

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
7:00 P.M., APRIL 20, 2026**

After calling the meeting to order, President Kaufman led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll, with the following members present: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 6.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None

**PRESENTATIONS** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Trustee Leitch requested removal of Approval of Bills from the Consent Agenda, which then consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of Minutes.
  - 1. Regular Meeting – April 6, 2026

Trustee Parrott moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Trustee Hilliard and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 6

No: None

Absent: None

**CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

Trustee Leitch then moved for Approval of Bills (removed from Consent Agenda) with an amendment to modify a \$3,000 expense for Creative Landscaping to be reallocated to Tourism Funds since the expense is intended for trees at Church Square. Motion was seconded by Trustee Hilliard and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 6

No: None

Absent: None

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR**

Administrator Smick presented the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. She noted it remains as previously presented with a \$9.8 million deficit due to capital projects. Trustee Leitch moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Parrott and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 6

No: None

Absent: None

Administrator Smick then presented a Building Improvement Grant for Tiki Pool & Spa at 135 S. First St. for \$10,000. The funds will help the business cut a new second entrance to move their retail store into that location, as well as cut a new exit with windows on the front and back of the Morton Community Foundation building. Trustee Leitch moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Cirilli and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 6  
No: None  
Absent: None

Administrator Smick then presented the Spring Tourism Grant Round recommendations. She noted that the reviewed applications totaled \$78,250 in requests, and the recommended grant total is \$49,250. Trustee Parrott moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Leitch and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 6  
No: None  
Absent: None

#### **CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief Darche requested to waive formal bidding and accept a proposal from Mike Murphy Ford Inc. for a new 2026 Ford F150XL Super Duty 4wd truck in the amount of \$48,000.00 for FY27. During discussion, he explained the truck will be driven primarily by one person as an administrative vehicle but will be available 24 hours a day for patrol officers if they need a truck bed to transport items. Because of this added versatility, the department plans to reduce its standard squad car purchase this year from three vehicles to two. Trustee Blunier moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Parrott and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 6  
No: None  
Absent: None

#### **DIRECTOR OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

DFE Hale presented Resolution 37-26 authorizing a side letter agreement with IAFF Local #4952 regarding the promotion of Kristopher Ambrosia to Fire Captain. He noted this will be the first Captain in the department's history. He explained that Ambrosia, who currently serves as the training officer, has been instrumental in getting new firefighters up to speed and is a good fit for the position. He also outlined future rank structuring, stating that a testing process will be established for Engineers in 2027 and further Captains in 2029, with an ultimate goal of having one Engineer and one Captain per shift. Trustee Leitch moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Hilliard and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 6  
No: None  
Absent: None

DFE Hale then informed the Board of an upcoming educational webinar regarding battery energy storage planning and safety, noting that surrounding communities are increasingly being approached for these systems.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

DPW Loudermilk requested to waive bidding and accept proposal from Bob Grimm Chevrolet for a 2026 Chevrolet 1500LT truck (\$45,070.00). He explained this new truck is for the mechanic. The mechanic's current 8-year-old truck, which is still in excellent condition, will be handed down to the Wastewater Department. Trustee Parrott moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Menold and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 6  
No: None  
Absent: None

DPW Loudermilk then requested to waive bidding and accept proposal from Lighthouse Automotive for a 2026 GMC Sierra 2500HD truck (\$50,325.00). This 3/4-ton truck will replace the Street Superintendent's vehicle, allowing him to be a "working superintendent" capable of pulling barriers and equipment. His previous truck will be handed down to the Gas Department. Trustee Hilliard moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Parrott and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 6  
No: None  
Absent: None

DPW Loudermilk then requested to waive bidding and accept proposal from Bob Grimm Chevrolet for a 2026 Chevrolet 3500HD truck without a bed (\$49,800.00). DPW Loudermilk noted this will serve as a general maintenance truck for the Street Department, replacing a truck that was transferred to Wastewater a year ago. Trustee Parrott moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Hilliard and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 6  
No: None  
Absent: None

DPW Loudermilk then presented Ordinance 26-33 – Amendments to Section 8-4-9 Regarding Bulk Water Rates. He explained that the Village's only bulk water station is at the Public Works garage on Detroit Ave and is primarily used by boring contractors. The rate will increase to \$20 per 1,000 gallons, with an automatic 6% increase each May, to ensure the station pays for its own maintenance. Trustee Leitch moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Cirilli and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 6  
No: None  
Absent: None

DPW Loudermilk then presented Ordinance 26-34 – Amendments to Section 8-2-15 Regarding the Gas Rate Schedule. He noted the gas markup has not been increased in several decades. The markup will increase from 20 cents to 21 cents effective May 1, with another 1-cent increase scheduled for May 2029. He explained this funds operations, maintenance, and major capital improvements. Additionally, base service charges will be rounded up (\$10 for residential, \$15 for small commercial, \$25 for large commercial), which will generate approximately \$100,000 in revenue. He added that even with the increase, Morton’s gas rates remain roughly 40% cheaper over the course of a year compared to Ameren. Trustee Menold moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Leitch and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 6  
No: None  
Absent: None

**VILLAGE TRUSTEES**

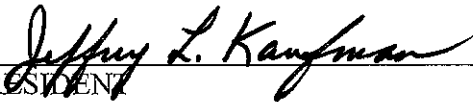
Trustee Blunier commended DPW Loudermilk for his efficient vehicle strategy, noting that the practice of handing down well-maintained older vehicles to other departments allows multiple employees to receive upgraded vehicles while the Village only has to purchase one.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Parrott moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Menold and followed by a unanimous voice vote.

ATTEST:

  
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VILLAGE CLERK

  
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PRESIDENT

