

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BUFFALO GROVE HELD IN THE JEFFREY S. BRAIMAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT VILLAGE HALL, 50 RAUPP BOULEVARD, BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS, MONDAY AUGUST 4, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Those present stood and pledged allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following present: President Smith; Trustees Johnson, Richards, Cesario, Bocek, and Weidenfeld. Trustee Ottenheimer was absent.

Also present were: Dane Bragg, Village Manager; Patrick Brankin, Village Attorney; Chris Stilling, Deputy Village Manager; Mike Skibbe, Deputy Village Manager/Director of Public Works; Tyler Grace, Assistant Village Manager – Administrative Services; Katie Golbach, Director of Human Resources; Chris Black, Finance Director; Christine Berman, Deputy Finance Director; Molly Gillespie, Communications Director; Kelly Purvis, Deputy Director of Community Development; Jim Warnstedt, Deputy Director of Public Works; Geoff Tollefson, Director Golf Operations; Deputy Police Chief Spolar; and Fire Chief Kane.

The **Committee of the Whole Meeting** consisted of staff reports and Board discussion on the listed topics, with staff answering questions from the Board on each topic.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Trustee Johnson urged all of our residents to come out to Rylko Park tomorrow night, August 5, 2025, to join our first responders and participate in **National Night Out**, America's night out against crime.

Trustee Johnson reported on our upcoming **Buffalo Grove Days** celebration, urging residents to participate in the fun, join in the Parade, and purchase wrist bands for the carnival.

Trustee Johnson noted there is a Community Survey on our website with the opportunity for all residents to share their ideas and visions as to what they would like to see in **Clove Park**. Trustee Johnson urged residents to participate in this survey and to share it with friends and neighbors so that everyone has a chance to be a part of and be proud of this community gathering space.

Ms. Gillespie presented a brief overview of the **Caring Community Program**, which was initiated in early 2025 to celebrate individuals, groups, organizations, and programs in Buffalo Grove that embody the community's "Smart. With Heart." brand. This initiative recognizes outstanding contributions that enhance the quality of life, demonstrate leadership, and reflect the values of collaboration, compassion, and innovation within the Village, and presents an opportunity to uplift individuals, groups, and initiatives that exemplify Buffalo Grove's "Smart. With Heart." ethos. This program will not only recognize excellence but also inspire continued community engagement and reinforce the values that make Buffalo Grove exceptional.

President Smith recognized the three community members who were each nominated by their peers and are the recipients of tonight's awards: Adhya Garlapati, Rob Klawans, and Gina Kapinos. President Smith then summarized the contributions that each of them have made to our community and presented them with Certificates as they were thanked and congratulated by the audience and the Board. Ms. Garlapati noted that she is truly honored to receive this award and to be a part of the Buffalo Grove community, and stated that she will keep learning, growing and making a difference.

COMMUNITY SURVEY OVERVIEW

Mr. Grace briefly commented on the Community Survey Overview, details of which are contained in the Agenda Item Summary that he prepared.

Through a PowerPoint presentation, Sonya Wytinck, representing Polco/National Research Center, provided context and an in-depth overview of the results of this survey. Before beginning her presentation Ms. Wytinck thanked Mr. Grace for all his help, providing insightful and thoughtful and detailed feedback regarding the community.

Board members commented on how pleased they are with the results of the survey and that the residents are happy with the overall direction in which the Village is headed. Thanks to the staff for their dedication and professionalism and thanks to the Board for their vision to move ahead. Special thanks to the Communications Department for getting information out to the community.

EVENTS & PROGRAMMING STUDY/PLAN

Ms. Gillespie reviewed that the Village is preparing to conduct a comprehensive study of its special events and programming, in collaboration with consultants from Keen Independent Research. This effort will evaluate current offerings alongside broader community-wide events and identify opportunities to enhance strategic initiatives and activate emerging venue spaces. The resulting plan will outline a clear path forward, including recommended resources, potential partnerships, and sustainable funding strategies, while also helping to define or reaffirm roles and responsibilities. The study's goal is to assess existing programming within the broader context of events hosted by other agencies and align future efforts with community preferences and Village Board priorities.

2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS

Mr. Warnstedt reviewed the 2026 Capital Improvement Program Requests, details of which are contained in the memo that he and Ms. Schwab sent to Mr. Bragg dated July 22, 2025, as well as the PowerPoint presentation that he provided.

2026 GENERAL WAGE INCREASE/MERIT POOL

Ms. Golbach reviewed the 2026 General Wage Increase and Merit Pool recommendation, details of which are contained in her memo to Mr. Bragg of August 4, 2025.

FY 2025 – SIX MONTH REPORT

Mr. Black reviewed the FY 2025 Budget – Six Month Status, details of which are contained in his memo to Mr. Bragg of August 4, 2025.

SUNSET HOME RULE & UTILITY TAXES

Mr. Black reviewed the Home Rule Sales and Utility Taxes, details of which are contained in his memo to Mr. Bragg of August 4, 2025.

2025 PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY

Mr. Black reviewed the Proposed Tax Levy 2025, details of which are contained in his memo to Mr. Bragg of August 4, 2025, as well as the PowerPoint presentation that he provided.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Smith reviewed the parameters to be followed by speakers and asked if there were any questions from the audience on items not on tonight's agenda; there were no such questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Cesario, to move to Executive Session to discuss: **Section 2(C)(5) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act: (5) the Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the Use of the Public Body, Including Meetings Held for the Purpose of Discussing Whether a Particular Parcel Should be Acquired.**

Upon roll call, Trustees voted as follows:

AYES: 5 – Johnson, Richards, Cesario, Bocek, Weidenfeld

NAYS: 0 – None

ABSENT: 1 – Ottenheimer

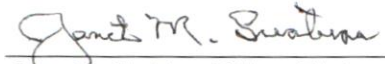
Motion declared carried.

The Board moved to Executive Session from 8:18 P.M. to 9:34 P.M.

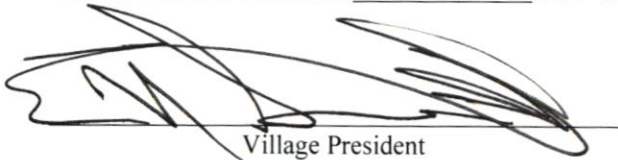
ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Weidenfeld, seconded by Cesario, to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion was unanimously declared carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 P.M.


Janet M. Sirabian, Village Clerk

APPROVED BY ME THIS 18th DAY OF August 2025


Village President

