

**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 3, 2026**

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, Ottenheimer, Bocek and Weidenfeld

Also present were: Dane Bragg, Village Manager; Chris Stilling, Deputy Village Manager; Mike Skibbe, Deputy Village Manager/Director of Public Works; Chris Black, Finance Director; Tyler Grace, Assistant Village Manager - Administrative Services; Katie Golbach, Director of Human Resources; Nicole Woods, Director of Community Development; Molly Gillespie, Communications Director; Tim Kirsininkas, Communications Coordinator; Briget Schwab, Village Engineer; Chris Krase, Deputy Public Works Director; Geoff Tollefson, Director of Golf Operations; Police Chief Budds; Fire Chief Kane. Village Attorney Patrick Brankin arrived at 7:42 P.M.

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

President Smith invited residents to attend the next **President's Pick** event on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, which will feature Fire Chief Kane to share information and answer questions regarding the Buffalo Grove Fire Department

Ms. Gillespie reviewed the **Caring Community Program** that celebrates individuals, groups, organizations and programs in Buffalo Grove that embodies the community's "Smart, With Heart" brand, and recognizes outstanding contributions that enhance the quality of life, demonstrate leadership, and reflect the values of collaboration, compassion and innovation within the Village.

The current recipients of this award are:

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- **Suriya Sanjeev Vikramraj Kumar** was recognized for outstanding leadership, mentorship, and service to young learners in the Buffalo Grove community. Through the 4C STEM Club, he has guided middle school students to statewide success in the Illinois Future City Competition while fostering teamwork, confidence, and a passion for STEM, as well as volunteering as a tutor, STEM competition judge, and creator of educational resources that help students better understand emerging technologies like artificial intelligence.
- **Lawrence Le Vine** was recognized for his dedication to building a stronger, more connected Buffalo Grove community. During the pandemic, he organized more than 40 food truck events that supported struggling local businesses while safely bringing neighbors together; he continues to coordinate neighborhood cleanups, garage sales, and other community improvement efforts, making an impact on local families.
- **Alka Sharma** was recognized for her vision and leadership as the Founder and Artistic Director of Mandi Theater, a Buffalo Grove-based performing arts organization that brings people together through culturally rich and socially meaningful productions; she has created opportunities for

immigrant families, youth, seniors, and emerging artists to share their stories while making theater accessible and welcoming to audiences of all backgrounds. Through her commitment to inclusion, community engagement, and artistic excellence, Alka has strengthened cultural understanding and enriched the fabric of the Buffalo Grove community.

- **Dean Klassman** was recognized for 25 years of unwavering dedication to Buffalo Grove's Buddy Baseball program and for his lifelong commitment to inclusion. As a coach, mentor, and advocate, Dean has helped hundreds of children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities experience the joy of teamwork, belonging, and personal achievement.
- **Jeremie "Jay" Simmons** was recognized for going above and beyond his role as a mail carrier to help keep the Buffalo Grove community safe and connected. Whether reuniting a wandering toddler with family, protecting children from dangerous ice conditions, reporting safety concerns, or simply greeting residents and their pets by name, Jay consistently demonstrates compassion and attentiveness, and his daily interactions have made him a trusted friend to the Ridgewood community.

FY 2026 SIX-MONTH REPORT

Mr. Black reviewed the FY 2026 Budget – Six-Month Status Update, details of which are contained in his memo to Mr. Bragg of August 3, 2026, after which he responded to comments and questions from the Board.

2026 PROPERTY TAX LEVY

Mr. Black reviewed the staff recommendation for the proposed 2026 tax levy, details of which are contained in his memo to Mr. Bragg of August 3, 2026, after which he responded to comments and questions from the Board.

GENERAL WAGE INCREASE

Ms. Golbach reviewed the 2027 General Wage Increase and Merit Pool recommendation, details of which are contained in her memo to Mr. Bragg dated August 3, 2026

2027 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Krase and Ms. Schwab presented the initial Capital Improvement Program (CIP) requests compiled by staff for the Fiscal Year 2027, after which they responded to comments and questions from the Board.

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.

Resident Pat Krug asked a question regarding one of our fire trucks, which was answered by staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Richards, seconded by Cesario, to move to Executive Session to discuss **Section 2(C)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act: the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body or Legal Counsel for the Public Body, including hearing testimony on a Complaint Lodged against an Employee of the Public Body or against Legal Counsel for the Public Body to determine its validity.** Upon roll call, Trustees voted as follows:

AYES: 6 – Johnson, Richards, Cesario, Ottenheimer, Bocek, Weidenfeld

NAYS: 0 – None

Motion declared carried.

The Board moved to Executive Session from 8:02 P.M. until 8:15 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 P.M.


Janet M. Sirabian, Village Clerk

APPROVED BY ME THIS 17th DAY OF August 2026


Village President

