

**VILLAGE OF JOHNSBURG
JULY 1, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

President Hettermann called the meeting to order at 8:29 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Attendees

Trustee Mike Fouke
Trustee Josh Hagen
Trustee Scott Letzter
Trustee Jamie Morris
Trustee James Sylvanus
Trustee Keith Von Allmen
~~Village Administrator Claudett Sofialis (absent)~~
Assistant Village Administrator Vinny Lamontagna
Chief of Police Jason Greenwald
Village Attorney Michael Smoron
~~Village Engineer Tim Hartnett (absent)~~
Special Projects Coordinator Rick Quinn

MINUTES - Trustee Fouke moved to approve the minutes. Trustee Letzter seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted aye on the roll. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Chairman Hettermann waived his comments and reports.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – Committee Chair/Trustee Fouke reported Sunnyside Park Improvements; significant progress at Sunnyside Memorial with more upgrades still coming (playground equipment) expressing and thanking recent improvements funded by a large anonymous donation, pickleball courts are cured and usable though the surrounding area is not fully restored yet, and volleyball nets have been ordered. Donor is selecting playground equipment, installation projected for next year, and playground location will be near the pavilion, repositioned so parents can watch both soccer practice and children at play. Committee Chair/Trustee Fouke continued back briefing Celebration in the Park at Hiller Park – October 4, 5:00p; explain the vendors, activities and amenities proposed, setup and coordination timelines. Clarification was discussed regarding proposed Jacked Vending Machine; waiting for updated proposal from entrepreneur, Village preferring a flat donation fee, not a percentage of profits and the exchange, and estimated electricity cost for the unit ranges, depending on efficiency. Discussion continued and possible vote planned for next meeting at which time Trustee Sylvanus expressed inviting entrepreneur Jackson Hjorth.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Committee Chair/Trustee Hagen shared small-shop business incubator project at Rescue Squad Park; Village leaders and staff discussed the concept plan which was shared, and the committees seeking consent to begin gathering detailed cost estimates. Project Concept consisted of the use of two 20-ft shipping containers, each divided into two units, creating four retail spaces. Architecturally dressed up so they do not look like industrial boxes, and units would be movable, allowing relocation or expansion if needed. Public Works would handle site prep to reduce cost; electrical work would require outside help with projected cost for containers (with basic modifications) is roughly \$5,500–\$7,500 each, possibly less through auctions. Committee Chair/Trustee Hagen further shared the Village could plan to seek donated materials, donated labor, and business sponsorships (similar to City of McHenry's Riverwalk), and school's vocational program may also help. Operational model discussed shops would be leased to small/start-up businesses, Lessee may require business training classes run by the chamber or local business group with the goal to help small businesses grow, eventually expanding into permanent locations in the Village. EDC members Rescue Squad Park over the main park as Trustee Morris raised concerns of limited parking, low activity and whether this park gets enough traffic compared to the main park. Committee Chair/Trustee Hagen rational explained part of the downtown business area, intended to grow as a walkable district. Additionally, nearby restaurant, pedestrian lighting, sidewalks, and the non-highway vehicle path. Village leaders and staff advised consideration to ensure incorporated regarding ordinances must be updated, requested the renderings/images of how the containers will look once dressed up, interest in ensuring the aesthetic fits the park, and addresses community expectations.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - Committee Chair/Trustee Letzter reported on Fall Brush pickup beginning yesterday with completed areas to date with noted rain causing delays due to the chipper clogging; crews are working more slowly because materials are wet. Further shared Johnsborg Road construction update; milling has begun at the butt joints, next steps include patching over the next three days, coordination occurred with the police chief and the school regarding the homecoming parade due to congestion in the construction zone, and project remains on schedule, with binder installation planned for October 16th.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - Committee Chair/Trustee Morris request clarification Village's noise ordinance currently allows enforcement using either a decibel meter or a measurement of 100 feet. Officers are having trouble enforcing complaints because department doesn't have a functional, calibrated decibel meter and enforcement based on 100 feet' is subjective and not persuasive in court. The Village leaders further dialoged with input shared from Village Attorney to keep the decibel requirement, but purchase new calibrated meters. It was discussed McHenry County Sheriff has reportedly struggled to enforce noise limits on boats, in some cases in Lake County were thrown out due to lack of proper decibel readings. Staff and Chief of Police compare and consider after findings surrounding McHenry County communities noise ordinances with decibel limits, including vibration restrictions with unknown how actively they enforce them or what difficulties they encounter. Concluding the discussion proposed next steps was including McHenry County Sheriff to confirm whether they can enforce their noise ordinance and obstacles or court issues they face. Staff to review Illinois Environmental Protection Agency standards for objective decibel levels to see if they align with local needs. Investigate calibration requirements, recommended intervals, costs, and consider whether the current 70 dB limit at the lot line is appropriate. In summary, decibel meters are necessary for fair and enforceable regulation, but more information is needed before spending money or updating the ordinance ensuring enforcement feasibility in practice, judicial expectations, and equipment calibration requirements.

STAFF REPORTS – Assistant Village Administrator Lamontagna discussed assisted listening devices & audio system improvement providing IL CDB input as public room are not required because there is no amplified sound system in use. Both Attorney General and Capital Development Board confirmed the exemption; however, assisted listening equipment can be pursued if desired, but is not mandatory. Shared an alternative Wi-Fi approach verse wiring a full microphone system would be more expensive than \$39,000 and likely not feasible due to floor and conduit limitations. Assistant Village Administrator Lamontagna further shared live streaming of meetings proposal is available to live-stream meetings using a standalone system, roughly equipment and upgrades in the \$6000 quote, noting live streaming is not legally required, but has been a frequent public request. In summary regarding next steps, consensus to move forward with live streaming was provided by Village leaders. Additionally, Assistant Village Administrator Lamontagna shared updated on golf course tee-marker signage, non-highway vehicle path partnership with Johnsborg Community School District, and current website & notification issues to system residents have inquired. Regarding golf course tee-markers; sponsor signs are allocated and pending payment to secure, hole marking signed have been delivered and test fitted, and sponsor signs will appear on the course next season for full display. Regarding non-highway Spring Grove crossing via Johnsborg Community School District; project will proceed this year, school district requests the path be set back 15', but they will not dedicate the land to MDOT and will maintain it as open vegetation. Trustee leaders provided preferred path material; limestone screenings, advantages of cost effective, stable, preferred by farmers. Emphasizing the path project and materials will be funded from the golf cart fund, as previously budgeted. Assistant Village Administrator Lamontagna shared website is up and running and updates ongoing. Noting technical issues with the e-blast/e-notify system and provided detailed troubleshooting to the vendor, awaiting response.

ADJOURNMENT - Trustee Fouke moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Von Allmen seconded the motion. All Trustees voted aye. Motion to adjourn was carried at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

*Vinny Lamontagna
Assistant Village Administrator*