

APPROVED MINUTES

VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES – REGULAR MEETING Village of Antioch, Lake County, Illinois Municipal Building: 935 Skidmore Drive, Antioch, IL 60002 August 26, 2026

I. Call to Order

Mayor Gartner called the August 26, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:37 pm at the Antioch Municipal Building located at 935 Skidmore Drive, Antioch, IL and via Zoom.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor and Village Board led the pledge of allegiance.

III. Roll Call

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

IV. Absent Trustees Wishing to Attend Remotely

There were no Trustees attending remotely.

V. Mayoral Report

1. Recognition of Joseph Hettich, Eagle Scout – Mayor Gartner read aloud the achievements of Joseph Hettich and his journey to Eagle Scout.

2. Appoint Brian Parks to the Planning and Zoning Board replacing Samantha Misch with a term ending 2029 - Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to appoint Brian Parks to the Planning and Zoning Board with a term ending 2029. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 4: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill and Martinez.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 2: Pierce and Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

3. Appoint James Millard to the Police Pension Board replacing Jason Bellucci with a term ending 2028 - Trustee Macek moved, seconded by Trustee Bluthardt, to appoint James Millard to the Police Pension Board with a term ending 2028. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 4: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill and Martinez.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 2: Pierce and Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

Following their appointments, Clerk Romine administered the oath of office to Commissioners Parks and Millard.

4. Proclamation – Mayor Gartner summarized the proclamation recognizing National Payroll Week.

Mayor Gartner also recognized Dave Hanson on his 34 years of service, and Director Heimbrodt provided an overview of Dave's career and honored his commitment to the Village of Antioch.

Mayor Gartner recognized the employment anniversaries of the following employees: Dave Hanson (34), Paul Klem (19), Gina Splitt (10), Wes Kumpula (9), Mikayla Zamora (5), Kelli Posson (2), Robynn Richards (1) and Beckey Kijak (1).

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He also announced the “Best of the Best” awards granted by the Daily Herald to the Village and local businesses.

Mayor Gartner announced that the Board will be voting on the location of the future memorial tonight. As far as the design and cost, those are still to be determined. He thanked Senator Wilcox for the partial grant included in the State budget and the Antioch Veterans Memorial Committee for their work on the project.

VI. Public Comment

Mayor Gartner acknowledged an email received earlier in the day from Mary Dominiak regarding the Veterans Memorial Project, which had been distributed to the Village Board.

Nancy Rentner thanked her daughter, Debbie Rentner, for the work she has devoted to the Veterans Memorial Project over the past 20 years. She stated that the previously selected site would be a desirable location because of its proximity to the park.

Carter Bell stated that he has been involved with the Veterans Memorial Project for approximately eight years and acknowledged Debbie Rentner’s efforts. He commented that the project has been exhausting and has experienced delays because of changes to the proposed site or location. He noted the Village Board’s unanimous vote selecting the current site, which prompted the Antioch Veterans Memorial (AVM) to begin fundraising, design, and implementation efforts. He stated that locating the memorial across from the award-winning Sequoit Creek Park would create a centerpiece for Village activities. He expressed concern that the proposed location is not aesthetically pleasing because it is surrounded by parking lots and would detract from the memorial’s beauty and appearance. He urged the Board to reject the resolution.

Debbie Rentner commented on her request, approximately 20 years ago, to build a veterans memorial in the Village of Antioch. At that time, she requested property for the memorial, which was approved with the condition that the size of the memorial be reduced. She stated that AVM presented the approved location to donors, spent thousands of dollars on renderings and designs, and conducted fundraising efforts. She raised several concerns for the Board’s consideration. She stated that records were provided to her by email on Monday, August 24, and that AVM had not had an opportunity to discuss the plans or designs presented. She believed AVM should have the opportunity to review the materials provided to the Trustees and offer input. She asked whether the plans represented the final design and whether final plans would be required to come before the Village Board for approval. She stated that moving the memorial to the tank location would result in an additional cost of approximately \$100,000, which AVM would not be responsible for raising. While acknowledging the grant funding, she expressed the opinion that grant funds should not be used for relocation and stated that the funding issue should be resolved before the evening’s vote. She also stated that AVM members had been subjected to lies, threats, and communications. She publicly thanked the five Village Trustees who had contacted, spoken with, and listened to her, as well as Clem Haley and Lyle Ferris for meeting with and listening to her. She thanked the AVM Board for facing obstacles with honor and integrity and working together to bring the project to fruition. She stated that the memorial is more important to her than its location.

Mike O’Mara, speaking on behalf of the VFW and American Legion veterans, thanked the Mayor, Village Board, AVM Committee, and community for coming together to advance the project. He also thanked Senator Wilcox for securing grant funding for the memorial.

VII. Reports

1. Monthly Treasurer’s Report – Senior Accountant Beckey Kijak presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month of July, 2026.

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VIII. Consent Agenda

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

3. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing and Approving a Complete Streets Policy for the Village of Antioch, Illinois – *Resolution No. 26-76*
4. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing and Approving a Service Agreement for Network Maintenance between DeKind Computer Consultants and the Village of Antioch, Illinois – *Resolution No. 26-77*
5. Approval of a Resolution Granting a Class G Single Special Event Liquor License to the Antioch Lodge #525, Loyal Order of Moose, for the “It’s Thursday” Summer Concert Series on September 3, 2026 and September 10, 2026 – *Resolution No. 26-78*
6. Approval of a Resolution Granting a Class G Single Special Event Liquor License for VFW Post 4551 for the extended “It’s Thursday” Summer Concert Series on September 3, 2026 and September 10, 2026 – *Resolution No. 26-79*
7. Consideration and approval of a Resolution regarding the release and non-release of Closed Session Minutes for the Village of Antioch, Illinois – *Resolution No. 26-80*

Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 4: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill and Martinez.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 2: Pierce and Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

IX. Regular Business

Item #1 was removed from the consent agenda for a vote

1. Approval of the August 12, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented – Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee Martinez, to approve the August 12, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 3: Bluthardt, McNeill and Martinez.

NO: 0.

ABSTAIN: 1: Macek.

ABSENT: 2: Pierce and Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

8. Consideration and approval of payment of accounts payable as prepared by staff in the amount of \$679,240.60 – Trustee McNeill moved, seconded by Trustee Martinez, to approve payment of accounts payable in the amount of \$679,240.60. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 4: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill and Martinez.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 2: Pierce and Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

9. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the approval of expenditures in connection with travel on behalf of the Village of Antioch, Illinois - Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to approve **Resolution No. 26-81** authorizing the approval of expenditures in connection with travel on behalf of the Village of Antioch, Illinois.

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Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 4: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill and Martinez.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 2: Pierce and Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

10. Consideration and approval of a Resolution repealing Resolution No. 25-21 and Authorizing the Village to break ground on the Antioch Veterans Memorial Project at the property commonly known as the “Tank” in the Village of Antioch, Illinois – Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee Martinez, to establish the location of the Antioch Veterans Memorial Project at the tank location (Toft and Orchard) with all additional approval being subject to additional board approval.

Trustee Macek clarified that his original vote previously mentioned during public comment was to reduce the size of the proposed memorial, and he did not vote in favor of the location of the Memorial at the Brook Wetlands.

Mayor Gartner stated that Trustee Pierce sent comments that were distributed to the Board, and he can make statements when this is discussed further at a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Attorney Vasselli stated that he has reviewed the motion in light of what was posted on the agenda, and finds it is in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 4: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill and Martinez.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 2: Pierce and Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

11. Consideration and approval of a Resolution authorizing the Village to break ground on the Antioch Veterans Memorial Project at the Brook Wetland Memorial in the Village of Antioch, Illinois
There was no motion on the table for this item.

12. Consideration and approval of a Resolution authorizing the purchase of equipment and services for the Village of Antioch, Illinois (*Public Works – Doors and Access Control Expansion*) in the amount of \$36,626.87 - Trustee Macek moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to approve **Resolution No. 26-83**, authorizing the purchase of equipment and services for the Village of Antioch, Illinois (*Public Works – Doors and Access Control Expansion*) in the amount of \$36,626.87. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 4: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill and Martinez.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 2: Pierce and Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

13. Consideration and approval of a Resolution authorizing and approving the purchase of Surveillance Equipment and Services for the Village of Antioch, Illinois in the amount of \$28,286.54 - Trustee Macek moved, seconded by Trustee Martinez, to approve **Resolution No. 26-84**, authorizing and approving the purchase of Surveillance Equipment and Services for the Village of Antioch, Illinois in the amount of \$28,286.54. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 4: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill and Martinez.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 2: Pierce and Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

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14. Consideration and approval of a Resolution authorizing Rubicon Environmental Services, LLC to provide equipment and services for the South Aeration Tank Fine-Bubble Aeration Grid Diffuser Replacement on behalf of the Village of Antioch, Illinois in the amount not to exceed \$33,100 - Trustee Macek moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to approve **Resolution No. 26-85**, authorizing Rubicon Environmental Services, LLC to provide equipment and services for the South Aeration Tank Fine-Bubble Aeration Grid Diffuser Replacement on behalf of the Village of Antioch, Illinois in the amount not to exceed \$33,100. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 4: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill and Martinez.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 2: Pierce and Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

15. Consideration and approval of a Resolution Authorizing and Approving a Professional Services Agreement between HR Green, Inc. and the Village of Antioch, Illinois (*Construction Observation Services Antioch Marketplace Phase 2*) - Trustee Macek moved, seconded by Trustee Martinez, to approve **Resolution No. 26-86**, Authorizing and Approving a Professional Services Agreement between HR Green, Inc. and the Village of Antioch, Illinois (*Construction Observation Services Antioch Marketplace Phase 2*). Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 4: Macek, Bluthardt, McNeill and Martinez.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 2: Pierce and Pedersen.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

X. Administrator's Report

Administrator Lichterman reported that staff will continue to pursue the memorial at the tank site and will work with the current project partners to develop a final design and cost estimate for future Board consideration. Staff will also begin the grant application process, which is anticipated to be lengthy, and will provide updates to the Board as the project progresses. Trustee Macek noted that studies were required at Toft Avenue and that Bob Wonderling and his group provided the funds necessary to relocate the memorial from its existing location.

Administrator Lichterman also provided an update on the downtown TIF process, noting that staff is working with the consultant and that a tentative schedule has been established. Staff is also communicating with EM8 as the TIF process moves forward. He further reported that the Thursday night concert series will be extended to make up for a prior cancellation.

The Board packet included information regarding the Flock camera system and the safeguards in place to prevent misuse of collected data. It was noted that two cameras had been vandalized, and the Police Department is reviewing whether additional protective measures are necessary. The Board also received a letter from FQC indicating that it is working with the Lake County Division of Transportation to expedite permanent access on North Avenue.

Finally, appreciation was expressed to the Chief for reporting that Governor Pritzker signed e-bike legislation. The legislation will impose restrictions on certain devices effective January 1, 2027.

XI. Village Clerk's Report

No report.

XII. Trustee Reports

Trustee Macek expressed interest in the future use of the park property adjacent to Heron Harbor and requested that the Park Commission begin discussing potential improvements and uses for the site. He also raised concerns regarding overgrown vegetation at the Brook Memorial and requested the installation of security cameras in the park.

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Trustee Bluthardt commended the efforts of the Antioch Veterans Memorial Committee, particularly Deb and Carter, in advancing the veterans memorial project. He acknowledged the divisiveness surrounding the project. He said he still believes the original location is a better choice, but encouraged the Board and community to move forward together for the benefit of Antioch. He expressed hope that the grant application would be successful, thanked the Senator for assistance, and noted that additional fundraising would be needed to construct a memorial of which the community could be proud. He encouraged those supporting the selected location to assist with those fundraising efforts.

Trustee Martinez reported that he has attended Open Mic events where veterans gather and thanked the participants for the opportunity to discuss the memorial project.

Mayor Gartner thanked all those involved in moving the project forward, with particular recognition of Josh Boller for his efforts in coordinating volunteers and donors.

XIII. Other Business

None.

XIV. Executive Session

The Mayor and Village Board did not go into executive session.

XV. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees regular meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Romine, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk