

**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 2, 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. 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)  
Frank Griecashamer (Treasurer)  
Joe Thomas (Utilities Commissioner)  
Nick Weber (Utilities Commissioner)  
Lisa Manzo (Deputy Building Department)  
Nick Walny (Director of Community Development and Zoning)  
Dan Corcoran (IT Director)  
Tom McCabe (Village Engineer)
- The Village Clerk declared a quorum was present.
- IV. Trustee Special announced the winners of the 2025 Holiday Best Decorated House. 1st place winners, 2416 Lincoln, the Sanabria Family, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, the Ventrella Family, who were not in attendance, and in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, the Garcia Figueroa Family
- V. Appointment of Katarina Modrich as Tree Preservation Commission member
- Motion made by Ms. Special and seconded by Ms. Avitia to appoint Katarina Modrich as Tree Preservation Commission member*
- Roll Call: Ayes - Mr. Hagerstrom, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Ruhl, Ms. Special, Mr. Ybarra and Ms. Avitia  
Nay - 0. Absent - 0. Abstain - 0.*
- VI. Ann Moroney of the Johnson Research Group gave a summary of services. Ms. Moroney also went over the process of establishing future downtown development plans and TIF. This process includes project kick offs, data collection and analysis, report preparation, public notices and formal public participation

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

In summary, President of Local 1526 and Lieutenant Anthony Tricoci addressed the President and Trustees in support of the Fire Department, businesses and residents of Franklin Park. Lieutenant Tricoci stated the Fire Department is in crisis with morale being at an all-time low, while staff is being stretched thin. Many are looking to leave the department due to forced mandatory time and uncertainty of the unresolved contract. Lieutenant Tricoci stated that when firefighters leave, years of experience are also lost which affects response, safety and availability to handle emergency situations

In closing, Lieutenant Tricoci requested an executive session meeting with the Mayor and board of Trustees to address the unresolved contract

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

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

1. ON BEHALF OF THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT, MR. JOHNSON REPORTED THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES FROM LAST YEAR WAS FINALLY DISTRIBUTED LAST WEEK AND THE COUNTY EXPECTS TO HAVE EVERYTHING DISTRIBUTED BY THE END OF THIS WEEK. BECAUSE THE COUNTY WAS VERY LATE WITH THIS 2ND INSTALLMENT COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION, THE 1ST INSTALLMENT OF THE PROPERTY TAXES THAT IS NORMALLY DUE MARCH 1, 2026 HAS BEEN CHANGED BY THE STATE LEGISLATORS TO A DUE DATE APRIL 1, 2026
2. MR. JOHNSON REPORTED THE AUDITORS SENT A DRAFT OF APRIL 30, 2025, AUDIT LAST WEEK AND EXPECT TO FINALIZE THE AUDIT IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. AFTER THIS FILING, THE VILLAGE WILL BE UP TO DATE WITH ALL OF THE AUDITS

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

1. MS. AVITIA REPORTED THE CREWS HAVE BEEN WORKING IN THE MAIN PUMP HOUSE DOING MAINTENANCE AND PAINTING AT THE STATION
2. MS. AVITIA REPORTED THE CREWS HAVE ALSO BEEN DOING SNOW CLEANUP OPERATIONS ALONG WITH THE STREET DIVISION FOR THE LAST FEW SNOW EVENTS
3. MS. AVITIA REPORTED ESI HAS BEEN WORKING ON TROUBLE SHOOTING FLOW ISSUES WITH PUMP 1 AT THE MAIN PUMPING STATION. THE CHECK VALVE NEEDED TO BE REPLACED ON PUMP 1. THE OLD CHECK VALVE WAS 22 YEARS OLD
4. MS. AVITIA REPORTED THE CREWS HAVE ALSO BEEN DEPLOYED TO ASSIST RESIDENTS WITH FROZEN LINES AT 4 LOCATIONS IN TOWN

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

1. ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, MR. RUHL REPORTED THE DEPARTMENT LOGGED 2,532 CALLS FOR SERVICE, INCLUDING 457 TRAFFIC STOPS, OFFICERS MADE 40 ARRESTS, ISSUED 213 STATE TRAFFIC CITATIONS, 18 COMPLIANCE CITATIONS, 720 PARKING CITATIONS, AND 13 LOCAL ORDINANCE CITATIONS
2. MR. RUHL REPORTED DETECTIVES WORKED WITH CORPORATE INVESTIGATORS ON AN INTERNAL THEFT CASE FROM A WAREHOUSE IN THE VILLAGE. TWO INDIVIDUALS WERE CHARGED WITH FELONIES AND OVER \$10,000 WORTH OF STOLEN PROPERTY WAS RECOVERED
3. MR. RUHL REPORTED TWO OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO OUR REGION'S MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL FIELD FORCE TEAM TRAVELED TO FEMA'S CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS IN ALABAMA FOR MANDATORY CROWD CONTROL TRAINING, ALL COSTS COVERED BY FEMA
4. MR. RUHL REPORTED A JOB POSTING FOR AUXILIARY OFFICERS HAS BEEN

PUBLISHED, APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY FEBRUARY 23RD

5. BEHALF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, MR. RUHL REPORTED HE DID NOT HAVE A REPORT
  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 POTHoles WERE PATCHED ON THE MAIN AND SECONDARY STREETS
    3. MR. YBARRA REPORTED VILLAGE GARBAGE CANS WERE EMPTIED
    4. MR. YBARRA REPORTED THERE WERE 4 SNOW EVENTS, PLOW MAINTENANCE WAS DONE AFTER EACH SNOW EVENT
    5. MR. YBARRA REPORTED CREWS PICKED UP LITTER AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS
    6. ON BEHALF OF THE FLEET DEPARTMENT, MR. YBARRA REPORTED A TOTAL OF 125 IN REPAIRS FOR A TOTAL OF 156 HOURS
  5. **PROPERTY, PLANNING, ZONING, BUILDING, AND TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION, (Ms. Special, Chair)**
    1. ON BEHALF OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT, MS. SPECIAL REPORTED 56 CONTRACTORS APPLIED AND REGISTERED FOR LICENSES, 29 BUILDING PERMITS WERE APPLIED FOR, 8 ELECTRICAL, 3 SIGNS, 3 FIRE, 2 DUMPSTER PERMITS WERE APPLIED FOR A TOTAL OF 45 PERMITS
    2. MS. SPECIAL REPORTED 4 PROPERTY CLOSINGS, 3 NEW BUSINESSES APPLIED FOR OCCUPANCY AND 7 NEW OCCUPANCY CERTIFICATES WERE ISSUED
    3. ON BEHALF OF THE TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION, MS. SPECIAL REPORTED THE TREE BOARD AND BEE BOARD WILL HAVE TWO TABLES AT THIS YEARS SEED SWAP AT THE PARK DISTRICT OF FRANKLIN PARKS COMMUNITY CENTER ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2026. THE TIME IS FROM 11AM UNTIL 12:30 PM. PLEASE BRING YOUR COLLECTION OF SEEDS TO SHARE WITH OTHERS AND THERE WILL BE SEEDS AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO TAKE HOME FOR YOUR SPRING AND SUMMER PLANTINGS. PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO ATTEND THIS GROWING EVENT
    4. ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING, MS. SPECIAL REPORTED ON JANUARY 29TH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING STAFF JOINED CONSULTANTS, GANNETT FLEMING TRANSYSTEMS AND CHRISTOPHER BURKE ENGINEERING FOR A QUARTERLY PROJECT UPDATE MEETING WITH THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THE GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT FOR THE PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR UNDERPASS. THE MEETING FOCUSED ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR THE PROJECT AND NEXT STEPS IN THE DESIGN PROCESS
  6. **HUMAN RESOURCES, SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE, (Mr. Hagerstrom, Chair)**
    1. MR. HAGERSTROM REPORTED TRITON COLLEGE'S RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP) IS OFFERING FREE TAX ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS, AGED 60 AND OLDER FROM LOW – MODERATE INCOME HOUSEHOLDS. YOU MUST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
- IX. STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS: DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS**
1. NONE

**X. 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, JANUARY 20, 2026
2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHER EXPENDITURES LIST IN THE AMOUNT OF:  
\$ 2,671,189.98
3. RESOLUTION NO. 2526 R  
A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN ENTERTAINMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP AND THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE 2026 FRANKLIN PARK FEST
4. MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM POLACH APPRAISAL GROUP, INCORPORATED, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, FOR APPRAISALS TO DETERMINE THE MARKET VALUE OF RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITIONS AND EASEMENTS FOR THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL ON GRAND AVENUE AT GEORGE STREET IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,700.00, AND AUTHORIZE THE OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE VILLAGE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND TAKE SUCH ACTION TO EFFECTUATE SAME
5. MOTION TO WAIVE BID REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM STANDARD EQUIPMENT, ELMHURST, ILLINOIS, TO REPAIR THE STREET SWEEPER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,760.79, 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

*(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*

**XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

NONE

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

**XIII. COMMENTS FROM THE CLERK:**

Village Clerk Arellano briefly went over the Clerk's monthly report. In the month of January, the office has processed 94 passports, taken 86 photos, completed 73 FOIA requests, and performed 17 notaries

**XIV. COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

NONE

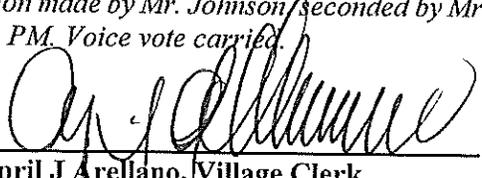
**XV. CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION**

NONE

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion made by Mr. Johnson seconded by Mr. Hagerstrom to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Voice vote carried.*

ATTEST

  
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April J Arellano, Village Clerk