MANTENO VILLAGE BOARD REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 21 , 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
Village Board Room.

Mayor Annette LaMore- present
Trustee Mike Barry- present
Trustee CJ Boudreau -present
Trustee Peggy Vaughn- present
Trustee Todd Crockett- present
Trustee Joel Gesky- present
Trustee Annette Zimbelman- present
Attendees
Chief of Police Al Swinford
Superintendent of Public Works Jim Hanley
Chamber/Village Marketing Ashley Peterson
Village Building Inspector Jim Paicz
Village Attorney Brian Miller
Acting Clerk Allen Pickrel
Attorney Elizabeth Blood

Mayor LaMore called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING INVOCATION
Rev. Lana Robbins

Trustee Crockett asked for a moment of silence for Wendell Phillips passing

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes: September 8, 2026
Motion by Trustee Vaughn 2nd Trustee Barry
5-0 Trustee Boudreau abstained

Approval of Minutes of Executive Session: September 8, 2026
Motion by Trustee Barry 2nd Trustee Vaughn
5-0 Trustee Boudreau abstained

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Sandy Chiz - Asked Trustee Gesky if he hadn't lost the election, what were his plans for the Village?
- Emily Herman - She said she was offered a tent and space for Oktoberfest and wanted to know if that was still available, and Ashley Peterson said yes;
talk to her after the meeting.
- Andy Lee announced he is running for Trustee
- David Birgdahl spoke about appointment of Building Inspector

Bob Forsyth asked why everyone can't get along for the good of the Village and take care of business

Jim Paicz was appointed – Building Inspector
Mayor LaMore thanked Jim for taking the position she appointed him to, having the power to do so.

Collective Bargaining Agreement with LIUNA
Trustee Barry stated that we had an executive meeting to discuss the contract and there are still some questions that need answered before we can move forward.

Mayor LaMore stated today's court case has been rescheduled for November 12 at 10:00 a.m. and involves the previously dismissed attorney, Joe Cankar.

Mayor LaMore said that, according to Illinois law, the mayor will soon post and appoint, with the Trustees' consent, a temporary Village Administrator until a permanent Administrator can be found and consented to by the Trustees.

The Village needs a new Clerk as the past Clerk, Crystal Wolf, resigned as she could not be paid for doing FOIA requests via Village Code, so Allen Pickrel has come back to help until a Clerk is found. FOIA"s are taking up a lot of time, as there is many coming in.

Mayor Lamore read a statement that on September 16, 2026, four Trustees called a special meeting. This meeting violated both the code of ordinances of the Village and the ordinances of the Village per Illinois State law. She does not believe she has to veto the illegal meeting; she wants to create a clear legal record of the illegal nature of this meeting and for the record that it was called for by Trustees CJ Boudreau, Joel Gesky, Todd Crockett, and Annette Zimbelman. Mayor LaMore stated she was not consulted prior to the calling of this meeting, and the four Trustees never contacted her about any items on the agenda.

These four refused to approve vital staff members, required expenditures, and contractual obligations, which are a clear violation of the law. They complain there is no communication with them, and then they refuse to take action when she proposes anything. Yet they call a special meeting without ever communicating with her about it, and it's held at 7:00 am because they are hiding what they are doing from the public.

Trustee Crockett, for example, at the last meeting stated that she didn't respond to an email of his, but did he ever consult her before calling a special meeting? There is a double standard, and you can't complain about poor communication when you never communicate.
Therefore, in accordance with section 1-5-7 of the code, she hereby vetoes all items that were considered on that agenda, as it is an illegal meeting of the Board. Section 1-5-7 of the code state that if the mayor does not approve of an item considered at a Board meeting, the item shall be returned to the Board of Trustees with the Mayor's objections.

There, too, in writing, at the next regular Board meeting of the Trustees, occurring after the passage thereof, such veto may extend to anyone, or more items, or appropriations contained in any ordinance, making appropriations, or to the entire ordinance, and in this case veto only extends to such ordinance; the residue thereof shall take effect and be enforced.

Therefore, she is vetoing these items for multiple reasons as previously stated. Section 1-6-3 of the code states that a special meeting may be held at any time on the call of the President, or any two or more Trustees shall call, that such calls shall be in writing, duly signed, and shall be presented to the Clerk, who shall proceed immediately to cause notice of the same to be served upon the President and the Trustees in person or by a registered letter. The Village Clerk was not involved in the calling of the meeting; Trustee Gesky called it himself; it wasn't in writing or served by the Clerk. Furthermore, Trustee Gesky caused Ashley Peterson to post the agenda to the Village website. Ashley is not authorized to do so and will be disciplined accordingly.

Mayor LaMore is vetoing these items because they are thinly veiled attempts to illegally and unconstitutionally approve Joe Cankar as the Village attorney.
There are two items that are kind of weird as they deal with minutes approved by the board and a contract with B & F Construction, why are these four calling a special meeting before the normal board meeting? Why is it so urgent that they had to be rushed through? Everyone knows they are routinely approved at board meetings. Why do these four think it is so important to change these minutes? These Trustees are trying to illegally change the Village attorney. These Trustees called an illegal meeting to try and pick the Village attorney instead of realizing they needed to follow Village code. It was another blatant power grab by these four Trustees.

Mayor LaMore said she wanted to make it clear she is not opposed to approving a contract but the four never presented her with a contract for the Village attorney to review. These four are trying to amend the minutes of over a month ago. Why? Because they believe they are changing the record to approve their own attorney. It is both illegal and wrong and the way they are going about it is completely, procedurally, incorrect also.

I Mayor LaMore am hereby Vetoing the following items. 1) motion to approve an amendment to the previously approved minutes August 3, 2026, regular minutes of the board of Trustees 2) Consideration regarding the motion to approve the August 17 2026 regular minutes of the board of Trustees 3) consideration regarding a motion to approve a professional agreement with B & F Construction code services.

Finance (Trustee Barry)
Old Business on Agenda: None
New Business on Agenda: Nothing
Payment of Bills: $ (includes TIF #3-$0) $118,472.98
NEXT Finance Committee Meeting:
• Monday – 10/19/26, 5:00pm, Village Board Room

Trustee Barry wanted to clear up something about B & F Technical. They will be doing all the commercial and industrial inspections. They have been doing them for 7 or 8 years now and have expertise in this. So now we have a contract with them which we have never had going forward.
Trustee Gesky to Trustee Barry that this B & F technical stuff was brought up by you not me correct? Trustee Gesky stated you and I Trustee Barry have been working on this together correct? Yes per Trustee Barry.
Trustee Gesky stated that the mayor brought in her statements that the contract hadn't been presented to her. He said I received a copy and Trustee Barry stated I received a copy by can't speak for anyone else. But knows we did have discussion about it. The Fire Chief had an issue with the Village not having an inspector that could do what B & F can do.

Planning & Zoning (Trustee Boudreau)
Old Business on Agenda: None
New Business on Agenda: Nothing
Next Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting:
• Wed. - 10/14/26, 7:00 am, Village Board Room
NEXT Plan Commission Meeting:
• Tues. – 10/13/26, 6:00 pm

Trustee Boudreau stated that, although the mayor claimed the trustees were hiding information, the meetings are recorded and open to the public. He explained that they hold these meetings because, as reflected on the agenda, trustees are no longer permitted to speak. He compared the restriction to practices in China and said the situation had completely reversed. Trustee Boudreau requested that every item vetoed by the mayor be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting, as permitted under Illinois law.

Public Safety & Health (Trustee Vaughn)
Public Safety Committee Report:

Officer Mrazek spoke about keeping your kids safe during October fest, have them wear bright clothes, know their parents' phone numbers. Pick a meeting location with your kids in case you get separated.

NEXT Public Safety & Health Committee Meeting:
• Monday – 10/19/26, 5:00pm, Village Board Room
Public Works & Utilities (Trustee Crockett)

NEXT Public Works Committee Meeting:
• Tues. – 09/22/26, 7:00am, CANCELLED
Trustee Crockett stated that the mayor and the truth have a very casual relationship here. He was glad she brought up the meeting she felt was illegal. He stated he was glad she said it needed to be called by two or more Trustees because it was called by four and signed by four Trustees. It was mentioned that it needed the approval of the Clerk and we have no Clerk! When had no Clerk when that meeting was called so you were wrong it wasn't two Trustees it was four that called for the meeting, so you were wrong. Mayor LaMore stated you have a mayor.
Trustee Crockett asked the mayor when she was going to take some responsibility for the situation here because in your statement here he would like to know if she writes them or has someone do them for her? The mayor stated some are by her and some by legal authority. Trustee Crockett stated ok we are starting to get some truth here. He stated you blame Chris LaRocque you blame Dawn Gesky, Mayor LaMore gaveled that he was out of order and stated she doesn't want conflict! Trustee Crockett said because you lied to Ms. Wolf about her responsibility and that needs to be made apparent as to why she left. The mayor stated that what she told her was we were going to be paying her for FOIA. Mayor LaMore stated she doesn't understand how all these conflicts serve the Village and would like us all to follow the law.

Properties and Recreation (Trustee Gesky)
Old Business on Agenda: None
New Business on Agenda: Nothing
NEXT Properties & Recreation Committee Meeting:
• Wed- 10/14/26, 7:00am, Village Board Room

Trustee Gesky congratulated the girl's elementary softball team for going to state this past week. He would like the mayor to consider having accomplishments recognized by the Village with them coming to a meeting and getting a certificate.

Trustee Gesky stated he was under the impression that a building inspector was going to be voted on tonight. If we had voted on him he could be here n=more than just the 30 days not to exceed 2 terms so total of 60 days. But we were going to look at all the budgetary items before voting on them. Attorney Miller stated he was appointed to The Building Department not director of the building which is different position so it's not a temporary position.
Trustee Gesky asked if he is the Director of The Building Department? Attorney Miller YES

Trustee Gesky stated in terms of the Special Metting he had delivered an agenda to everyone and it was inappropriate to discipline Ashley Peterson as she was just being transparent. Mayor LaMore stated she is events coordinator and not in a position to do this. He said today we received a message that Allen Pickrel is going to be Clerk so do we now go through him and the mayor stated yes he is the Clerk.

General Government (Trustee Zimbelman)
Old Business on Agenda: None
New Business on Agenda: Nothing
NEXT General Government Committee Meeting:
• Tues- 09/22/26, 7:00am, CANCELLED

CONSIDERATION RE:
A Motion for the Appointment of Chief Rick Peterson as Chief of the Fire Protection Bureau
Motion by Trustee Boudreau 2nd Trustee Gesky
6-0 passed

CONSIDERATION RE:
A Motion to Approve an Agreement Between the Village of Manteno and
Manteno Community Fire Protection District for Fire Inspection Services
Attorney Miller stated this is just a change in the language for the position.
Trustee Gesky said because we just received this today he would like the opportunity to spend a little time reviewing it.
Motion by Trustee Gesky to table 2nd Trustee Barry
6-0 passed to table

CONSIDERATION RE:
MOTION to approve PAYMENT OF BILLS in the amount of $118,472.98
(Including: TIF #3-$0)
Motion Trustee Barry 2nd Trustee Boudreau
6-0 passed.

ADJOURNMENT
Motion by Trustee Crockett 2nd by Trustee Zimbelman
6-0 passed

Minutes taken by Alan Pickerel