

# VILLAGE OF ORLAND PARK

14700 S. Ravinia Avenue  
Orland Park, IL 60462  
[www.orlandpark.org](http://www.orlandpark.org)



## Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 7, 2025

6:00 PM

Village Hall

## Committee of the Whole

*Village President James V. Dodge, Jr.  
Village Clerk Mary Ryan Norwell  
Trustees, William R. Healy, Cynthia Nelson Katsenes, Michael R. Milani,  
Dina Lawrence, John Lawler and Joanna M. L. Leafblad*

## CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

**Present:** 7 - Trustee Healy; Trustee Nelson Katsenes; Trustee Milani; Trustee Lawrence; Trustee Lawler; Trustee M. L. Leafblad and President Dodge, Jr.

## ORDER OF ITEMS

President Dodge requested that item 2025-0530 Doogan Park Redevelopment Descoping be considered as the next item.

### **2025-0530 Doogan Park Redevelopment Descoping**

On April 21, 2025, the Village Board approved the redevelopment of Doogan Park. The approved plan include 10 lighted pickleball courts, adding lighting to the tennis courts, a restroom building with two restrooms, two bocce ball courts, a playground, pavilion, half-basketball court, sledding hill, 360' x 210' soccer field, 60' baseline baseball field, parking lot and landscape improvements.

This plan was developed after gaining input from residents, the Recreation Advisory Board, Planning Commission and the Village Board.

The Doogan Park redevelopment project was awarded a \$600,000 Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Recent discussions have raised concern about the impact on residents living in close proximity to Doogan Park. While pickleball has experienced explosive growth, the repetitive popping sound from the paddle hitting the ball, along with verbal shouting by players, is known to be disruptive to nearby residents. In some communities, this has led to lawsuits, the removal of courts and altercations between residents and pickleball players.

At 100', pickleball produces a sound decibel of approximately 70 dB which is loud similar to the sound level of a freeway. At 200', play creates a sound decibel of approximately 64 dB which is on the high-end of moderate and similar to the ambient conversation of a busy restaurant.

Noise mitigation techniques include constructing courts 500' from homes, installing sound barriers, installing shrubs, utilizing softer paddles and balls and limiting hours of play.

Sound barriers create a security concern, as do shrubs. Both are minimally effective. Softer paddles and balls create undesirable playing condition for players. Limiting hours reduces the time frame of noise, however, does not eliminate the sound challenges.

The farthest proposed court in the current plan is approximately 350' from the nearest residence. There is currently one dedicated pickleball court and one-half basketball court located in this location.

The closest proposed court in the current plan is 250' to the closest home.

Staff have not experienced complaints from the single pickleball court. Concerns have been shared with staff regarding the late-night play on the basketball court.

A community engagement meeting was held on June 17, 2025 at the Civic Center to present the status of the Doogan Park redevelopment plan. 259 Postcards were mailed to residents living in close proximity to the park. Five residents attended this engagement session.

Those in attendance expressed strong concern about the quantity of courts proposed and the cumulative noise that would be generated from installing 10 pickleball courts as a part of the Doogan Park redevelopment.

While participation in the community meeting was low, staff believe this input is likely representative of others living close to Doogan Park as the noise issue has become challenged nationally with pickleball courts installed in residential areas.

Staff propose descopeing the Doogan Park redevelopment project to a total of two unlit pickleball courts. This would include the existing court and converting the current half-basketball court to a pickleball court. These two courts would be located approximately 350' from the nearest home.

Additionally, staff recommend leaving the two existing tennis courts unlit, exploring reducing the size of the north parking lot, and the need for a permanent restroom building. The restroom building has an estimated cost of \$380,828.25.

Further, staff propose keeping the remainder of the redevelopment intact including two bocce ball courts, a playground, pavilion, half-basketball court, sledding hill, 360' x 210' soccer field and 60' baseline baseball field.

The scope reduction could result in a reduction or loss of the IDNR OSLAD grant. If so, prior to the final presentation before the Board of Trustees, confirmation of grant funding will be provided.

As the fastest growing sport in America, the need for dedicated pickleball courts remains. Staff propose issuing an RFP to develop dedicated pickleball courts on the south side of the Sportsplex. This is a large undeveloped area that is not in close proximity to any homes. If feasible, Sportsplex provides support amenities including an air-conditioned lounge with access to the potential court area, restrooms and supervision.

Funds saved from descopeing the Doogan Park project could potentially be used to develop engineering and construction plans, and potentially construction of the pickleball courts behind the Sportsplex.

The use of the courts and any fees related to the use of the courts would be developed in conjunction with Village advisory boards/committees.

Staff seek Board approval to descope the Doogan Park redevelopment as detailed above.

Staff would subsequently request a proposal from the engineering firm currently under contract (Christopher B. Burke Engineering LTD.) to redevelop the engineering and bid documents that support the scope reduction.

Staff would also issue an RFP to an engineering firm to develop dedicated pickleball courts behind the Sportsplex. The RFP award would be brought to the Board for approval after proposals are received and evaluated.

Village Manager George Koczwara had comments. (refer to audio)

Director of Recreation and Parks Ray Piattoni presented information regarding this matter. (refer to audio)

President Dodge had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustees Lawrence and Milani had comments. (refer to audio)

The following resident addressed the Committee regarding this matter (refer to audio):

- Megan Davies
- Peggy Campbell
- Jeff Adduci
- Chris Rayner
- Ginny Strasser

Trustee Katsenes had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Director Piattoni responded to Trustee Katsenes. (refer to audio)

Trustee Leafblad had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawler had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Director Piattoni responded to Trustee Lawler. (refer to audio)

Trustee Milani had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Director Piattoni and Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Milani. (refer to audio)

Trustee Healy had questions and comments. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Milani. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawrence had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Milani had additional comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Leafblad had additional comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawrence had additional comments. (refer to audio)

The following resident addressed the Committee regarding this matter (refer to audio):

- Janet Neihoff
- Paul Skwara
- John Atkinson
- Elizabeth Durkin

President Dodge had comments. (refer to audio)

I move to recommend to the Village Board descoping the redevelopment of Doogan Park reducing the total number of pickleball courts from 10 to 2 unlit pickleball courts, eliminating lighting for the two existing tennis courts, exploring the elimination of the restroom building and planning for the following elements in the redevelopment: two bocce ball courts, a pavilion, half basketball court, new playground, 360' x 210' soccer field, 60' baseline baseball field, improvements to the north and south parking lots, landscaping, sledding hill and all amenities in support of the redevelopment;

AND

To authorize the Village Manager to execute all related contracts, subject to Village Attorney review.

**A motion was made by Trustee M. L. Leafblad, seconded by Trustee Nelson Katsenes, that this matter be TABLED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Nelson Katsenes, Trustee Milani, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

Nay: 0

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 2025-0534 Approval of the June 16, 2025, Committee of the Whole Minutes

I move to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of June 16, 2025.

**A motion was made by Trustee Nelson Katsenes, seconded by Trustee Lawrence, that this matter be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Nelson Katsenes, Trustee Milani, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 0

## RECESS

I move to recess for five minutes.

**A motion was made by Trustee Nelson Katsenes, seconded by Trustee M. L. Leafblad, that this matter be RECESS. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Nelson Katsenes, Trustee Milani, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 0

## RECONVENE MEETING

**Present:** 7 - Trustee Healy; Trustee Nelson Katsenes; Trustee Milani; Trustee Lawrence; Trustee Lawler; Trustee M. L. Leafblad and President Dodge, Jr.

## NON-SCHEDULED CITIZENS AND VISITORS FOR AGENDA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Neihoff addressed the Committee regarding the Fourth of July. (refer to audio)

Richard Bowlds addressed the Committee regarding driveway widths. (refer to audio)

Hillary Serena addressed the Committee regarding driveway widths. (refer to audio)

## ITEMS FOR SEPARATE ACTION

### 2025-0524 Microsoft Enterprise Agreement Software Licensing Renewal

The Village's existing Microsoft Enterprise Agreement, purchased through Dell Enterprise, expires at the end of September 2025. The Board of Trustees approved the existing three-year Microsoft Enterprise Agreement in September of 2022, which was subsequently signed in October 2022. Staff reviewed the current licensing agreement and are keeping a majority of the licenses as they were in the previous agreement, minus a couple of alterations. It is recommended that we add additional Project licenses so the Village can terminate Smartsheet licensing. In addition, staff is recommending purchasing a quantity of ten (10) CoPilot licenses for proof of concept and to test the utilization of AI. If the CoPilot evaluation is successful, additional licenses will be requested at a later date. Staff solicited quotes from three (3) vendors CDW-G (ATTACHMENT A), Dell Technologies - Omnia Partners (ATTACHMENT B), and Insight Public Sector - OMNIA Partners (ATTACHMENT C), who offered cooperative purchase contract pricing.

Insight had the lowest pricing of the three quotes, at \$272,989.07 annually and \$818,961.21 total over the three-year term. Dell had the second lowest cost at \$273,129.24 annually and \$819,387.72 total over the three-year term. The difference between lowest bid and the second lowest bid is \$142.17 per year or \$425.51 over the three-year term. Please refer to ATTACHMENT D for a detailed vendor pricing comparison. As staff has been happy with Dell's service on the contract over the past three years and the cost difference is minimal, staff is recommending that the second lowest proposer be awarded the Microsoft renewal contract. Staff recommends the Village renew the three-year Microsoft Enterprise Agreement through Dell Enterprise utilizing the Omnia Partners Co-Op.

I move to recommend to the Village Board to approve a contract with Dell Technologies using Omnia Partners contract C000001019611 for renewal of three-year Microsoft Enterprise Agreement for an annual cost of \$273,129.24 for a total three-year cost of \$819,387.72;

AND

Recommend authorizing the Village Manager to execute all related contracts subject to Village Attorney review.

**A motion was made by Trustee M. L. Leafblad, seconded by Trustee Milani, that this matter be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL to the Board of Trustees. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Nelson Katsenes, Trustee Milani, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 0

**2025-0526 Discussion of Residential Driveway Widths**

The Land Development Code was amended in November 2023, revising the dimension requirements for driveways and driveway aprons. This amendment was intended to clarify the appropriate dimensions and make the requirements consistent between the Village Code (VC) and Land Development Code (LDC) while ensuring that zoning related regulations are located within the LDC. Whereas the VC required the maximum driveway widths to be 10' for a 1-car garage, 20' for a 2-car garage, and 30' for a 3-car garage, the LDC allowed for wider driveways at 20' for a 1-car garage, 26' for a 2-car garage, and 36' for a 3-car garage. As the VC requirements supersede the LDC requirements, the decision at that time was to adopt the more restrictive requirement, amending the LDC to reinstate the width requirements that were listed in the VC. Moreover, locating the driveway width requirements in the LDC allows for staff to consistently enforce and interpret the code and ensure consistency in future updates.

Now that time has passed and staff has been able to evaluate the impacts of this code amendment, it is recommended that we change the driveway width requirements for properties within the R-3 & R-3A Districts. While the maximum driveway/driveway apron widths are currently based on the size of the garage for a single-family home, this creates issues for single-family properties with no garages or non-conforming garages.

Table 6-306(B) in the LDC states that detached dwelling units require 2 parking spaces per dwelling unit. However, the LDC does not consider tandem parking in determining code compliance. Many properties in the R-3 & R-3A Districts have legal non-conforming 1-car garages, with no room to expand to a 2-car garage. This makes it difficult and often times impossible for these properties to meet off-street parking requirements.

Staff requests that the Committee of the Whole discuss a possible amendment to the Land Development Code to allow wider driveways for properties with 1-car garages. The attached amendment proposal is a draft document with suggestions to increase the maximum driveway width from 10' to 18' among other minor edits. Increasing the maximum driveway width to 18' would allow for single-family residences to meet the Village's off-street parking requirements with additional space for residents to safely access their vehicles. Most 2-car garages are 16'-wide, with 16' driveways as a standard. Staff is suggesting that we allow for up to 18' as opposed to 16' to accommodate for larger vehicles and be consistent with other sections of the LDC. The LDC requires parking spaces to be a minimum of 9'-wide in parking lots, per Section 6-306.C.1. Therefore, allowing for driveways of up to 18' would allow two vehicles to safely park side-by-side.

Director of Development Services Steve Marciani presenting information regarding this matter. (refer to audio)



Trustees Katsenes, Lawler and Milani had questions regarding this matter. (refer to audio)

Director Marciani responded to their questions. (refer to audio)

President Dodge had comments. (refer to audio)

Resident Richard Bowlds addressed the Board. (refer to audio)

Director Marciani had comments. (refer to audio)

President Dodge had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager George Koczwara responded to President Dodge. (refer to audio)

Trustee Katsenes had comments. (refer to audio)

**This item was for discussion only. NO ACTION was required.**

#### **2025-0499 Village of Orland Park Lead Service Replacement Plan**

The Flint water crisis was a public health crisis that started in 2014 after the drinking water for the city of Flint, Michigan, was contaminated with lead. In April 2014, Flint changed its water source from Lake Huron and the Detroit River to the Flint River. Residents complained about the taste, smell, and appearance of the water. Officials failed to apply corrosion inhibitors to the water, which resulted in lead from aging pipes leaching into the water supply, exposing around one hundred thousand (100,000) residents to elevated lead levels. Between six and twelve thousand (6,000 and 12,000) children were exposed to drinking water with high levels of lead. Children are particularly at risk from the long-term effects of lead poisoning, which can include a reduction in intellectual functioning and IQ, and an increased chance of Alzheimer's disease.

Throughout the nation, because of the Flint water crisis, an extensive lead service pipe replacement effort has been underway since 2016. Currently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in the draft stages of nationwide regulations which states will have to follow.

In Illinois, under Public Act 099-0922, which took effect in 2017, community water suppliers have been required to submit annual service line material inventories to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). To address the known and unknown burden of lead service lines in the state, the Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act (LSLRNA) was passed. This Act requires

community water suppliers to continue inventorying activities while developing and implementing plans to identify and remove lead service lines. In addition, it requires community water supplies to give owners and occupants notifications about lead service lines serving their homes or buildings and construction activities that may release lead into drinking water. The Act also prohibits partial lead service line replacement except in certain circumstances.

The first purpose of the LSLRNA is to require owners and operators of community water supplies to develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive water service line material inventory and replacement plan. A well-developed materials inventory will allow communities to be able to prioritize and strategize the replacement of known lead service lines within their water distribution system. The Village of Orland Park Public Works Department has contracted with Baxter & Woodman to assist in our inventory and replacement plan reporting, and provide for expertise in complying with state requirements.

#### Village of Orland Park Inventory

Up until 2024, the Village of Orland Park did not have any known lead services from the water main to the Buffalo box (B-box). Our current village code, along with most of the surrounding villages, provides that the Village is responsible for the service line from the water main to the B-box in the parkway. Public Works did not know of any lead services in its water distribution system beyond the B-box, but as part of the Meter Replacement Program done in 2023 by PMI, each residence or business was verified. Out of over twenty-two thousand (22,000) meter locations, there were four (4) services that were identified as lead. As such, LSLRNA now must be followed by the Village.

Currently, IEPA and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) views service lines the responsibility of municipalities from the main all the way up to meter in the home or business, which is more extensive than our code. It is still undetermined if the EPA's final regulations will differ or agree with IEPA as to this allocation of responsibility. In addition, other metals like galvanized pipe are considered by the IEPA as "lead," but not by the EPA.

Once Public Works was notified about the four (4) service locations, letters were sent to the four (4) affected residents with the lead services informing them of their situation per IEPA. Staff is currently investigating the four (4) houses to determine the feasibility to replace the lead service from the B-box to the meter, due to the mandate coming in 2027 that the Village will have to replace ten percent (10%) of lead service lines per year until all are removed from the system. For Orland Park, that is one (1) per year for four (4) years.

#### LSLRNA Reporting

In addition, the Village must complete a time consuming yearly report that will have to be sent to the EPA, the IEPA, and IDPH until all the lead is removed from the system. Letters will have to be sent yearly to the four (4) residents. The Village

also must conduct water sampling of sixty (60) sites within the Village including the four (4) lead service sites every six (6) months until all lead services are replaced.

We currently have one (1) of the four (4) residences refusing to allow us to take samples from their home. They have been difficult and unresponsive to our requests. Unfortunately, due to the resident's unwillingness to participate, we are now in violation status with the IEPA, and will have to report the violation in our 2026 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to the residents of Orland Park. Also, if the resident sells the house, the Village will have to remedy the lead service line in a timely manner.

#### Grant Funds for Replacement

Currently, any grants being offered are for inventory efforts for predominately disadvantaged communities. Staff has investigated grants and/or programs to help offset the cost of replacing the services. In terms of available funding to replacement of lead service lines, there currently is no grant program readily available due to the minimal nature of the remediation required.

Cook County does offer a program to replace lead services lines for licensed home-based childcare providers through their LeadCare program. However, none of the four (4) homes would qualify.

The other possible funding opportunities would include:

- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grants - Some select communities have had success utilizing these obtaining and utilizing these funds for replacements.

- U.S. Congressional Directed Spending Funds - These are appropriated by the U.S. Senate Committee, and are allocated on an annual basis.

- IEPA Public Water Supply Loan Program - The Village can request up to five (5) years of funds, and for lead service line replacements specifically, IEPA is offering a 0% loan for thirty (30) years. There is principal forgiveness for communities considered disadvantaged. Note that a project plan needs to be developed, submitted to IEPA, and approved by IEPA to have funds reserved.

If the Village opts to utilize state or federal funds to replace lead service lines, we will be required to finance the entire replacement while utilizing those funds. However, Public Works staff has concluded that the Village wouldn't qualify for any of these programs.

#### Options for Replacement

Staff has developed three (3) options for the Village:

Option 1 - The Village does not replace the service line within next two (2) years.

We send letters to homeowners, send in the annual reports, report our IEPA violation in CCR, do the required sampling every six (6) months, and retain Baxter & Woodman for a yearly cost to keep our plan current and updated and send it to the IEPA/ EPA for the next two (2) years. We continue to be in violation with the IEPA due to one (1) resident not participating in the sampling until all four locations have been fixed. The Village will then be forced by IEPA/EPA to pay for the replacement starting in 2027 if the resident doesn't replace it on their own beforehand, and will be obligated by law to replace one (1) service line a year until all four have been replaced.

Option 2 - Replace the four (4) service lines from the B-box to the meter at the Village's expense, and become compliant by not having any lead services in our system. Reports and sampling every six (6) months would be drastically reduced and eventually eliminated. The replacement cost for the four (4) service lines would be between \$60,000.00 and \$80,000.00 total. Staff estimates that \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 per house with \$20,000.00 contingency would be sufficient for the replacement of the lead services lines. Those cost numbers are what communities around Orland Park are currently paying contractors to replace a service line from the main to the meter.

Option 3 - Pass an ordinance that requires the residents to participate in replacing their service line by the Village by 2027, or have their water turned down and a lien placed on their home until they comply with the replacement.

Staff is recommending Option 2. A scope of work will be bid out for contractors to bid on. With the cost of materials (copper) and labor increasing with contractors doing this work throughout the United States, delay will almost undoubtedly result in additional cost. In addition, there will be materials shortages which will delay replacement even further. In 2027, we will be obligated by law to replace one (1) service line a year until all four (4) have been replaced. Also, until all four (4) services are replaced and the Village gets full participation from those residents, we will be in violation status with the IEPA and will have to regularly attempt to obtain sampling data from homeowners who have expressed unwillingness to cooperate.

Should the Village choose to wait to replace the service lines until 2027 when we would be obligated to replace them, additional costs will be incurred over the next two (2) years including:

- Employee time obtaining samples every six (6) months until all lead services are replaced.
- Maintaining a contract with Baxter & Woodman to oversee our program for the foreseeable future.
- The cost testing all the samples that are taken for the foreseeable future.
- Increased material costs as they will become scarce due to nationwide replacement requirements.

-Labor costs will go up as demand for skilled contractors becomes acute due to replacement requirements.

Director of Public Work Joel Van Essen presented information regarding this matter. (refer to audio)

President Dodge had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Milani had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Director Van Essen responded to Trustee Milani. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawler had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Director Van Essen responded to Trustee Lawler. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawrence had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Director Van Essen and Village Attorney Michael Stillman responded to Trustee Lawrence. (refer to audio)

Trustee Healy had questions. (refer to audio)

Director Van Essen, Village Manager George Koczwara and Village Attorney Stillman responded to Trustee Healy. (refer to audio)

Trustee Katsenes had comments. (refer to audio)

President Dodge and Village Manager Koczwara had questions. (refer to audio)

Director Van Essen responded to their questions. (refer to audio)

President Dodge had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Leafblad had questions. (refer to audio)

Village Attorney Stillman and Director Van Essen responded to Trustee Leafblad. (refer to audio)

President Dodge had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Village Attorney Stillman responded to President Dodge. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawrence had a question. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Lawrence. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawler had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Director Van Essen responded to Trustee Lawler. (refer to audio)

Trustee Leafblad had additional questions. (refer to audio)

Director Van Essen responded to Trustee Katsenes. (refer to audio)

Trustee Katsenes made a motion to recommend to the Village Board to pass an ordinance that requires residents in question to participate in replacing their service lines by 2027, or have their water turned off and a lien placed on their home until they comply with their replacement. It was seconded by Trustee Healy. (refer to audio)

Trustee Leafblad had comments. (refer to audio)

President Dodge had comments and recommended tabling the item. (refer to audio)

I move to recommend that Public Works pursue replacement of four (4) lead services lines with copper from B-box to meter this fiscal year at the Village's expense.

**A motion was made by Trustee Nelson Katsenes, seconded by Trustee M. L. Leafblad, that this matter be TABLED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Nelson Katsenes, Trustee Milani, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 0

#### **2025-0500 2025 Sanitary Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Program - ITB 25-037**

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) governs the Village's sanitary sewer system. MWRD requires sanitary sewer systems that discharge into MWRD facilities to implement measures to reduce excessive Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) from entering the system.

In 2015, the village selected RJN Group, Inc., of Joliet, Illinois ("RJN Group") as the Comprehensive Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Consultant to develop and implement a village-wide comprehensive evaluation and repair program in order to meet the MWRD requirements for the Inflow and Infiltration Control Program (IICP).

In 2016, RJN Group conducted comprehensive flow monitoring for the village sanitary sewer system. Based on those results, three sewer basin areas came up as the highest priority. One of these basins was also identified as the Short-Term High Priority Area and was submitted to the MWRD for the IICP. Through several

testing and inspection programs over the past years, RJN and staff have identified “high priority” defects requiring rehabilitation or repair. RJN Group assisted Village staff with the development of a list of recommended repairs to begin a multi-year sanitary sewer system rehabilitation to meet MWRD compliance.

In 2024, the Village solicited engineering firms to continue the sanitary sewer evaluation and repair program for the Village, and in December 2024, RJN was approved again by the Board for another five (5) year contract.

Invitation to Bid (ITB) 25-037 for the 2025 Sanitary Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Program work was published on BidNet Direct from June 4 through June 18, 2025. The project consists of the rehabilitation of approximately eighty-three (83) sanitary manholes, which includes sealing and adjusting manhole frames, replacing frames and covers, installing internal chimney seals, installing a barrel section and cone, grouting joints and full manholes, cementitious sealing, epoxy coating, repairing bench and trough, and all related work as further described in the Special Provisions and Plan Set. Through Bidnet, eight (8) vendors were sent courtesy emails, twenty-one (21) vendors downloaded all of the bid documents, and four (4) bids were submitted for consideration. Bids were opened publicly and evaluated for completeness by the Clerk’s Office at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 18. A summary of the bids is as follows:

Airys, Inc., of Joliet, IL - \$368,974.00

Kim Construction Company Inc., of Steger, IL - \$397,110.00

National Power Rodding Corp., of Chicago, IL - \$478,250.00

Insituform Technologies USA, LLC, of Chesterfield, MO - \$655,329.00

Village staff and RJN Group reviewed the bids, and the cost estimates were evaluated/compared for similar past work related to sanitary manhole rehabilitation and deemed fair and reasonable.

The Village of Orland Park, RJN Group, and many other villages have had positive experiences working with Airys, Inc. on sanitary rehabilitation projects. Therefore, Village staff is recommending Airys, Inc., of Joliet, Illinois, the lowest bidder, be awarded the 2025 Sanitary Manhole Rehabilitation Project in an amount of \$368,974.00, plus a \$36,800.00 contingency, for a total not-to-exceed contract price of \$405,774.00. Contingency is being requested for possible manhole replacement instead of rehab due to the enhanced deteriorated condition of some manholes or anything that comes up unexpectedly during the sanitary manhole rehabilitation project.

Trustee Katsenes had questions. (refer to audio)

Public Works Director Joel Van Essen responded to Trustee Katsenes. (refer to audio)

I move to recommend to the Village Board to authorize the approval and execution of a Contractor Agreement between the Village of Orland Park and Airys, Inc., of Joliet, IL, as the lowest qualified responsive bidder for ITB 25-037 2025 Sanitary Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Program for a cost of \$368,974.00 plus a contingency of \$36,800.00, for a total not-to-exceed contract price of \$405,774.00.

**A motion was made by Trustee Lawler, seconded by Trustee M. L. Leafblad, that this matter be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL to the Board of Trustees. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Nelson Katsenes, Trustee Milani, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 0

### **2025-0503 2025 Sidewalk Replacement Program Part 2 (ITB 25-039)**

The Village completed a sidewalk condition assessment of all Village-owned sidewalks in 2022. Deficiencies were identified as either low, medium, or high priority based on assessment criteria laid out in the 2021 Sidewalk Condition Assessment via RFP 21-065. Over the past two (2) years, this program focused on the severe tripping hazards requiring removal and replacement. Staff identified eight hundred sixty-five (865) remaining locations to eliminate the severe tripping hazards in the Village with this contract using data from this initial assessment. Once the Village identifies a hazard, the repair work needs to be completed as soon as possible to eliminate the hazard. ITB 25-021 was awarded to Strada Construction Co. on May 19, 2025, to address three hundred sixty-five (365) of the eight hundred sixty-five (865) severe tripping hazards.

To address the remaining tripping hazards, the Village plans to fund the 2025 Sidewalk Replacement Program Part 2 by using Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) requires the Village to pass a resolution each year for the utilization of MFT funds. On January 20, 2025, the Board passed a resolution authorizing the appropriations of funds for this specific program. IDOT-approved guidelines had to be followed in assembling the bid package, along with final IDOT approval and advertisement in the IDOT Bulletin prior to the letting.

ITB 25-039 was opened on June 27, 2025, at which point four (4) contractors had submitted bids. The bid quantity of locations for the 2025 Sidewalk Replacement Program Part 2 was noted as forty-nine thousand eight hundred forty-four (49,844) square feet for five-inch (5") sidewalk and four hundred (400) square feet for eight-inch (8") high early strength concrete. Contractors bid on a unit price based on the quantity given by Village of type of repair throughout the Village. A summary of the bid prices is provided below:

Strada Construction Co. of Addison, Illinois - \$551,679.12



J&J Newell Concrete Contractors of Crete, Illinois - \$613,096.80  
Davis Concrete Construction Co. of Monee, Illinois - \$677,689.12  
Gallagher Asphalt Co. of Thornton, Illinois - \$712,308.20

Strada Construction Co. of Addison, Illinois, was identified as the lowest bidder. The unit price submitted by Strada Construction Co. for sidewalk removal and replacement is comparable to larger volume pricing staff has traditionally received for similar work. Strada has previously performed work in the Village of Orland Park and has performed a multi-Village contract for concrete work through the Homewood joint bid for the past five (5) years. They were awarded the contract again in FY2025 for Homewood, Alsip, and South Holland concrete work as well as part 1 work in FY2025.

It is Public Works staff's recommendation to accept the bid from Strada Construction Co. of Addison, Illinois.

A contingency of \$50,000.00 is requested for any unforeseen issues, for a total not-to-exceed cost of \$601,679.12.

I move to recommend to the Village Board to approve and authorize the execution of a Contractor Agreement between the Village of Orland Park and Strada Construction Co. of Addison, Illinois, as the lowest qualified responsive bidder for ITB 25-039 2025 Sidewalk Replacement Program Part 2 for a cost of \$551,679.12 plus a contingency of \$50,000.00 for a total not-to-exceed contract price of \$601,679.12.

**A motion was made by Trustee M. L. Leafblad, seconded by Trustee Lawrence, that this matter be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL to the Board of Trustees. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Nelson Katsenes, Trustee Milani, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 0

## **2025-0546 FY2025 Budget Amendment #2**

A detailed spreadsheet (by fund) reflecting budget adjustments is attached. Additionally, several projects were anticipated to be completed during 2024 but were delayed for a variety of reasons. These expenses were approved in the Village's FY2024 budget. This 2024 list will be presented to the Board at a subsequent Village Board meeting.

In the meantime, below is information regarding the current proposed budget amendments.

### **Internship Program**

At the June 2, 2025, Village Board meeting, the Village Board approved an internship program. Interns will be allocated to a single line item within Human

Resources to easily monitor the cost of this program. We are seeking to increase budget spending within Human Resources in the amount of \$157,757.84 which includes the Village's share of Social Security and Medicare.

#### Tuition Reimbursement

Funding of the established Tuition Reimbursement Program is requested at present and on an annual basis going forward, in accordance with the current adopted policy guidelines, to include all corresponding collective bargaining agreements, in addition to honoring previously denied, eligible employee requests for reimbursement from January 1, 2024, to present. The program was suspended in recent years because budget funding was removed, resulting in the denial of all eligible employee reimbursement requests. Once funding is reinstated, qualifying tuition reimbursement requests will be honored. We have determined that a budget amendment in the amount of \$20,000 will fulfill the obligations of the program, based on completed, eligible application requests that have been turned in by employees for costs incurred during calendar year 2025 and prior calendar year 2024.

#### Attorney Invoices

Billing of invoices from Prosecutor Donna J Norton, Attorney at Law, LLC were delayed, and Finance has recently received invoices for services in March 2024 through April 2025. We are requesting to roll over legal services by \$51,462.50 for the 2024 portion of these services billed.

#### Addition of New Positions

A few changes were made to our current staffing as a result of the latest salary ordinance amendment that was approved by the Village Board on June 16, 2025. The salary ordinance amendment consisted of the creation of two newly created positions titled Outreach Coordinator and Clerk Office Coordinator. In addition, the existing position of Executive Assistant within the Village Manager's Office was reclassified to Office Support Supervisor due to the current workload and added supervisory responsibilities, and the current Deputy Clerk position was reclassified from Grade 6 to Grade 7 due to the current workload and added supervisory responsibilities.

- The Clerk Office Coordinator was created to provide much needed assistance to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk.
- The Outreach Coordinator position was created to act as a liaison between the community and Village staff to improve relations, promote special projects, plan and implement specialized programs and related events, and publish various content to promote the organization and its brand.

#### Tree Pruning Program

##### Annual Parkway Tree Pruning Program

- Currently, the Village Code indicates that it is the responsibility of residents to prune their parkway trees 8 feet above street or sidewalk. Due to lack of knowledge of cutting trees (the Village provides some guidance on website), lack

of attention by homeowners (resulting in many Code Enforcement complaints), and the lack of belief on the part of residents that they should be responsible for trees on parkway since the Village planted them and own them, staff previously proposed a cyclical tree pruning program. This last fact can be especially frustrating to residents because the parkway zone includes sidewalks, parkways easements for utilities, trees, driveway aprons, sprinklers, grass, mailboxes and curbs and is a mixed bag of responsibilities of maintenance, ownership, and digging rights.

The previously proposed program was to include a comprehensive urban forestry plan that would include contractors being hired to maintain the Village's parkway trees through a rotation of zones. This staff-initiated program was rejected, instead, staff was directed to provide guidelines to residents, and those residents not meeting the guidelines were to be warned and ultimately ticketed. With a limited Code Enforcement staff, it is difficult to monitor residential tree pruning infractions and divert resources.

- Proposed Program

The proposed 2025 Annual Parkway Tree Pruning Program would involve a regular schedule of tree maintenance to enhance health, safety, and aesthetics. This will include removing dead, diseased, or high-risk branches, as well as branches that interfere with traffic or utility lines. The program would also involve pruning young trees to promote strong structure and growth.

Key aspects of the Annual Parkway Tree Pruning Program will include:

Pruning Frequency:

A seven (7) year cycle would be implemented, with exceptions for unique circumstances.

Pruning Techniques:

Proper pruning techniques would be incorporated to avoid damaging the tree. This will include making cuts at the branch collar, avoiding excessive pruning, and removing only the necessary branches.

Public Safety:

The pruning program will prioritize removing branches that pose a hazard to pedestrians or vehicles.

Tree Health:

Regular pruning will help prevent the spread of disease and insect infestations and promote overall tree health.

Aesthetic Appeal:

Pruning will help maintain the shape and symmetry of trees, enhancing their visual appeal.

**Professional Expertise:**

Professional arborists and tree care specialists will be involved in implementing the pruning programs, especially for large trees or complex situations.

**Would not include private property:**

The Annual Parkway Tree Pruning Program would not impact trees on private property. Private property trees would continue to be the responsibility of property owners and in accordance with Village Code.

**Utility Pruning:**

ComEd performs routine, cyclical tree pruning on four-year cycles around power lines that run from pole-to-pole and may prune between cycles if there are other problems that may result in interruptions to electric service.

The Village is reallocating \$400,000 originally budgeted for Centennial Park West jumbotrons. The program will commence in the Fall, and the Village will cover as many zones as possible throughout the Village. This amount, which was originally being transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Fund for the \$700,000 Centennial Park West jumbotrons program, will instead remain in the General Fund to pay for this much needed urban forestry program. The \$700,000 jumbotrons project was rejected at a recent Village Board meeting. The genesis of the jumbotrons program was the requirement of one of this summer's bands. However, in further review of the contract, the band is bringing their own jumbotrons, which they will use during the concert, including the promotion of their own merchandise. In subsequent budgets, the Village will budget funds to accommodate this ongoing tree pruning program.

**Design & Engineering**

Ravinia Avenue will be extended south and west and connected to La Grange Road at 161st Street. The extension will have two lanes each way with center left-turn lanes where needed. Traffic signals will be added at the intersection of La Grange Road and 161st Street. The project will secure Right-of-Way from various private properties to complete the roadway connection. The estimate for design and engineering services is \$246,671.

Trustee Katsenes had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager George Koczwara responded to Trustee Katsenes. (refer to audio)

Trustee Milani had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager George Koczwara responded to Trustee Milani. (refer to audio)

Trustee Healy had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Leafblad had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Leafblad. (refer to audio)

Trustee Doge had comments. (refer to audio)

I move to recommend to Village Board approving an expenditure increase in the Capital Improvement Fund of \$246,671.00 and an expense increase in the General Fund of \$471,055.09.

**A motion was made by Trustee Lawler, seconded by Trustee M. L. Leafblad, that this matter be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL to the Board of Trustees. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 3 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Nelson Katsenes, and Trustee Milani

**2025-0547 An Ordinance Amending Titles 1 and 2 of the Orland Park Village Code Regarding Boards, Commissions and Committees**

Village Code Title 2, Chapter 1, Subsection 2-1-1 (f) states: Following each election cycle for the Village President, a review of existing advisory Boards and Commissions, and their affiliated not-for-profit entities, if any, shall be conducted by the Village President and Board of Trustees. Such review shall include the duties, responsibilities and by-laws to ensure relevance to current needs and direction for amendments as deemed appropriate.

As proposed, this ordinance eliminates the Recreation Advisory Board, the Housing Advisory Committee, the Veterans Commission, and the Technology Commission, several non-statutorily required boards and commissions. It also reconstitutes new boards and commissions.

The new and reconstituted advisory boards:

- Senior Citizen Advisory Board
- Young Families Advisory Board
- Sports Advisory Board
- Grounds and Recreation Facilities Advisory Board
- Recreation Programming Advisory Board
- Cultural Arts Advisory Board
- AI and Information Technology Advisory Board
- Conservation and Sustainability Advisory Board
- Economic Development Advisory Board
- Heritage Sites Advisory Board
- Veterans' Advisory Board
- America 250 Committee
- Sister Cities Committee

If adopted as proposed, a full complement of members will be appointed at a future meeting. Then each newly established board and commission will meet and recommend duties and responsibilities to the Village Board within 60 days. The Village Board will then consider the recommendations and adopt one or more ordinances to reflect the desired mission statement, powers and duties, and bylaws.

The ordinance also creates the "America 250 Committee". Given the limited duration and purpose of this committee, it would not be codified as the others contained in this ordinance.

Trustee Lawler had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Milani had questions and comments. (refer to audio)

Village Manager George Koczwara and Village Attorney Michael Stillman responded to Trustee Milani. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawler had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Dodge had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Leafblad had questions. (refer to audio)

Trustee Dodge responded to Trustee Leafblad and had comments. (refer to audio)

I move to recommend to the Village Board to adopt an Ordinance entitled: An Ordinance Amending Titles 1 and 2 of the Orland Park Village Code Regarding Boards, Commissions and Committees.

**A motion was made by Trustee Lawler, seconded by Trustee Lawrence, that this matter be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL to the Board of Trustees. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Nelson Katsenes, Trustee Milani, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 0

## **2025-0551 Neighbor Mediation Program**

Many years ago, the Village had an in-house mediation program. However, it was discontinued by the Village Board in 2011.

The Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR) is a non-profit founded in 1979 by the Chicago Bar Association for the purpose of assisting communities in handling conflict through mediation. CCR has mediated over 10,000 cases in the past five

years under the Uniform Mediation Act. Their trained mediators are impartial and facilitate a discussion between two willing parties. If the two parties want to enter into a signed agreement, the CCR mediator will craft a mediation agreement. These agreements are not legally binding.

CCR has an arrangement with the Northwest Municipal Conference to mediate conflicts between residents within member communities and between internal municipal staff. CCR is willing to establish relationships with individual communities. Municipalities pay \$250-\$300 per conflict.

Typically, the municipality will refer two willing parties to CCR. CCR will provide one confidential mediation session lasting up to 4 hours. Most sessions are held via video call. In-person sessions are also available and can be held at CCR's Chicago office or locally at a space provided by the municipality. Most disputes are eligible for mediation. Exceptions include individuals with a history of violence and/or orders of protection.

In order to use CCR's service, the Village would participate in a free pilot program of 4 to 5 sessions. If at the conclusion of the pilot program both the Village and CCR wish to continue, a formal agreement would be prepared and presented at a future Board of Trustees meeting.

Trustee Katsenes had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Leafblad had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager George Koczwara responded to Trustee Leafblad. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawler had comments. (refer to audio)

Assistant Village Manager Jim Culotta presented information regarding this matter. (refer to audio)

Trustee Leafblad had additional comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Assistant Village Manager Culotta responded to Trustee Leafblad. (refer to audio)

Trustee Healy had questions. (refer to audio)

Assistant Village Manager Culotta responded to Trustee Healy. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara had comments regarding this matter. (refer to audio)

Trustee Katsenes had questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Katsenes. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawrence had questions and comments. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Lawrence. (refer to audio)

Assistant Village Manager Culotta had a comment. (refer to audio)

President Dodge had comments. (refer to audio)

I move to recommend to the Village Board to direct staff to initiate a free mediation pilot program with the Center for Conflict Resolution.

**A motion was made by Trustee M. L. Leafblad, seconded by Trustee Lawrence, that this matter be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL to the Board of Trustees. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Nelson Katsenes, Trustee Milani, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 0

**2025-0555 Adoption of Two Memorandum of Understandings between the Village and AFSCME Local 368 Regarding Uniforms and Employee-Facing Dash Cameras**

The Village and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO Council 31, Local 368 are parties to a collective bargaining agreement (CBA), which expires on April 30, 2026.

To further this important relationship, the parties have discussed two topics: uniforms & protective clothing and employee-facing dash cameras. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) for each topic has been prepared for Board consideration.

**Uniforms & Protective Clothing**

This MOU replaces the way uniforms are selected for members of AFSCME. A working committee consisting of an equal number of AFSCME and Village management would be created for the purpose of making recommendations to the Director of Recreation & Parks and the Director of Public Works. Each director will decide which uniform items will be allowed for their respective employees. The decisions of the directors are not subject to the grievance procedure of the CBA. All other provisions of the CBA remain in full force and are not impacted by this MOU.

**Employee-Facing Dash Cameras**

This MOU seeks to clarify language regarding dual facing dash cameras in certain Village vehicles. The current CBA allows for the use of these cameras. As proposed, the employee-facing dash cameras will be turned off and will remain off



unless extraordinary circumstances necessitate their use. The Village will use its discretion to determine when an extraordinary circumstance exists. Notice to the Union Board will be provided in writing prior to activation of the employee-facing cameras. If activated, the employee-facing dash cameras will be limited to a specific period where the extraordinary circumstances exist. The street-facing camera will continue to be utilized. All other provisions of the CBA remain in full force and are not impacted by this MOU.

Trustee Katsenes had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Katsenes. (refer to audio)

Village Attorney Michael Stillman had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Healy had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Milani had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Milani. (refer to audio)

Trustee Milani had comments. (refer to audio)

President Dodge had comments. (refer to audio)

I move to recommend to the Village Board to adopt a Memorandum of Understanding regarding uniforms between the Village of Orland Park and AFSCME Local 368;

AND

I move to recommend to the Village Board to adopt a Memorandum of Understanding regarding employee facing dash cameras between the Village of Orland Park and AFSCME Local 368.

**A motion was made by Trustee Lawler, seconded by Trustee M. L. Leafblad, that this matter be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL to the Board of Trustees. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 3 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Nelson Katsenes, and Trustee Milani

**2025-0557 Ordinance - Village Code Amendment - Expenses and Reimbursements for Village Officers**

Section 1-8-4 of the Village's Officers and Employees General Provisions Code, which addresses the reimbursement of automobile expenses, was established in 1982. Since that time, the Village's processes and procedures have significantly

evolved, with stronger internal controls now in place. However, the current Code does not adequately reflect the appropriate use of, or accountability for, the expenditure of Village taxpayer dollars when conducting official business on behalf of the Village of Orland Park, and does not distinguish adequately between elected officials, Village employees, and independent contractors, each of which are subject to additional provisions in law, regulation, and/or contract.

The Village seeks to codify and amend the current Code to clarify the reimbursements of allowable expenses incurred by elected officials, such as meals, mileage, parking, general transportation costs, materials, seminar costs, and community luncheons, that are eligible for reimbursement by the Village, as well as the procedures relevant to seeking and receiving allowable reimbursements. The amendment will also outline prohibited expenditure reimbursements.

Village Attorney Michael Stillman and Village Manager George Koczwara had comments regarding this matter. (refer to audio)

Trustee Milani had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Milani. (refer to audio)

Trustee Leafblad had questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Leafblad. (refer to audio)

Trustee Healy had questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara and Village Attorney Stilman responded to Trustee Healy. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawler had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Lawler. (refer to audio)

Trustee Katsenes had comments and questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Katsenes. (refer to audio)

Trustee Leafblad had questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Leafblad. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawler had a question. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Lawler. (refer to audio)

Trustee Katsenes had comments. (refer to audio)

President Dodge had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Katsenes had a question. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara responded to Trustee Katsenes. (refer to audio)

I move to recommend to the Village Board to adopt an Ordinance entitled: An Ordinance Amending Title 1, Chapter 8 of the Orland Park Village Code Regarding Expenses and Reimbursements for Village Officers.

**A motion was made by Trustee Lawler, seconded by Trustee Lawrence, that this matter be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL to the Board of Trustees. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Trustee Nelson Katsenes, Trustee Milani, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 1 - Trustee Healy

#### **2025-0558 Astound High-Speed Fiber Installation Presentation**

Staff presented a status report on the installation of high-speed fiber by Astound.

Astound is a telecommunications provider offering multiple services, including high-speed internet, mobile, TV, and home phone, in metro markets in the US.

Astound, which has obtained state authorization to perform this work, recently began installation of fiber to residential and commercial areas throughout the village. This work will occur exclusively in utility easements and public rights-of-way in or adjacent to private property. State law allows Astound and their subcontractors to use private property to access easements and rights-of-way.

Assistant Village Manager Jim Culotta presented information regarding this matter. (refer to audio)

President Dodge had comments. (refer to audio)

**This item was for discussion only. NO ACTION was required.**

#### **2025-0564 Therapy Dog Program Continuation**

At the August 2, 2021, Village Board Meeting, the Village Board established an Orland Park Police Department Therapy Dog Program to enhance community engagement and provide emotional support services. As part of this initiative, Rich Miller, a non-sworn member of the department, was selected as the handler

for Leo, the department's therapy dog. Since the establishment of the Program, Therapy Dog Leo and his handler Rich Miller have attended specialized dog therapy training and have provided valuable service to residents and staff.

On August 30, 2024, Rich Miller resigned his civilian position with the Orland Park Police Department to take a full-time sworn position with a neighboring police department. At the time, Rich Miller indicated that he would remain as a part-time police officer with the Orland Park Police Department, in addition to his new full-time position in the neighboring police department. Because of other commitments, Rich Miller resigned his part-time Orland Park Police Officer position at the end of June 2025. As is customary, in order not to separate the dog from its handler, the Village formally sold Leo to Rich Miller on June 20, 2025, for \$1. We wish Leo and Rich Miller all the best and thank them for their service.

#### Continuation of the Therapy Dog Program

The men and women of the Orland Park Police Department are its greatest asset. Sworn officers and tele-communicators are oftentimes on the front lines of critical incidents and witness situations that result in a high degree of stress and anxiety following traumatic events. Additionally, victims, in particular children, are highly susceptible to depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from abuse or neglect. Recent studies, (Lass-Hennemann, J., Schafer, S. K., Romer, S., Holz, E., Streb, M., & Michael T. (2018). Therapy dogs as a crisis intervention after traumatic events? and Kimioka, H., Okada, S., Tsutani, K., Hyuntae, P., Okuizumi, H., Handa, S., Oshio, T., Park, S., Kitayuguchi, J., Abe, T., Honda, T., & Mutoh, Y. (2014). Effectiveness of animal assisted therapy: A systematic review of randomized controlled trials), have shown Animal-Assisted Interventions were able to reduce stress and anxiety following critical incidents.

Based on empirical evidence and the aforementioned recent studies, the Police Department is seeking the continuation of the therapy dog program in order to assist employees and victims after a critical/traumatic event. The therapy dog would continue to be available for community and school events.

The Cook County Sheriff's Office Tails of Redemption Program has a therapy dog training program whereupon a selected member of the Orland Park Police Department will be trained with an adopted therapy dog. In 2018, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart launched Tails of Redemption Program uniting dogs, individuals in custody, and members of the community in a journey of rehabilitation and hope. Inmates not only learn to train dogs in basic obedience, and preparing the animals for adoption, but they also acquire essential life skills such as patience, compassion, and problem-solving, thus enhancing their job readiness upon release.

The Tails of Redemption Program currently works with 3 local shelters. The program began with a partnership with Chicago Animal Care and Control. In

2021, Cicero Waggin' Tails and South Suburban Humane Society joined the Tails of Redemption Program.

The selected therapy dog will receive basic obedience training from county sentenced inmates and advanced training is performed with a K9 specialist. An assigned sworn member of the Orland Park Police Department will enroll in a training program with the Cook County Sheriff's Office. Once the handler and dog are successfully certified through the training program, both will begin work in Orland Park.

Chief of Police Eric Rossi presented information regarding this matter. (refer to audio)

Trustee Leafblad had a question. (refer to audio)

Chief Rossi responded to Trustee Leafblad. (refer to audio)

Trustee Milani had comments and a question. (refer to audio)

Chief Rossi responded to Trustee Milani. (refer to audio)

Trustee Katsenes had comments. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawler had questions. (refer to audio)

Chief Rossi responded to Trustee Lawler. (refer to audio)

President Dodge had comments. (refer to audio)

I move to continue the Orland Park Police Department's Therapy Dog Program.

**A motion was made by Trustee Milani, seconded by Trustee Nelson Katsenes, that this matter be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Nelson Katsenes, Trustee Milani, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 0

**ADJOURNMENT: 9:08 P.M.**

**A motion was made by Trustee Milani, seconded by Trustee Nelson Katsenes, that this matter be ADJOURNED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Nelson Katsenes, Trustee Milani, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 0

**2025-0597 Audio Recording for the July 7, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting**

**NO ACTION**

**/AS**

**APPROVED:**

Respectfully Submitted,

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**Mary Ryan Norwell, Village Clerk**