

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WILLOWBROOK HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 23, 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, Umberto Davi, 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 Parks and Recreation Dustin Kleefisch, Director of Public Works Rick Valent, Chief Lauren Kaspar, and Deputy Clerk Christine Mardegan.

ABSENT: Deputy Chief Benjamin Kadolph, Deputy Chief Gerard Wodka.

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Trilla asked Chief Kaspar 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, May 27, 2025 (APPROVE)

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

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

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

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

a. POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Chief Kaspar updated the Board on the department's current goals and objectives for the fiscal year in terms of community engagement. This effort has been a primary goal for the police, particularly since the COVID lockdowns in 2020/2021 and the community ties that were lost then.

In 2023 the department began by establishing a COPS unit to create a community-oriented policing unit. Officers have attended homeowner's association meetings, fulfilling requests for various presentations, including crime trends, how to keep people and residents safe and other prevalent crime issues. Officers have participated in about 8 per year.

In 2024, the program was expanded to include partnerships with some of the area youth programs, such as those presented by the Village's Parks and Recreation department and reaching out to the Indian Prairie Library for a reading program during the school year. That program recently concluded a couple of weeks ago with a pizza party at the PD for the participants.

In 2025, a Citizens Police Academy was initiated. The first class graduated in May with seven attendees participating in six weeks of programming which included traffic stop information, crime scene investigation, and more. The program received great feedback.

In the 2025/2026 fiscal year, a safety open house partnership with the Tri-State Fire District will be reestablished with presentations from local utilities, road safety from the Tollway Authority, and input from other interested vendors. Tri-State will be offering a car seat installation demonstration with trained personnel. The date is currently set to cohost with Tri-State at the Willowbrook Police department on September 13th.

Another initiative the department would like to establish is the neighborhood roll call, where officers conduct a roll call briefing at a specific time, on a specific street, in a specific neighborhood. The roll call would be advertised through social media, the Village website and via neighborhood signage. Topics would include the COPS program, community crime prevention programs, the Citizens Police Academy as well as the social worker program and the partnership with Tri-State. Neighborhood roll call provides an opportunity for positive interaction and for residents to ask questions and talk to law enforcement one-on-one with the same officers who would be responding to an emergency in their neighborhood.

The roll call program will take place during the summer months in the evenings after most residents have returned home. Sergeant Inez Benson will be one of the primary officers leading the program.

The Board had several questions following the Chief's presentation.

In response to a question regarding working with Tri-State on car seat installation rather than training our own officers, Chief Kaspar indicated that an additional liability is involved in offering the installation. Tri-State already has the trained staff and is willing to work in partnership with Willowbrook.

Providing additional information on the proposed open house, Chief Kaspar indicated it would be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and be set up in the Municipal Campus parking lot. In the event of weather issues, alternate setups may be at the CRC or in the sally port at the PD.

Trustee Neal was most concerned with the roll call proposal, particularly that it might send the wrong message. She wanted to know what other communities were offering this type of community engagement. Chief Kaspar indicated that Elmhurst is one of the pilot programs. At last year's DMMC Innovation Celebration, Elmhurst received an award for this roll call program idea.

Sergeant Benson had also broached the idea of a roll call program previously with the Chief along with the Coffee With a Cop program as well as a roll call program. She noted that these have long been used in Chicago for community outreach purposes, allowing residents to ask questions and talk about their concerns. Willowbrook started with Coffee With a Cop, but that program did not get much reaction or participation.

Trustee Neal still had concerns regarding the perception of an on-street roll call. With the example of Elmhurst as the closest community, and Chicago's participation in the exercise, she felt that Willowbrook was a very different type of environment. Her primary concerns were sending the wrong message to residents, causing residents to panic or be frightened by the police presence in their neighborhood, and how widespread the program would be.

Chief Kaspar responded to Trustee Neal by providing additional details on how the program would be set up, what types of notifications would be provided by the Village and the Department to alert neighborhoods to the event, and what the focus of the roll calls would be. She concluded by indicating that the idea was beneficial to provide residents with a way to get to know the police outside of an emergency, to be able to

respond to residents' questions and concerns in a relaxed atmosphere, and to provide residents with information on police initiatives.

Several other trustees spoke in favor of the program citing reasons such as an opportunity to engage with the community, to assist in encouraging members of the community to "see something / say something", providing additional services to the community, and engaging more members of the community.

b. WINTER WONDERLAND AT WILLOW POND

Director Kleefisch introduced the topic of a Winter Wonderland event. This event would bring a thematic holiday experience to Willow Pond for the residents that would help bolster local tourism and vitality in the area and create a winter destination to enhance our community.

Staff reached out to three providers of this type of activity. Only one, Holiday Outdoor Décor, being presented tonight, offered both a lease and a purchase option. Staff is seeking input on the direction the Board would like to move forward.

The various illuminated holiday displays would be distributed through the park, allowing for a leisurely walk through the park, and special experiences including photo ops and a unique recreational opportunity. Director Kleefisch presented a PowerPoint slideshow with examples of the displays available, and a sample Willow Pond Park map with suggested locations to distribute throughout the park and along the walking path.

With the leasing option, Holiday Outdoor Décor would deliver and set everything up just prior to the event. Additionally, at the conclusion of the extended event, they would break down the displays and store them until the next season. They would also handle any repairs or maintenance. In subsequent years, if the Village finds that one or more of the displays are not as successful or popular as the others, there would also be an opportunity to remove that item and/or select an alternate display.

In coming years, staff would like to see the set up moved to Borse Memorial Park after the renovation is complete, to become an extension or enhancement to the Light Up the Night event.

Staff is seeking direction on two items, one, to move forward with this budgeted item, and two, concur with the staff recommendation to utilize the leasing option offered by the vendor.

The Board consensus was to move forward with the event and utilize the leasing option offered by Holiday Outdoor Décor although Trustee

Berglund was opposed to the idea and felt the combined cost of conducting both the Light Up the Night and Winter Wonderland events was too high.

In conclusion, the Mayor expressed strong support for both events. He felt this was a natural progression of the holiday events held during his tenure as mayor which was previously represented by a Christmas tree at 63rd and Route 83, surrounded by crime scene tape as a deterrent to any type of vandalism. He feels that now we can have affordable decorations and events worthy of the Village and of benefit to the entire Village.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Made by Trustee Davi and seconded by Trustee Mistele to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at the hour of 6:01 p.m.

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

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

PRESENTED, READ, and APPROVED.

_____, 2025.

Frank A. Trilla, Mayor

Minutes transcribed by Administrative Assistant Jody Wegrzynski.