already included in the FY 2025/2026 budget is \$100,000 which is lower than last year's request.

Director Pabst began with an overview of the program, noting that Willowbrook relies heavily on sales tax revenue for funding and the WEDP prioritizes attracting and retaining business services with a significant retail tax base. He outlined several successes throughout the past year as well as recruitment efforts. Additionally, the WEDP works on cultivating strong relationships with commercial real estate professionals.

He noted that Willowbrook is well positioned for continued commercial growth with favorable demographics, high traffic corridors, and proximity to major expressways, while remaining mindful of challenges such as economic uncertainty and regional competition.

The Mayor and Board thanked Director Pabst for his presentation.

b. EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK UPDATE

Administrator Halloran detailed the changes to specific areas of the Employee Handbook, including six specifically for public works employees and a health insurance opt-out incentive increase:

- o Public Works First Responder Designation (New Section)
- o Public Works Standard Work Hours (Updated Section 5.1)
- o Call-Out, Remote Response, and On-Call Pay (Updated Section 5.2)
- o Clarification on Vacation Availability (Updated Section 5.3.8)
- o Public Works Seasonal Scheduling (Updated Section 5.3.8)
- o CDL Testing Policy Compliance (Updated Section 4.5.5)
- o Health Insurance Opt-Out Incentive Increase (Updated Section 7.1.3)

He noted that these updates have no direct significant impact on the General Fund and have been discussed with the employees and management staff, as well as comparisons to surrounding communities.

The Board provided a consensus in agreeing with the proposed changes.

c. DISCUSSION OF SHARED SERVICES SOCIAL WORKER PROGRAM THROUGH NORTHEAST DUPAGE FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES (NEDFYS)

Chief Kaspar provided information on a program for a shared social worker services partnership with Burr Ridge, Hinsdale, and Darien Police Departments offered with Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services (NEDFYS).

The types of calls that would best benefit from a social services referral include, but are not limited to, domestic violence, behavioral health, mental health, juvenile issues, homelessness, abuse, elder services, and social service emergencies. In 2024, the Willowbrook Police Department handled 229 mental health and domestic-related calls alone. Although several not-for-profit organizations provide resources to law enforcement agencies, very few of them are 24/7 and none spend time on site.

Some of the services that can be provided by NEDFYS are domestic violence follow-up for immediate and ongoing assistance to both the victims and the children in the home, as well as anything beyond that. They also provide a 24/7 on-call crisis intervention center, which assists with adult and youth cases, substance abuse, juvenile family conflict, deaths, violent crimes, overdoses, and developmentally disabled elder services.

Willowbrook would benefit from an increase in community-based behavioral health care, leading to a reduction in the need for emergency transport or healthcare services, domestic violence services, as well as facilitating the quicker return of our officers to patrol duties. For the officers responding to these calls, the aid of social workers would result in a decrease in arrests and jail admissions and decreased repeat encounters, resulting overall in improved officer, resident, visitor, and community safety.

The Chief also outlined the specifics of personnel provided, the costs involved, and funding grant opportunities. The Trustees raised questions about the availability of the social workers and the possibility of developing a greater need. Chief Kaspar noted that this is a 1-year pilot program and could be revised in the coming years as needed. She also noted that with the shared aspect of the program, if a social worker were not in the office in Willowbrook, they could be called from one of the partner communities.

The Board provided a consensus to proceed with joining the shared services partnership.

d. POLICE DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY CRIME UPDATE - Q1 2025

Chief Kaspar presented the first quarter of 2025 crime statistics update covering the following topics:

- o Total Dispatched Calls for the first quarter of calendar years 2021 through 2025
- o Traffic Enforcement Summary the first quarter of calendar years 2021 through 2025
- o Traffic Accident Summary for the first quarter of calendar years 2021 through 2025
- o Offense Trends from January 2024 to current
- o A heat map overview for all calls requiring written reports during the first quarter of calendar year 2025

Deputy Chief Kadolph presented updates for the investigative section. He highlighted cases that were handled in this quarter, including the removal of sex workers at one of the hotels and assisting, along with the Chicago police, in the apprehension of organized retail theft offenders fleeing from the Naperville police. The department was also able to identify three juveniles involved in park vandalism in three parks who were brought in before the administrative adjudicators, arranging for full restitution of the damage.

In response to a Trustee's inquiry, due to vandalism at Creekside Park involving a vehicle driving into the park, bollards will be installed to prevent further damage or injury to any park visitors. Cameras have also been installed for general surveillance as well as to monitor the large amount of construction equipment in place at this time.

An additional question was raised by the Board regarding the use of drones, citing Oak Brook as an example of a department with this additional tool. Although this is not something Willowbrook has looked into, if there was a need for drones the mutual aid agreements in place would allow the department to request assistance from Oak Brook.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Made by Trustee Ruffolo and seconded by Trustee Mistele to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at the hour of 5:59 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Trustees Astrella, Berglund, Mistele, Neal, and Ruffolo. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Davi.

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

PRESENTED, READ, and APPROVED.

_____, 2024.

Frank A. Trilla, Mayor

Minutes transcribed by Administrative Assistant Jody Wegrzynski.