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
May 27, 2026

I. Call To Order
Mayor Gartner called the May 27, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 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, Pierce and Pedersen. Also present were Mayor Gartner, Attorney Vasselli, Administrator Lichterman and Clerk Romine.

IV. Absent Trustees Wishing to Attend Remotely
There were no Trustees attending remotely.

V. Mayoral Report
Mayor Gartner acknowledged Jewish Heritage Month in May, and announced the recent opening of the aquatic center for the season. He also shared the splash pad hours are from 9am-8pm, and commented on his recent attendance at the ICSC conference.

VI. Public Comment -
Mr. Mike O'Mara, Village resident and local veteran, spoke regarding the proposed Veterans Memorial. He expressed concerns about the wetlands location, financial inconsistencies, conflicting reports and statements, and the potential financial liability to taxpayers for construction of the memorial. He also stated that the American Legion and VFW were not meaningfully included in decisions regarding the memorial. In addition, he commented on the lack of congressional recognition of the current veterans committee and expressed concern that including the memorial as part of the Brook Wetlands was disrespectful to Bill Brook. He noted that September marks the 25th anniversary of Bill Brook's memorial and asked the Board to reconsider the current direction in order to appropriately honor the men and women recognized by the memorial.

VII. Regular Business
1. **Approval of the May 13, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented -** Trustee Pedersen moved, seconded by Trustee Pierce, to approve the May 13, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented.

Upon roll call, the vote was:
YES: 6: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez, Pierce and Pedersen.
NO: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
THE MOTION CARRIED.

2. **Discussion regarding Liquor Code Amendments –** Administrator Lichterman reviewed the revisions to the proposed draft, noting that the changes would retain Village Board authorization for Class "G" Special Event licenses. He also reported that staff met with the owners of Black Velvet

Lounge, who agreed to provide a clear view into the establishment. In addition, staff spoke with three liquor license holders regarding the potential conversion of their licenses from restaurant licenses to bar and tavern licenses.

Trustee Macek asked whether a set number of police responses to an establishment could trigger a fine or fee. Attorney Vasselli stated that he would like to develop language for possible inclusion in the amendments after consulting with the Police Department regarding tracking procedures. Staff will continue to work with the attorney on this option.

3. Update on the Veteran's Memorial Project – Administrator Lichterman reported that staff has been working in consultation with Ms. Rentner and Josh Boller. He provided background on the approved location by the Village Board for the memorial, and the Village's purchase of an eagle for display at the memorial. He stated that memorial components have been completed and are awaiting delivery. He also noted the funds that have been raised to date, with additional sponsorships anticipated once a groundbreaking date is established. He added that Mr. Boller has secured a number of materials, supplies, and labor contributions, and additional contributions may be obtained if a groundbreaking date is finalized. The Village is prepared to contribute certain Public Works services. Administrator Lichterman also reviewed outstanding project needs, including landscaping, miscellaneous equipment, and flagpoles, and noted that sponsorship opportunities remain available for monuments and flags.

Ms. Deb Rentner provided an update on the status of the memorial project and requested that a groundbreaking date be established. She reported that $227,288 has been raised to date. She stated that the monuments have been completed and are currently in Ohio, and that storage charges will apply if they remain there beyond the end of the month. Ms. Rentner also stated that, based on Mr. Boller's input, additional contractors may become involved once a specific groundbreaking date is set. She noted that material costs continue to increase as the groundbreaking is delayed and requested authorization to move forward, adding that although the project remains short of full funding, additional donations may be received once visible progress is made.

Trustee Macek stated that he had requested bank statements multiple times and expressed concern regarding the reported fundraising total. He also expressed concern about the use of taxpayer funds for monuments, questioned whether all actions related to the project had been handled appropriately, and stated that he did not support the proposed location based on comments he had received from various veterans.

Mayor Gartner commented that there was a vote on the location and it was approved by the Village Board.

Trustee Bluthardt stated that the bank statements had been provided to the Administrator. Administrator Lichterman said he had reviewed the available cash on hand, which he believed to be approximately $79,000. Trustee Bluthardt stated that all funds are accounted for in the statements from the first deposit through the most recent transaction and said the statements could be redistributed to the Board. He also reported that four monuments have been committed, the Lions Club has made a pledge, and benches and commemorative bricks have been sold. He stated that the Village agreed to purchase the eagle as a donation to the project and expressed confidence that the project figures are legitimate. He further noted that a cost estimate provided the previous November anticipated that some expenses would be covered through donations; however, some expected contributions have not materialized, resulting in a funding shortfall based on the costs identified by Mr. Boller. Trustee Bluthardt reviewed the project shortfall and their efforts to obtain additional donations. He also commented on the various potential memorial locations, stating that the Antioch Veteran's Memorial

(AVM) and the Village had promoted the approved location until objections were raised and the matter was formally voted on by the Village Board. He felt as though the Board should move forward with the location previously approved and expressed his view that it is a beautiful location for the memorial.

Trustee McNeill stated that she wants the veterans to be satisfied with the project. She also commented on logistical concerns related to alternate locations that had previously been discussed. Administrator Lichterman stated that alternate sites may present logistical issues and would require additional time, funding, and engineering review. He noted that access to and maintenance of utility infrastructure at an alternate location would need to be addressed and that engineering design work and soil borings would also be required.

Trustee Martinez asked whether an environmental study had been completed for the Brook site to confirm that the location is permissible. Administrator Lichterman stated that, based on the current design and engineering, only a Village permit is required because the project does not encroach into other areas. Trustee Martinez commented on the site's location and its proximity to Sequoit Creek Park, stating that the memorial could help inspire future generations. He also expressed concern that the Village could lose credibility given the contributions already received. He noted that there are multiple memorials in the Village and suggested discussion of whether existing memorials should be consolidated at the tank site. He further commented on the importance of investing in maintenance of existing parks. Ms. Rentner stated that the possibility of relocating memorials currently located in front of Village Hall has been discussed and that incorporating them into the proposed site has been considered. Trustee Martinez stated that, based on comments received from the American Legion and VFW, he would encourage continued discussions moving forward.

Trustee Pierce stated that he was saddened by the division the memorial discussions have created within the community and between groups with similar interests. He expressed the view that the focus should be on honoring those who served rather than continuing to dispute the location. He also commented on the wetlands, and the condition of the area and stated that the project should move forward.

Trustee Pedersen stated that she voted for the location originally because she believed it was not part of the Bill Brook Wetland memorial, but now believes that it is. She commented on the origin, dedication, and history of the Bill Brook Wetland memorial and stated that the proposed site is part of that memorial area and that space is limited. She expressed concern about the Village's financial ability to maintain the site, noting that the Village does not operate a park district and has limited funding for parks and recreation. She also stated that trees that would need to be removed are part of the Bill Brook Wetland memorial. Trustee Pedersen stated that the tank location has always been identified as the preferred site and could be enhanced. She further stated that William E. Brook should be honored by leaving that memorial area unchanged. Trustee Pedersen requested that the item be placed on the next Village Board agenda for final action to locate the veterans memorial on Village property near the tank.

Ms. Rentner stated that the AVM is also made up of veterans and acknowledged that some individuals are dissatisfied with the proposed location. She stated that she did not request that specific site, but instead asked the Village for property and was offered the current location.

Trustee Bluthardt asked what the cost would be to determine whether an alternate site is buildable. He expressed concern that the site may either be infeasible for construction or require costs high enough to affect other Village services. He also expressed concern about further delays, stating that he did not object to evaluating the site, but questioned where the memorial would be located if the site proved financially infeasible.

Trustee McNeill stated that she would also like to see estimated costs associated with alternate sites. She said she was not prepared to discuss the matter further without additional information, as she had understood the discussion at this meeting was intended to be a fundraising update.

Trustee Martinez stated that the project had previously been considered a private endeavor and expressed concern that evaluating other locations would require the expenditure of public funds on a private project.

Trustee Pierce commented that the matter has created turmoil and stated that the Board should also consider a resolution at the next meeting granting the necessary permits and authorizing the work to proceed at the approved location.

Trustee Pedersen stated that Bill Brook's family does not share the view that another memorial should be placed in the same location.

Ms. Rentner stated that she appeared before the Board seeking guidance on a groundbreaking date and that the project has remained in limbo for several years, while contributors are requesting answers. Mayor Gartner stated that he would need to meet with staff to determine how the matter should proceed. Ms. Rentner also stated that, with the exception of Clem Haley, a majority of the VFW members had not approached her to discuss the memorial, noting that her conversation with Mr. Haley had been civil.

4. Discussion regarding E-Bikes – Administrator Lichterman reported that the House has adopted three amendments to Senate Bill 3336. He recommended a wait-and-see approach, noting that the legislation continues to evolve and that it would be difficult to mirror the state law at this time.

Trustee McNeill asked whether public education efforts could be undertaken in the meantime to help improve public safety. Administrator Lichterman stated that education efforts could be pursued. Deputy Chief Smith reported that a sergeant has met with youth to discuss the issue and that citations have been issued when appropriate. He added that he would speak with the Chief regarding possible Facebook posts to further educate the public.

Trustee Bluthardt asked whether there had been many incidents this year. Deputy Chief Smith stated that there had been no injuries, but that the Police Department has received several complaints and has addressed them when able.

Trustee Pierce commented on the various ways minors are operating e-bikes and stated that he would like to ensure that children are able to ride them in a fair and reasonable manner.

Trustee Pedersen stated that she had witnessed children riding in the middle of the roadway, failing to stop at stop signs, and cutting off motorists.

5. Discussion regarding amendments to golf cart regulations – Administrator Lichterman said staff would like to consider the elimination of seasonality of golf cart operations to allow them year-round. Staff would also like to clarify in the definitions that golf carts are equipped with 4 wheels.

<u>VIII. Other Business</u>

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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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
May 27, 2026

I. Call to Order
Mayor Gartner called the May 27, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:17 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, Pierce and Pedersen. Also present were Mayor Gartner, Attorney Vasselli, Administrator Lichterman and Clerk Romine.

III. Absent Trustees Wishing to Attend Remotely
There were no Trustees attending remotely.

IV. Mayoral Report
No report.

V. Public Comment
Mr. Jay Jozwiak, Village resident, spoke in support of the memorial and stated that the issue was not initiated by only two individuals. He commented on his efforts to support the memorial through fundraising, including collecting donations at Thursday night concerts, and noted Memorial Day flag placement and visits to schools and Springfield.

Ms. Alice Burnette spoke regarding the memorial and stated that, although she would like to donate and Bill Brook was important to her family, she has not donated because of the proposed location.
Ms. PJ Delp, AVM board member and disabled combat veteran, spoke in support of all veterans. She commented on her military service, expressed concern regarding statements previously made to the Village Board, and stated that she respects the Board's decisions and differing opinions regarding location. She also expressed appreciation to Lyle Ferris for collecting signatures from individuals unable to attend the meeting.

Ms. Ainsley Wonderling, Township resident, commented on the proposed memorial location, the wetlands area, use of tax dollars, commemorative brick fundraising, and alternative locations, including near the tank and on Skidmore. She also requested consideration of the Army Corps of Engineers' opinion regarding the site.

Mr. Paul Hettich thanked Trustees Macek and Pedersen and Martinez for their comments. He spoke regarding his military service, prior requests for a memorial, statements made at a prior American Legion meeting, Bill Brook's contributions to the community, and the Army Corps of Engineers. He encouraged the Board to consider all individuals who had spoken on the matter.

VI. Reports
None.

VII. Consent Agenda
Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee Pedersen to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

1. Approval of the May 13, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented

2. Approval of a Resolution approving the 2026 Tag Day Schedule for the Village of Antioch, Illinois
3. Acceptance of the "Annual Report by Treasurer" for fiscal year ended April 30, 2026

Upon roll call, the vote was:
YES: 6: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez, Pierce and Pedersen.
NO: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
THE MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. Regular Business

4. Consideration and approval of payment of accounts payable as prepared by staff in the amount of $1,565,551.87 – Trustee Pedersen moved, seconded by Trustee Martinez, to approve payment of accounts payable in the amount of $1,565,551.87. Upon roll call, the vote was:
YES: 6: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez, Pierce and Pedersen.
NO: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
THE MOTION CARRIED.

5. Consideration and approval of an Ordinance authorizing and approving a redevelopment agreement by and between the Village of Antioch, Illinois and Brown 173 LLC - Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to table an Ordinance authorizing and approving a redevelopment agreement by and between the Village of Antioch, Illinois and Brown 173 LLC to the June 10 meeting.
Upon roll call, the vote was:
YES: 6: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez, Pierce and Pedersen.
NO: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
THE MOTION CARRIED.

6. Consideration and approval of the Supplemental Annual Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2026 – Trustee Pedersen moved, seconded by Trustee Martinez, to approve **Ordinance No. 26-05-20**, the Supplemental Annual Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2026 waiving the second reading. Upon roll call, the vote was:
YES: 6: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez, Pierce and Pedersen.
NO: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
THE MOTION CARRIED.

7. Consideration and approval of an Ordinance acknowledging potential changes in liquor license classes for certain liquor licensees operating in the Village of Antioch, Illinois - Trustee Pedersen moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill to approve **Ordinance No. 26-05-21**, acknowledging potential changes in liquor license classes for certain liquor licensees operating in the Village of Antioch, Illinois, waiving the second reading. Upon roll call, the vote was:
YES: 6: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez, Pierce and Pedersen.
NO: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
THE MOTION CARRIED.

IX. Administrator's Report

Administrator Lictherman discussed the safe routes to school program in coordination with D34 and D117 to improve health and ease traffic congestion near school zones. This program also sets up the village for future grant opportunities. He added that D33 was invited, but elected not to participate. He thanked staff , particularly public works and parks and rec for their work over the Memorial Day holiday.

X. Village Clerk's Report

No report.

XI. Trustee Reports

None.

XII. Executive Session

Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to enter into executive session at 8:50 pm to discuss pending or imminent litigation and security measures under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8)&(11). Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 6: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez, Pierce and Pedersen.
NO: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
THE MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Pedersen moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to return from executive session at 9:36 pm with no action taken. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 6: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill, Martinez, Pierce and Pedersen.
NO: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
THE MOTION CARRIED.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees regular meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lori K. Romine, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk