

Committee of the Whole

Properties and Recreation Committee

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 7:00

am

Village Board Room

ughn

Attendance

Committee Members:	
Annette LaMore, Mayor	X
Peggy Vaughn, Trustee	x
Todd Crockett, Trustee	x
Annette Zimbelman, Trustee	X
Joel Gesky, Trustee	X
CJ Boudreau, Trustee	X
Michael Barry, Trustee	
Other attendees:	
Chris LaRocque, Village Admin	X
Jim Hanley, Super of PW	X
Sheila Martin, Treasurer	
Al Swinford, Chief of Police	x
Jakob Knox, Marketing Dir	x
Melissa Gay, Deputy Village Clerk	X

Trustee Gesky called the meeting to order at 7:17 a.m.

MOTION: A motion by Trustee Crockett, seconded by Trustee Boudreau, to approve the minutes from August 13, 2025 meeting as presented. Voice vote – All ayes, No nays. Motion approved. Trustee Barry

Public participation- none

Discussion Items:

- **Path maintenance/ benches-** Hanley Stated if all paths were done the estimate Heritage Park would be 43,522. If not done it will fall apart, put on agenda if approved it can be done this year. Trustee Gesky talking about one complaint he hears is people want more benches along

walking path. Hanley said, one ideal could be perhaps pour a concrete pad and place bench on top, the ones on Main Street were about 5,000 a piece. We need 4 or 5 benches of along the walking-path, walking-path is approximately six miles long. Hanley will get Estimates.

- **Park Property Donation-** 10,000 and Maple, Dog Park. Trustee Gesky thinking dog park won't work but maybe do a Wall of Fame of acknowledgements of the citizens throughout the town. Waiting on a design from Architect for Serenity Park, with a dedicated area for Casey the daughter who passed away, Casey's corner. No fence No parking lot. A place where people can just relax read a book and unwind. Ali Williams doing drawing of the area so we can all see a visual.
- **Square on Second Bathrooms Pavilion-** Jim Hanley put together a drawing/layout. 122,500 Additional cost above the total for the kit. Trustee Boudreau still likes the idea just not thinking in the middle, is open to putting the bathrooms in the corner. Mayor LaMore likes sails and umbrellas in the middle for shade. Trustee Gesky suggested an architect draw up a plan for the pavilion however the cost would not be favorable. Tree is healthy conflicting words about the tree dying, Trustee Vaughn sees no reason to take the tree down just clean it up maybe add a new tree says, Trustee Vaughn. A previous Board member Sam, is who said the tree needed to come down couple years back. Mayor LaMore says the tree gives the park beauty and shade. Trustee Gesky asking if we should move forward with purchasing the kit. Mayor LaMore asking how much cheaper would it be if no pavilion just the bathrooms. Hanley said, the one at Thies Park was 30,000-50,000 cheaper, But doesn't have the exact numbers in front of him. Trustee Gesky says put on agenda for Monday meeting.
- **Square on Second Decorative Asphalt Resurfacing-** Trustee Gesky say's, it's about 10 years old needs repair and resurfaced. maybe do concrete. Hanley walked through with Bruce suggested stamped concrete made just for that area, the spot with the Manteno logo the vocal point. Hanley will work on options for that area. Trustee Crockett asked for Hanley to reach out to Bruce and Ozinga and see if they have a suggestion on product for the area.

- **Winfield Estate Park Benches-** Add a bench to this area people are asking for one, perhaps the Rotary might donate a bench
- **Union Foreman/ Union Admin Personnel-** Use local landscapers for Serenity Park and other Parks to keep them looking good. Trustee Gesky ask's how do we pay for it? Mike just retired, why don't we use the cost of his salary to help offset that cost of having some of this landscape done professionally and keep it at high standard. Trustee Crockett suggested private contractor they can leave up a small sign who did the job, small sign shows the company's name that company takes more pride in its work because its name is at stake. Private contractor will have more time to do their job and pay attention to the small details whereas village workers are spread thin. Trustee Crockett will get quotes from outside contractors. Village workers have many responsibilities this would help them Trustee Vaughn says let's do a comparison make a list of all the parks we want done. Mayor LaMore asking how much this would cost? Trustee Crockett this is just general discussion we would need to go out and look at 3 or 4 different landscape contractors and get quotes and bids and see where numbers come in.

Discussion- Andy Wheeler Stood up at the podium to talk about giving the Police Department on behalf of Gotion a Brand new Police vehicle which is being wrapped with Manteno colors. Andy given us information on the vehicle how it would be a cost saving, low maintenance less problems than regular vehicles, less parts to maintenance, huge fuel cost savings. When the police car is in idle no gas will be wasted. Less rollover risk quick acceleration better handling. The car could be available in another two to three days once it's wrapped the cage in the back will take 2 to 3 months. The battery itself lasts 10 years. This will be the first one in the United States that's a patrol vehicle so Manteno would be the first to have this vehicle. Looking at a savings over four years of over \$24,000. Do a press conference at the Oktoberfest an hour before the business after hours all the police chiefs Chicago media potentially Rivian. Federal signal will be doing the upfitting so this is a made in Illinois story this. Trustee Gesky says Manteno prides itself on being leaders. Trustee Vaughn asked why Manteno? Andy's response It's our hometown. Mayor LaMore asked, about how much would the insurance be for the car? Answer is it shouldn't be

much more than a regular car, would have to contact a broker to get exact idea could be two to three percent higher. Chris LaRocque will check and see if this needs to be on the agenda for a vote.

Other General Discussions after Agenda: Trustee Gesky talking about how trustees communicate with one another, To much fighting, suggest talk less about Choice/ Freedom Party, we are moving forward we are one party. Trustee Vaughn says some of the problem is misunderstanding.

Trustee Vaughn brought up how the citizens are being spoken to in reference to a phone call that was made to her at the village a citizen called in about somebody's cat and was mad at the way she was talked to by who answered the phone. Chris LaRocque Mention the person who called didn't get the answer she was looking for Perhaps that's why she was upset.

Trustee Zimbelman would like to have less division and would like to see less on Facebook postings all over, that are encouraging dividing

Mayor LaMore Brought up the pay for the deputy clerk. Each meeting that the Deputy Clerk does which is four a month gets paid \$27 each meeting/minutes after taxes. Trustees could pass it but it wouldn't take effect until next election cycle. Therefor it cannot be done.

Mayor LaMore brought up the meeting that took place last night about the Planning Commission and the group home. The vote did not go through last night. One of the things that came up last night not all of the neighbors got a letter in the mail telling them about the group home.

Trustee Vaughn brought up the electric-scooters kids driving through the stop signs. Suggested an ordinance and to put that on to the next safety meeting for discussion.

George Reichardt spoke at the last moment about last night's meeting Planning Commission meeting. Says the state has cut so much funding for the state for the special ed kids and showed concern with the group home wouldn't be paying property taxes.

Jacob Knox gave an update on Oktoberfest talked about a press conference, meeting with the mayor later today making a video Chambers legislative event and talked about the band he found for Oktoberfest Dance Monkeys.

Motion by Trustee Crockett, seconded by Trustee Zimbelman, to adjourn meeting at 8:45 a.m. Voice vote: all ayes, no nays. . Motion approved. Trustee Barry absent

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Meeting minutes prepared by Melissa Gay