MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK
HELD IN THE POLICE STATION COMMUNITY ROOM
AT 9451 BELMONT AVENUE
FEBRUARY 17, 2026

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. CALL TO ORDER: Village President Pedersen called to order the Board of Trustees of the Village of Franklin Park in session at 7:00 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL; ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM
Village Clerk April J Arellano called the roll:
Present at Board Meeting: Mr. Barrett F. Pedersen (Village President), Ms. April J Arellano (Village Clerk), and Mr. John Wise (Village Attorney)

Trustees (Present in the Room):
Ms. Irene Avitia
Ms. Karen Special,
Mr. John Johnson,
Mr. William "Bill" Ruhl,
Mr. Andres "Andy" Ybarra
Mr. Gilbert Hagerstrom

Department Heads:
Thomas Ferris (Police Chief)
Frank Grieashamer (Treasurer)
Nick Weber (Utilities Commissioner)
Lisa Manzo (Deputy Building Department)
Nick Walny (Director of Community Development and Zoning)
Lisa Anthony (Director of Human Resources & Operations)
Dan Corcoran (IT Director)
Tom McCabe (Village Engineer)

The Village Clerk declared a quorum was present.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

In summary, President of Local 1526 and Lieutenant Anthony Tricoci stated the fire department has been loyal to the village, residents and people that work every day. Lieutenant Tricoci raised concerns about the direction and future of the department, including experience, leadership and long-term stability. He stated with the loss of senior members, institutional knowledge and experience is also lost, which affects training and mentorship. He stated his request for an executive session meeting with the Mayor and board of trustees to meet has gone unanswered. He stated that he is requesting again to meet with the Mayor and board of trustees

In summary, Bart Borowiec, fire department lieutenant, stated the fire department is in crisis. He stated 3 firefighters are preparing to accept offers in other departments, and 2 lieutenants with over 10 years of experience are being processed elsewhere, 2 firefighters are out on injuries 3 vacancies that are unable to fill and 2 firefighters are set to retire in the next couple of months. Lieutenant Borowiec stated the cycle of recruitment, training and develop firefighters only for them to leave is not sustainable. He stated this erodes experience, weakens stability, increases overtime and places greater physical and mental strain on the remaining members. He respectfully asked to meet and come up with a solution

Dan Colantuono, lieutenant and acting battalion chief, stated he has served for 28 years and is nearing retirement. Lieutenant Colantuono stated the department is recruitment and retention crisis. He stated that in the last 6 years, the department has lost 12 members to other fire departments. A fully staffed fire department consists of 43 members. Currently, the department has 38, with 3 resignations coming, 2 pending retirements in May, and possibly losing 2 officers. He stated the fire department will only have 31 firefighters by July. Lieutenant Colantuono stated a bilingual marine with 2 ½ years of experience, left to another department for better benefits, while another firefighter left for better wages and better conditions. He worked 996 hours of overtime in 2025. Lieutenant Colantuono stated another firefighter could not afford his condo in Melrose Park and left. He stated that this is not sustainable and accelerating. He appreciated the investment of 1.4 million dollars for 2 fire engines. Lieutenant Colantuono stated the village needs to be willing to work with the department and become competitive, to staff those engines. He ended stating local 1526 must meet with the Mayor and Trustee to solve this crisis and save the fire department

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **FINANCE AND SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEES, (Mr. Johnson, Chair)**
    1. MR. JOHNSON REPORTED HE DID NOT HAVE A REPORT FOR EITHER THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT OR THE SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

2. **WATER AND SEWER/FLEET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE, (Ms. Avitia, Chair)**
    1. MS. AVITIA REPORTED 8 MAINBREAKS
    2. MS. AVITIA REPORTED VILLAGE STAFF REPAIRED A LEAKING HYDRANT AT FRANKLIN AND ROSE STREET
    3. MS. AVITIA REPORTED THE VACTOR STAFF CLEANED OUT 4 MANHOLES FOR SPACE CO ON THE 3100 BLOCK OF GEORGE STREET, 9933 FRANKLIN AVE AND 9301 KING STREET
    4. MS. AVITIA REPORTED STAFF HAD TO TURN THE WATER OFF DUE TO BROKEN PIPE INSIDE BUILDING WITH AN ESTIMATED 2 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER LOSS AT THESE LOCATIONS
    5. MS. AVITIA REPORTED STAFF ALSO HAD TO TURN OFF WATER AT 12227 FRANKLIN AVE FOR BROKEN PIPE IN BUILDING WITH AN ESTIMATED 1.5 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER LOSS

3. **POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE, (Mr. Ruhl, Chair)**
    1. ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, MR. RUHL REPORTED K9 OFFICER IVAR PASSED AWAY OF NATURAL CAUSES. ON MARCH 4TH, THERE WILL BE A MEMORIAL FOR K9 OFFICER IVAR AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
    2. BEHALF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, MR. RUHL REPORTED 2 NEW CANDIDATES ARE BEING PROCESSED AND WILL HOPEFULLY START BY END OF FEBRUARY

4. **STREETS, ALLEYS, AND FLEET MAINTENANCE (Mr. Ybarra, Chair)**
   1. MR. YBARRA REPORTED 2 VEHICLES WENT TO THE FLEET DEPARTMENT FOR REPAIR
   2. MR. YBARRA REPORTED 16 TREES WERE TRIMMED
   3. MR. YBARRA REPORTED VILLAGE STAFF ASSISTED THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH ROAD CLOSURES, POTHOLES WERE PATCHED ON MAIN AND SECONDARY STREETS AND LITTER WAS PICKED UP DOWNTOWN
   4. MR. YBARRA REPORTED ALL THE MAIN STREETS WERE SWEPT

5. **PROPERTY, PLANNING, ZONING, BUILDING, AND TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION, (Ms. Special, Chair)**
   1. ON BEHALF OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT, MS. SPECIAL REPORTED 66 CONTRACTORS APPLIED AND REGISTERED FOR LICENSES, 38 BUILDING PERMITS WERE APPLIED FOR, 16 ELECTRICAL, 1 SIGN, 6 FIRE, 1 DUMPSTER PERMITS WERE APPLIED FOR A TOTAL OF 62 PERMITS
   2. MS. SPECIAL REPORTED 5 PROPERTY CLOSINGS, 1 NEW BUSINESS APPLIED FOR OCCUPANCY AND 5 NEW OCCUPANCY CERTIFICATES WERE ISSUED
   3. ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING, MS. SPECIAL REPORTED ON FEBRUARY 5TH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NICHOLAS WALNY AND ASSISTANT ENGINEER DAFNE HENRIQUEZ ATTENDED THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING WHERE THE BOARD RECOGNIZED THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORK THAT FRANKLIN PARK AND OTHER MUNICIPAL PARTNERS COMPLETED DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CLIMATE RESILIENCY PLAN OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. THE PUBLICITY CLUB OF CHICAGO AWARDED THE CLIMATE RESILIENCY PLANNING FOR COMMUNITIES PROGRAM A GOLDEN TRUMPET AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS CATEGORY

6. **HUMAN RESOURCES, SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE, (Mr. Hagerstrom, Chair)**
   1. MR. HAGERSTROM STATED HE DID NOT HAVE A REPORT FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES, SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND SENIOR SERVICES

VI. STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS: DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

1. NONE

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

(Items on the Consent Agenda will be enacted or approved by a single motion or omnibus vote. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless so requested by a member of the Village Board, in which case that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in the normal sequence of the Agenda.)

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM:
   (A) THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2026

2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHER EXPENDITURES LIST IN THE AMOUNT OF: $ 2,490,718.19

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2526 R
   A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS DECLARING AS SURPLUS PROPERTY THE VILLAGE OWNED VACANT PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS 10500 GRAND AVENUE (LOT 1) AND AUTHORIZING VILLAGE STAFF TO MARKET THE PROPERTY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DIRECT THE VILLAGE CLERK TO MAKE A COPY OF THE APPRAISAL OF THE PROPERTY AVAILABLE TO ANY PARTY

4. ORDINANCE NO. 2526 VC
   AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS AMENDING SECTION 7-8B-4 OF THE VILLAGE CODE REGARDING WATER METER DEPOSIT FOR CONTRACTORS

5. MOTION TO APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF A RAFFLE LICENSE TO THE RIVER GROVE LYONS CLUB FOR A RAFFLE TO BE HELD AT THE UNDERPASS LOUNGE, 9400 WEST GRAND AVENUE, FRANKLIN PARK, ILLINOIS ON SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

6. MOTION TO APPROVE A CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH JOHNSON RESEARCH GROUP, INCORPORATED, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE DOWNTOWN 2 TIF DISTRICT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $41,600.00 AND AUTHORIZE THE OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE VILLAGE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND TAKE SUCH ACTION TO EFFECTUATE SAME

7. MOTION TO APPROVE A CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH JOHNSON RESEARCH GROUP, INCORPORATED, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE MARTENS STREET TIF DISTRICT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $31,700.00 AND AUTHORIZE THE OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE VILLAGE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND TAKE SUCH ACTION TO EFFECTUATE SAME

8. MOTION TO APPROVE A CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH JOHNSON RESEARCH GROUP, INCORPORATED, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE MILWAUKEE 2 TIF DISTRICT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $30,700.00 AND AUTHORIZE THE OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE VILLAGE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND TAKE SUCH ACTION TO EFFECTUATE SAME

9. MOTION TO APPROVE A PROPOSAL FROM CHRISTOPHER B. BURKE ENGINEERING, ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $146,810.00 FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CROWN ROAD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE VILLAGE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND TAKE SUCH ACTION TO EFFECTUATE SAME

(Village Clerk Arellano read aloud each of the items that were identified on the consent agenda and under consideration by the Village Board before final action on the items identified on the consent agenda occurred)

Motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Ybarra to approve the Consent Agenda as presented

Roll Call: Ayes – Ms. Special, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Ruhl, Mr. Ybarra, Ms. Avitia and Mr. Hagerstrom Nay - 0. Absent – 0. Abstain – 0

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NONE

IX. NEW BUSINESS
NONE

X. COMMENTS FROM THE CLERK:
Village Clerk Arellano reported the February 2026 Passport Fair was a success with 32 applicants served, most of whom were Franklin Park residents

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:
Village President introduced Ms. Adeline Ybarra, who is working with Representative Hernandez as a Youth Ambassador

Village President Pedersen gave another update regarding the storm water credit trading program. Franklin Park is coordinating suburban communities to try to get the MWRD to re-commit to Stormwater credit trading program. Franklin Park has excess stormwater capacity to sell and believe it will help develop properties that lay vacant

XII. CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION
Mayor Pedersen stated there is a need to go into executive session for "Collective Bargaining Negotiations Matters 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)"

Motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Special to go into Executive Session at 7:21 p.m. for "Pending Litigation, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)," and "Collective Bargaining Negotiations Matters 5ILCS 120/2(c)(2)"

Roll Call: Ayes –Mr. Ruhl, Ms. Avitia, Ms. Special, Mr. Ybarra, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hagerstrom Nay – 0. Absent – 0. Abstain – 0

RETURNED FROM CLOSED SESSION AT 8:19 P.M.

Village Clerk, April Arellano, stated to let the record reflect that all members returned. No action was taken in Closed Session

XIII. ADJOURNMENT
Motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hagerstrom to adjourn at 8:19 PM. Voice vote carried.

ATTEST _____
April J Arellano, Village Clerk