

APPROVED MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Village of Antioch, Lake County, Illinois
Municipal Building: 935 Skidmore Drive, Antioch, IL 60002
February 25, 2026**

I. Call To Order

Mayor Gartner called the February 25, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:32 pm at the Antioch Municipal Building located at 935 Skidmore Drive, Antioch, IL and via Zoom.

II. Roll Call

Roll call indicated the following Trustees were present: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez and Pierce. Also present were Mayor Gartner, Attorney Vasselli, Administrator Lichterman and Clerk Romine. Absent: Trustee Pedersen.

III. Absent Trustees Wishing to Attend Remotely

There were no Trustees attending remotely.

IV. Mayoral Report –

Mayor Gartner commented on the recent grant received by Congressman Schneider for downtown accessibility improvements in the amount of \$580,000. He also announced the award received for Sequoit Creek Park for Engineering Excellence, described as the highest engineering award in the State of Illinois. He noted the state champion wrestling champion from ACHS may be recognized at a future board meeting.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

None.

V. Regular Business

1. Approval of the January 28, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented - Trustee Pierce moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to approve the January 28, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented.

Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez and Pierce.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 1: Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

2. Discussion regarding the FSS Fire Alarm System – Mayor Gartner introduced Chief Ian Kazian from the First Fire Protection District of Antioch. Chief Kazian discussed the District's intent to implement a direct-connect commercial fire alarm monitoring approach coordinated through LakeComm, noting LakeComm's preferred vendor is FSS and Antioch is the only district not currently connected.

Chief Kazian reviewed the general cost structure, and said existing customers could switch over at FSS cost (not the owner's). The proposal includes a five-year contract and no escalators are included. Chief Kazian also noted the contract could be terminated with 30 days written notice if LakeComm changes their preferred vendor.

APPROVED MINUTES

Trustee Macek expressed concern about monopolies and requested an agreement structure ensuring pricing would not increase annually. Chief Kazian indicated the monthly rate would remain in place for five years with no increases. Chief Kazian stated the program was not a mandate and would not void existing contracts; he provided examples supporting the need for reliable dispatch notification and reduced nuisance alarms, and noted public education would be provided.

Trustee Bluthardt asked whether this could save lives. Chief Kazian responded it would improve public safety and customer service and reduce nuisance alarms.

Trustee McNeill asked about multi-unit facilities. Chief Kazian stated it would depend on the panel setup, but they are typically connected to one unit.

Trustee Martinez asked whether an ordinance would require compliance and what action is required from the Village. Chief Kazian stated there is no requirement at this time to go with FSS, and the Fire District did not want to proceed until the Village agrees.

Trustee Pierce commented that the First Fire Protection District includes the incorporated Village of Antioch areas, and expressed concern about the need for Village approval. Attorney Vasselli provided explanation regarding jurisdiction and municipal requirements.

A proposed agreement will be presented at a future board meeting.

3. Discussion regarding the 2026 Chamber of Commerce events – Administrator Lichterman advised that the Chamber has agreed to withdraw the newly proposed Street Dance/Block Party event due to the scheduling conflict with other community events.

4. Discussion regarding the ticket tax – Mr. Michael Sheedy from the Antioch Theater presented his request to increase the ticket tax in order to provide flexibility to offset rising operating costs. Mr. Sheedy said they are not looking to increase the tax to \$3, but are looking to have that as a cap in order to provide some flexibility. At this time, they seek to increase the tax by \$.50 in order to provide a little more revenue in order to help with operational needs. They would like to reduce the number of days they are required to operate to avoid a potential conflict with community events.

Trustee Bluthardt asked if he would have to come back for each amount or if a threshold could be approved. Attorney Vasselli recommended that he request the specific tax increase by resolution each year, but an ordinance could be considered to provide the threshold amount of \$3.

Trustee McNeill agrees with the days per month, and asked for an explanation of the need for the increase. Mr. Sheedy responded that the movie studios receive a percentage of ticket sales, but not ticket tax. Since the tax doesn't go to the movie studios, the full tax amount comes back to the theater to assist with operating and capital costs. He also confirmed it's a pass-through tax that doesn't impact the Village in any way.

Trustee Martinez is on board with the request, but asked about potential impacts to PM&L Theater. Attorney Vasselli responded that there was a specific structure setup for this theater owner specifically, which is not applied to PML.

Trustee Pierce asked for an explanation of why the ticket cost isn't increasing. Mr. Sheedy responded that an increase in the ticket cost would go back to the studios.

Mr. Sheedy explained that he is required to be open for a set number of days to continue to be a first release movie theater, and confirmed that he still wants to maintain Wed-Sunday shows.

APPROVED MINUTES

This item will be placed on a future village board agenda for consideration.

5. Discussion regarding an engagement letter for bond counsel – Mayor Gartner introduced Mr. Jim Durkin to present his qualifications to serve as bond counsel for the Village of Antioch.

Mr. Jim Durkin provided an overview of the firms experience, particularly with municipal finance. He discussed their experience as bond counsel for various counties and cities in the state of Illinois.

Mayor Gartner stated the prior bond counsel is no longer available and discussed ongoing negotiations relating to the Marketplace development, including IDOT approvals and reimbursement discussions. The developer has indicated they cannot proceed without upfront funds for infrastructure improvements.

VI. Other Business

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Romine, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES

VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – REGULAR MEETING
Village of Antioch, Lake County, Illinois
Municipal Building: 935 Skidmore Drive, Antioch, IL 60002
February 25, 2026

I. Call to Order

Mayor Gartner called the February 25, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:34 pm at the Antioch Municipal Building located at 935 Skidmore Drive, Antioch, IL and via Zoom.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor and Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Roll call indicated the following Trustees were present: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez and Pierce.. Also present were Mayor Gartner, Attorney Vasselli, Administrator Lichterman and Clerk Romine. Absent: Trustee Pedersen.

IV. Absent Trustees Wishing to Attend Remotely

There were no Trustees attending remotely.

V. Mayoral Report

None.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

There were no citizens wishing to address the board.

VI. Reports

None.

VII. Consent Agenda

Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

1. Approval of the February 11, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented

Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez and Pierce.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 1: Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. Regular Business

1. Consideration and approval of payment of accounts payable as prepared by staff in the amount of \$2,636,160.19 – Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to approve payment of accounts payable in the amount of \$2,636,160.19 Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez and Pierce.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 1: Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVED MINUTES

2. Consideration and approval of a Resolution Granting a Class G Single Special Event Liquor License to the Brothers of Liberty for its Comedy Night event to be held on March 7, 2026; waiving all fees – Trustee Bluthardt moved to approve **Resolution No. 26-24**, Granting a Class G Single Special Event Liquor License to the Brothers of Liberty for its Comedy Night event to be held on March 7, 2026; waiving all fees.

The motion died for a lack of second.

3. Consideration and approval of an Ordinance amending Section 10-14-14 of the Antioch Village Code regarding Electronic Message Boards within the Village of Antioch, Illinois – Administrator Lichterman said the text amendment is fairly strict, and if approved the applicant would have to comply with the code. He added that staff may return at a future meeting if additional leniency is requested.

Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to approve **Ordinance No. 26-01-05**, amending Section 10-14-14 of the Antioch Village Code regarding Electronic Message Boards within the Village of Antioch, Illinois, waiving the second reading – *Ordinance No. 26-01-05 (continued from the January 28 meeting)*

Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez and Pierce.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 1: Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

4. Consideration and approval of an Ordinance granting land use relief for the property located at 433 Depot Road in the Village of Antioch, Illinois (Special Use – Electronic Message Board) –

Trustee McNeill moved, seconded by Trustee Bluthardt, to approve **Ordinance No. 26-01-06**, granting land use relief for the property located at 433 Depot Road in the Village of Antioch, Illinois (Special Use – Electronic Message Board) waiving the second reading. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez and Pierce.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 1: Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

5. Consideration and approval of a Resolution approving Croke Fairchild Duarte & Beres LLC to act as Bond Counsel and Disclosure Counsel in Connection with the potential issuance of 2026 Bonds for the Village of Antioch – Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to approve **Resolution No. 26-25**, approving Croke Fairchild Duarte & Beres LLC to act as Bond Counsel and Disclosure Counsel in Connection with the potential issuance of 2026 Bonds for the Village of Antioch. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez and Pierce.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 1: Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

6. Consideration and approval of an ordinance approving the Salary Ranges for management and non-union employees of the Village of Antioch, Illinois – Trustee Macek moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to accept the first reading of **Ordinance No. 26-02-08**, approving the Salary Ranges for management and non-union employees of the Village of Antioch, Illinois.

Trustee Macek discussed the ranges for the commander positions in the police department and requested an increase to the minimum for a commander. Administrator Lichterman said the ranges reflect existing ranges but do not preclude the Board from adding new positions or changing ranges with Board approval. Attorney Vasselli and Administrator Lichterman noted these are salary ranges (not actual salaries) and allow for merit-based pay; Administrator Lichterman noted staff may return with proposed new positions

APPROVED MINUTES

and/or ranges, and at a minimum staff will present once per year. Trustee Pierce confirmed employees may still be hired above the minimum range if warranted by skills.

Upon roll call to accept the first reading of the ordinance, the vote was:

YES: 5: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez and Pierce.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 1: Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Pierce moved, seconded by Trustee Martinez, to approve the second reading and Ordinance No. 26-02-08 as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez and Pierce.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 1: Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

7. Consideration and approval of an Ordinance Approving and Adopting Amendments to the Employee Handbook for the Village of Antioch, Illinois – Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee Pierce, to approve **Ordinance No. 26-02-09**, Approving and Adopting Amendments to the Employee Handbook for the Village of Antioch, Illinois, waiving the second reading. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez and Pierce.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 1: Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

IX. Administrator's Report

Administrator Lichterman discussed meetings with the Township Supervisor and the District 34 Superintendent, and noted the FY27 budget is still being worked on. He advised a new generator is being installed at the Police Department. He discussed Shamrock Jam on March 7 and said Parents Night Out was a big success; he read aloud a letter of commendation regarding the event and Grace Ford in the Parks Department. He also noted an upcoming Easter parade.

X. Village Clerk's Report

Clerk Romine announced that the Spring Clean Up Day has been scheduled for May 14, 2026 with Groot.

XI. Trustee Reports

Trustee Macek said he was at the Police Department and noted the building is getting dilapidated. He requested a gate at Pedersen Park and a sign at the new park on Route 59.

Trustee Martinez thanked Village staff and the Park Commission for their work on the Hot Chocolate Walk. He said businesses on Main Street felt there was missing communication between them and the Village, and requested that someone reach out to them, particularly when new events come up.

XII. Executive Session

None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees regular meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Romine, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk