

**MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
THE VILLAGE OF McCULLOM LAKE,
4811 W. ORCHARD DRIVE
McCULLOM LAKE, IL 60050
October 28, 2025
All Village Board meetings will be tape recorded.**

President Counley called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: By Village Clerk Messina

Present: President Counley, Trustees Bogacz, Fritz, Thompson, Vick, Walter, Zakrocky

Absent: Attorney Shaw

Minutes: Trustee Bogacz made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting; seconded by Trustee Zakrocky. Voice vote: Bogacz, Fritz, Walter, Thompson, Zakrocky=ayes. Trustee Vick-abstained. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Trustee Bogacz made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report; seconded by Trustee Vick. Voice vote: Bogacz, Fritz, Thompson, Vick, Walter, Zakrocky=ayes. All in favor, motion carried.

Bills Read and Approved: Trustee Walter made a motion to pay the bills; seconded by Trustee Vick. Voice vote: Bogacz, Fritz, Thompson, Vick, Walter, Zakrocky=ayes. All in favor, motion carried.

Attorney: N/A

Finance: N/A

Building & Zoning: N/A

Parks: Trustee Thompson was thinking about lowering the benches up in Jello Park/Forest Glen. Deputy Clerk Prehn stated that we still have four (4) new

benches here for this park. Trustee Thompson: Maybe we can take two (2) from here for up there and remove the other ones. Deputy Clerk Prehn: Or could we take the older ones from here and put those ones at Jello Park/Forest Glen. Trustee Thompson: Possibly. President Counley: Would like to make a suggestion. Can we hold off on that and see what Ben Valletta is going to be doing up there with rehabbing the park and adding on to it. He should be here at the next meeting or two (2).

Roads: Trustee Vick: Schroeder has finished most of the paving. They have a punch list of items that they are taking care of a couple mailboxes that they need to fix and a few driveway approaches. Other than that everything looks pretty good. We'll be doing patching throughout the Village he's marked out some patches and he's working with Upland Construction and hopefully getting those done before the weather hits and we can get the worst of the worst done and then hopefully apply for another grant in the next year or two (2) or three (3) or four (4). We did not get the grant. We applied for Spring and as Terry came in he had a good idea to just apply for the whole Village. A lot of the funding went to it seems like State routes and he didn't see any neighborhoods receiving any funding. They do, do the Community Development Block Grants again he's sure President Counley would be happy to go, Trustee Vick goes every year so they can go together and see if they can get some grant money. Trustee Walter: Did we check the manholes for plowing. Trustee Vick: Yes, he did that and drove around with the golf cart for an hour and everything looks to be copacetic. The one he was really worried about was on Spring between Orchard and Flanders and that got taken care of. The section that we paved, everything seems to be in order and ready for this year. Trustee Walter: Can we get Greg or somebody to clean the streets on Spring. Trustee Vick: Schroeder came by today and cleaned up all the stuff that was left behind. Trustee Bogacz: The roads look good too. Trustee Vick: A big thank you to HR Green too. Those guys definitely have our best interest in mind and making sure that everything gets done the right way. Hopefully we can make the whole Village look like that, that's the goal.

Blight: Trustee Walter: He's noticed up at West End that a guy is dumping a lot of gravel up on that empty lot. President Counley: He's been talked to already by Sergeant Beatty that he can't be doing that. President Counley mentioned that Trustee Walter brought up last meeting the hole down on West End and yesterday he put up some stakes and some caution tape around it. Maybe we bury some concrete pipe sticking up 3 feet high two (2) in the front and two (2) in the back. If you put a 4x4 up there the snow plow could probably hit it, cars could probably hit it. Trustee Vick: Let me take a look at it. Trustee Walter: Maybe we could raise it. President Counley: You can't raise it too much

though because that pipe is coming out of the field, we might be able to raise it up a foot but we're still going to have a hole. Trustee Vick: Can we maybe go look at it and he's sure that they can figure something out to make it safe.

Police: Trustee Zakrocky: Read off the Police Report from last month. We have hired three (3) new Officers. Officer Camacho, Officer Medina and Officer Garcia.

Communications: Trustee Vick: Wanted to bring up the sewer bills in general. There's those of us who pay their sewer bills, we can't currently do anything if someone doesn't pay their sewer bill. Deputy Clerk Prehn: We can lien their property, before they receive a disconnect. Trustee Vick: Can you elaborate on that. President Counley: Actually we've been all over that. Trustee Vick: We can't cut off anyone's sewer currently, right? There's no shut off valves, there's no nothing. There needs to be a way that if somebody doesn't want to pay their sewer bill and they owe \$18,000 grand that we can make him pay said \$18,000 grand because it's not fair to everybody else that does pay. President Counley: We actually looked it up. Deputy Clerk Prehn: We did have a company that would do the balloon, but they won't do it anymore because it's too much of a liability. President Counley is looking into smaller balloons that go into the clean out, but the problem is we can't find a locking cap. President Counley: When people signed up to get their sewers hooked up they are agreeing that the Village has the right to come on to their property to look in their clean out's to make sure everything is working. We can go in there and put a balloon in and inflate it and put a locking cap on it. When the sewer starts backing up the Health Department would be notified. Trustee Vick: Then it would be tagged as uninhabitable and then you would have to pay said fines. President Counley: There's fifteen (15) homeowners that owe this Village forty three thousand dollars in back sewer fees. There's twenty homeowners that owe nine thousand dollars that are relatively current by comparison. He's met with a couple of the bad ones himself and was told that we don't have any enforcement, so what are you going to do about it. He replied that we do have enforcement and we're going to use. We have an Ordinance already that we can plug it we just didn't have a way to plug it. Well now we have a way to plug it and he's found a way and he just needs to find a locking cap and we're in. President Counley and Deputy Clerk Prehn have been working on this and a list was given to Attorney Shaw with the five (5) worst offenders and were going to Circuit Court to force them to pay so there is some progress. Deputy Clerk Prehn has worked out some payment plans that she's sent out but then they don't pay. Trustee Vick: Thank you for working on that, it's just not fair to everybody else that pays their bill. Trustee Zakrocky: Has any of this been run past our lawyer? Deputy Clerk Prehn and President Counley stated yes. Also if we have a disconnect we would have to contact the County and they would be going with us onto the property.

The cost to disconnect and reconnect would cost the resident around \$10,000 dollars.

Audience: Deputy Clerk Prehn let the board members know that for payroll if you are on direct deposit it is not going to be on a check anymore, it's just going to be on a piece of paper.

President Counley wanted to address the burned house on Maple Hill and that we are all over it. The person that lived there at the time of the fire actually got back to President Counley. President Counley told him that he needs to communicate with the Village and there are animals going in and out of there and he needs to get that property cleaned up or there is going to be daily citations issued.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: Approve Zender Park sign. Trustee Thompson made a motion to approve the sign; seconded by Trustee Fritz. Voice vote: Bogacz, Fritz, Thompson, Vick, Walter, Zakorcky=ayes. All in favor, motion carried.

Approve IMLRMA bill of \$29910.00 – Trustee Bogacz made a motion to approve the bill; seconded by Trustee Vick. Voice vote: Bogacz, Fritz, Thompson, Vick, Walter, Zakrocky=ayes. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion: Increase of Hall Rental Rates for Non-Residents. President Counley is looking to increase rates for Non-Residents. We can't vote on this tonight we're just going to discuss it. Trustee Bogacz: We need more data. If Deputy Clerk Prehn can do a comparison on it and then maybe the board can review it and make a decision based on that. This will be added to the next meetings agenda for discussion & approval.

President Counley had a older gentleman come in today who used to live here and he was wondering if he could put a memorial up for his friend Ed (Butch) Stacknick such as a bench or a plaque. President Counley told him he would present it to the board. Trustee Vick: We would like to see what he comes up and we are open to ideas and then it should be upon board approval. This will be added to the next meetings agenda.

Trustee Fritz: The regular Neighbors Helping Neighbors meeting will be November 11, 2025 at the Knoll at 6:30 P.M. in the back room.

The Annual Children's Christmas Party is on December 7th, 2025 from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

Holiday Meals for Thanksgiving please either contact Tom Bitterman or Trustee Fritz before November 23rd, 2025. Holiday Meals for Christmas the date has not been determined just yet. Deputy Clerk Prehn will add this to the Village newsletter.

Resident Gates inquired about the tree issue where it keeps falling down on the lines. President Counley did meet with Com-Ed and was told that they cannot force anyone to take down a tree.

Trustee Bogacz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 P.M.; seconded by Trustee Vick. Voice vote: Bogacz, Fritz, Thompson, Vick, Walter, Zakrocky=ayes. All in favor, motion carried.

The next Village board meeting will be November 25th, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

Terry Counley
Village President

Sherri Messina
Village Clerk