

**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
March 02, 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)

Mark Stewart (Fire Chief)

David Gonzalez (Village Comptroller)

Frank Grieshamer (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. A motion was made by Mr. Ybarra and seconded by Ms. Avitia to deviate from the agenda to vote on item number 6 of the consent agenda

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

V. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Hagerstrom to approve item number 6 of the consent agenda, *"Motion to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between West Suburban Municipalities and Cross-Community Climate Collaborative and Authorize the Officers and Officials of the Village to Take Such Action to Effectuate Same"*

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

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. In summary, President of Local 1526 and Lieutenant Anthony Tricoci stated on February 23 firefighters responded to an incident in Northlake where firefighter was forced to call MAYDAY. This means firefighters are in immediate danger and in need of help. Lieutenant Tricoci stated the reason this call did not end in tragedy was because of training, experience, and investment. Among those on duty was a 30-year-old veteran, who's been a mentor and will be retiring soon. Second was a highly trained five-year veteran whose extensive training took swift and decisive action, and the third was a lieutenant who had the extensive training and experience to remain calm. Lieutenant Tricoci stated retention is not about rewarding longevity, it's about preserving institutional knowledge, and maintaining leadership under pressure. Lieutenant Tricoci asked for support to have competitive retention, advance training and career development for the firefighters

Lieutenant Tricoci submitted documents to Clerk Arellano for the board's distribution

2. In summary, Bart Borowiec, fire department lieutenant, stated the path that the department is going through will cause irreversible damage. He stated three of their members are alive today because of their extensive training and experience. Lieutenant Borowiec stated their training did not happen overnight, their training can't be replaced. If someone is hired tomorrow and reach the level of training of these members, they would have to commit to 7,639 hours of training and education. Lieutenant Borowiec stated this caliber of firefighters cannot be replaced overnight and it takes years to develop and the village risk losing if recruitment and retention issues are not addressed. He stated he is asking to be competitive enough to recruit and retain qualified professionals
3. In summary, Pasquale DeCicco, 7-year firefighter/paramedic, spoke on how proud he is to be a member of the Franklin Park Fire Department, and proud to serve the residents. He spoke on his experience on testing process and his time, Franklin Park was a desirable place to work for. Mr. DeCicco stated since then, Franklin Park is no longer competitive due to wages. Pasquale stated he would like to restore the attraction that made the Village of Franklin Park Fire Department a place that everyone wants to work for by providing competitive wages

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE AND SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEES, (Mr. Johnson, Chair)

1. MR. JOHNSON REPORTED VILLAGE COMPTROLLER WILL GO OVER FINANCIAL REPORT DURING STAFF REPORTS

2. WATER AND SEWER/FLEET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE, (Ms. Avitia, Chair)

1. MS. AVITIA REPORTED 2 MAINBREAKS
2. MS. AVITIA REPORTED VILLAGE STAFF PICKED UP GARBAGE FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS AROUND THE TOWN WITH A TOTAL 35 BAGS FILLED
3. MS. AVITIA REPORTED VILLAGE STAFF CLEANED OUT DEBRIS FROM THE WET WELL OF THE FULLERTON LIFT STATION LAST WEEK

3. POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE, (Mr. Ruhl, Chair)

1. ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, MR. RUHL REPORTED THE DEPARTMENT LOGGED 2,364 CALLS FOR SERVICE, CONDUCTED 490 TRAFFIC STOPS, MADE 50 ARRESTS, ISSUED 254 STATE TRAFFIC CITATIONS, 19 COMPLIANCE CITATIONS, 457 PARKING CITATIONS AND 12 LOCAL ORDINANCE CITATIONS

2. BEHALF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, MR. RUHL REPORTED LOYOLA RECOGNIZED FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC MIKE CICERO AND FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC HOLT PUCKETT FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN THE RAPID RECOGNITION AND TREATMENT OF A STROKE PATIENT AND DEMONSTRATING THE HIGH STANDARD OF ADVANCED PREHOSPITAL CARE
 3. MR. RUHL ANNOUNCED THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL ST. BALDRICK'S EVENT WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 13, 2026 AT JOE'S LIVE IN ROSEMONT, STARTING AT 5:30PM
 4. MR. RUHL REPORTED FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, THE DEPARTMENT LOGGED 366 CALLS AND FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, THE DEPARTMENT LOGGED 282 CALLS FOR SERVICE
- 4. STREETS, ALLEYS, AND FLEET MAINTENANCE (Mr. Ybarra, Chair)**
1. MR. YBARRA REPORTED 3 VEHICLES WENT TO THE FLEET DEPARTMENT FOR REPAIR
 2. MR. YBARRA REPORTED 5 PARKWAYS WERE RESTORED FROM TREE STUMP REMOVAL, 23 TREES WERE TRIMMED AND ALL MAIN AND SECONDARY STREETS WERE SWEEP
 3. MR. YBARRA REPORTED 11 SIGNS WERE REPLACED, 3 TEMPORARY STREET PATCHES WERE DONE AND THERE WAS 1 SNOW EVENT
 4. ON BEHALF OF THE FLEET DEPARTMENT, MR. YBARRA REPORTED POLICE DEPARTMENT LOGGED THE MOST HOURS FOR REPAIR WITH A TOTAL OF 59 HOURS AND REPORTED THE POLICE DEPARTMENT ALSO CONSUMED THE MOST FUEL WITH A TOTAL OF 2740.835 GALLONS
- 5. PROPERTY, PLANNING, ZONING, BUILDING, AND TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION, (Ms. Special, Chair)**
1. ON BEHALF OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT, MS. SPECIAL REPORTED 58 CONTRACTORS APPLIED AND REGISTERED FOR LICENSES, 38 BUILDING PERMITS WERE APPLIED FOR, 11 ELECTRICAL, 1 SIGN, 5 FIRE, 1 DUMPSTER PERMITS WERE APPLIED FOR A TOTAL OF 56 PERMITS
 2. MS. SPECIAL REPORTED 5 PROPERTY CLOSINGS, 4 NEW BUSINESS APPLIED FOR OCCUPANCY AND 2 NEW OCCUPANCY CERTIFICATES WERE ISSUED
 3. ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING, MS. SPECIAL REPORTED ON FEBRUARY 19TH, MAYOR BARRETT PEDERSEN, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NICHOLAS WALNY, AND ASSISTANT VILLAGE ENGINEER DAFNE HENRIQUEZ ATTENDED A PRESS CONFERENCE AND PRESENTATION OF CHECKS WITH CONGRESSMAN GARCÍA REGARDING 2026 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING WHERE FRANKLIN PARK RECEIVED \$250K FOR STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS ALONG FRANKLIN AVENUE IN DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN PARK. IMPROVEMENTS WILL INCLUDE NEW STREET FURNITURE, SIGNAGE, LANDSCAPING, BOLLARDS, AND THE INCLUSION OF STAMPED CONCRETE ON AN UNFINISHED SECTION OF FRANKLIN AVENUE AND 25TH STREET
- 6. HUMAN RESOURCES, SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE, (Mr. Hagerstrom, Chair)**
1. MR. HAGERSTROM ANNOUNCED THE FIRST BLOOD DRIVE OF THE YEAR WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 13 FROM 3PM UNTIL 7PM IN THE POLICE COMMUNITY ROOM

VIII. STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS: DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

1. VILLAGE COMPTROLLER DAVID GONZALEZ REPORTED HE SUBMITTED THE DECEMBER REPORT BUT WILL GO OVER THAT REPORT AT THE NEXT MEETING. VILLAGE COMPTROLLER GONZALEZ STATED THE VILLAGE RECEIVED THE 2ND INSTALLMENT OF THE REAL ESTATE TAXES IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AND THE 1ST INSTALLMENT HAS GONE OUT DUE BY APRIL 1ST
2. VILLAGE COMPTROLLER GONZALEZ REPORTED THE APRIL 30, 2025 AUDIT WAS COMPLETE AND FILED
3. VILLAGE COMPTROLLER GONZALEZ REPORTED S & P WILL RE-ESTABLISH OUR A+ BOND RATING

IX. 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 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026
2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHER EXPENDITURES LIST IN THE AMOUNT OF:
\$1,781,692.85
3. ORDINANCE NO. 2526 G
AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF A POLICE LIAISON OFFICER, RECIPROCAL REPORTING VIDEO CAMERA ACCESS BETWEEN VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK AND LEYDEN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 212
4. ORDINANCE NO. 2526 G
AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS PROVIDING FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK FROM THE PROVISO-LEYDEN JOINT 9-1-1 AUTHORITY
5. MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF ROCK SALT FOR THE 2025-2026 WINTER SEASON THROUGH THE JOINT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES (CMS) AND AUTHORIZE THE UTILITIES COMMISSIONER OF THE VILLAGE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY CONTRACTUAL DOCUMENTS AND INCUR SUCH EXPENSES FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROCK SALT AND FURTHER AUTHORIZE THE OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE VILLAGE TO TAKE SUCH ACTION TO EFFECTUATE SAME
6. MOTION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN WEST SUBURBAN MUNICIPALITIES AND CROSS-COMMUNITY CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE AND AUTHORIZE THE OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE VILLAGE TO TAKE SUCH ACTION TO EFFECTUATE SAME

7. MOTION TO WAIVE BID REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM INLAND HOME REMODELING, INCORPORATED, FRANKLIN PARK, ILLINOIS, TO REMODEL THE KITCHEN AT FIRE STATION #1 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$36,170.00, TO ENSURE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS 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 CONTINGENCY FEE ARRANGEMENT AND LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH DAVID GROSSMAN & ASSOCIATES CONCERNING PFAS LITIGATION AND SETTLEMENT FUNDING CLAIM REQUIREMENTS 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 THE VILLAGE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ILLINOIS SHINES COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM AND THE COMMUNITY SOLAR SUBSCRIPTION AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZE THE OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE VILLAGE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND TAKE SUCH ACTION TO EFFECTUATE SAME
10. MOTION TO APPROVE A PROPOSAL FROM REGIONAL LAND SERVICES, ROCHELLE, ILLINOIS, FOR A TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF MAPLE STREET, ASHLAND AVENUE, WALNUT AVENUE, AND EXCHANGE AVENUE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,600.00 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 Ms. Avitia 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*

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NONE

XI. NEW BUSINESS
NONE

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE CLERK:
Village Clerk Arellano reported Early Voting has begun at Village Hall. Early Voting runs until March 16, 2026.

XIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:
Village President Pedersen reported the village continues to lobby for the storm water credit trading program.

XIV. 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 Mr. Hagerstrom to go into Executive Session at 7:29 p.m. for "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

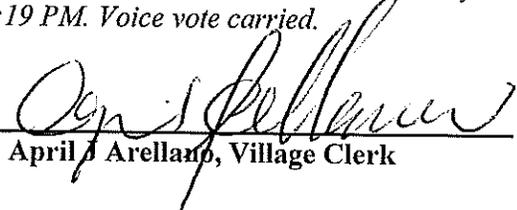
RETURNED FROM CLOSED SESSION AT 8:19 P.M.

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST


April Arellano, Village Clerk