

**VILLAGE OF LAKE VILLA
VILLAGE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
February 3rd, 2025**

Call to Order: Mayor McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Present: Mayor McDonald, Village Clerk Konrad, Trustees: Nielsen, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, and McCollum, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jake Litz, Finance Director Christine McKinley, Chief of Police Rochelle Tisinai, Public Works Supervisors Ryan Horton and Jim Bowles, Village Attorney Rebecca Alexopoulos. Village Administrator Michael Strong and Trustee Barbato were absent.

ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:

AYES: 5 (Nielsen, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 (Barbato)

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment: None

Minutes: It was moved by Trustee Nielsen and seconded by Trustee Bartlett to approve the January 21st, 2025 Village Board Committee of the Whole Minutes.

ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:

AYES: 4 (Nielsen, O'Reilly, Bartlett, McCollum)

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 (Barbato)

ABSTAIN: 1 (Savell)

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Trustee Bartlett and seconded by Trustee Nielsen to approve the January 21st, 2025 Village Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:

AYES: 4 (Nielsen, O'Reilly, Bartlett, McCollum)

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 (Barbato)

ABSTAIN: 1 (Savell)

MOTION CARRIED

Finance: It was moved by Trustee O'Reilly and seconded by Trustee McCollum to approve the accounts payable report for February 3rd, 2025 in the amount of \$287,720.97.

ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:

AYES: 5 (Nielsen, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 (Barbato)

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor: The Mayor reminded the board of the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade kicking off at noon with Corned Beef and Cabbage at the VFW to follow. Lake County is hosting a Flavor Festival for the month of February. A QR code (available on the Village website) will allow for discounts at participating local restaurants.

Staff Reports: Coffee with a Cop will be held February 11th from 7-8:30 am at the new Dunkin Donuts on Grass Lake Road

Discussion: Geese Management on Cedar Lake

The Village Board heard a brief presentation by "Friends of Cedar Lake" live on strategies to mitigate water quality challenges resulting from waterfowl, shoreline erosion, invasive species, and other aquatic life.

Discussion: Update on Engineering Standards and Municipal Code Review

The Village Board heard an update from the Village Engineer on municipal code sections relative to water and sewer utilities, subdivision standards, right-of-way protection, and other utility and infrastructure regulations and requirements.

Discussion: FY 2026 Budget—Revenues and Assumptions

The Village Board heard a presentation outlining the anticipated revenues and assumptions for next fiscal year's budget.

Old Business: Discussion & Approval: Update on Lakes Region Sanitary District Asset Transfer

Village Board reviewed a policy that transfer of Lakes Region Sanitary District (LRSD) assets to municipalities within its former boundaries. Since 2019, Lake County Public Works has assumed the operations and maintenance of the LRSD assets, and has been serving portions of Lake Villa and surrounding areas of Lake County. Village Board directed staff to perform visual site inspections of the assets and to coordinate with Lake County on any video data they have relative to the assets located in the Prairie Trail and Cedar Ridge subdivisions. An update was provided and the Village Board conferred on whether to authorize the Village Administrator to distribute a letter to Lake County expressing intent to accept the transfer of former LRSD assets to the Village. Pursuant to Lake County policy notification from the Village must be provided no later than May 2025.

It was moved by Trustee Savell and seconded by Trustee O'Reilly to authorize the Mayor and Village Administrator to notify Lake County Department of Public Works of the Village's intent to accept the transfer of former Lakes Region Sanitary District Assets to the Village of Lake Villa.

ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:

AYES: 5 (Nielsen, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 (Barbato)

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED

New Business: Resolution 2025-02-01: Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative

The Village Board conferred on approving Resolution 2025-02-01 authorizing participation in NIMEC. This resolution pertains to the purchase of electricity for the Village operated water and sewer facilities. This authorizes the Village Administrator to execute electricity supply agreements for various water and sewer facilities once future rates are determined. The Village has been using NIMEC as its electricity broker since 2008. Because NIMEC has extensive expertise in the northern Illinois power market and manages a buying collaborative, aggregating the collective power of 123 municipalities, 47 library/park district/water districts allowing (\$20 to \$25 million/year) allows NIMEC to negotiate rates that are lower than what an individual municipality could negotiate on their own.

It was moved by Trustee Nielsen and seconded by Trustee Savell to approve Resolution No. 2025-02-01 authorizing the participation in the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative and authorizing the Village Administrator to execute electricity service agreements up to 36 months.

ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:

AYES: 5 (Nielsen, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 (Barbato)

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion & Approval: Community Solar Program

The Village Board conferred on a Community Solar Program in anticipation of ComEd summer rates. To circumvent cost increases, the Village Board conferred on engaging E4, LLC, an energy market consultant, to participate in Illinois's Community Solar Program. This program leverages the state's deregulated electricity market and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) to reduce municipal energy expenses by subscribing to offsite solar projects. Allowing the Village to subscribe various utility accounts (*e.g., lift stations, well houses, and facilities*) to receive bill credits that would offset electricity costs.

Estimated savings range from \$2,500 to \$7,700 annually over the 15 to 20-year agreements. E4, LLC will assist the Village in identifying optimal solar projects within ComEd's service area, negotiating subscription terms, and maximizing financial and environmental benefits.

No vote was taken, the item was tabled due to questions and further information.

Discussion: Pay Plan/Compensation Study

The Village Board heard a presentation by staff introducing a compensation relative to positions in the Public Works Department. It included cost-of-living adjustments for non-union staff and discussed future support options to explore additional pay plan adjustments and a compensation analysis for the Village.

Executive Session:

It was moved by Trustee Bartlett and seconded by Trustee Savell to convene into an executive session for personnel at 9:08

ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:

AYES: 5 (Nielsen, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 (Barbato)

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED

***Reconvene &
Adjournment:***

It was moved by Trustee Bartlett and seconded by Trustee Nielsen to reconvene and adjourn at 9:44 pm.

ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:

AYES: 5 (Nielsen, O'Reilly, Barbato, Bartlett, McCollum)

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 (Savell)

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED BY ME THIS FEBRUARY 18, 2025



JAMES MCDONALD, MAYOR



MARY KONRAD, CLERK