

# VILLAGE OF ORLAND PARK

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



## Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 12, 2025

5:00 PM

**\*SPECIAL MEETING\***

Village Hall

## Board of Trustees

*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 5:00 P.M.

**Present:** 5 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad and Village President Dodge Jr.

**Absent:** 2 - Trustee Nelson Katsenes and Trustee Milani

## ITEMS FOR SEPARATE ACTION

### 2025-1029 Resolution Halting Fiber Optic Construction

From telehealth, to remote learning, to work-from-home, people are living increasingly digitally connected lives. The Village encourages private investment in infrastructure, but it cannot be done at the expense of the quality of life of residents. The Village is in support of better internet, but it must be done responsibly.

Astound, one of many internet providers licensed by the State of Illinois to install high-speed internet, disrupted approximately 300 homes following an incident that occurred on Monday, December 8th. The attached Resolution halts fiber optic construction following a sharp increase in resident complaints about unsafe and incomplete work tied to fiber internet installation.

The Resolution directs Village staff to withhold permits until the following are addressed:

- Unrepaired property damage
- Utility hits
- Open holes, potholes, and sidewalks left unrestored
- Work conducted outside of allowed hours
- Subcontractors working without visible identification

#### State-Authorized Internet Providers

To provide internet services utilizing public easements, an internet provider can be approved to construct infrastructure in one of two ways - via a municipal franchise agreement or via state-issued authorization. Of all the internet service providers in the Village, only Xfinity operates under a municipal franchise agreement, all other internet service providers utilizing public easements operate under state-issued authorization in accordance with the Illinois Cable and Video Competition Law of 2007.

The Illinois Cable and Video Competition Law of 2007 limits the ability of a municipality to regulate internet services providers. As an example, under the law:

- A municipality cannot withhold access to public right-of-way, including easements, when access is required for the installation, construction, and operations of cable, video, or telecommunications.

-A construction permit is automatically granted within 45 days after being submitted by an internet service provider if not acted upon by the municipality and the provider complies with local requirements.

Under these restrictions, the Village's Public Works Department has been utilizing Village resources to review, permit, and monitor construction even though these are not Village-sponsored construction projects.

#### New Rules

In response to growing concerns across Orland Park, the Village is creating new rules for internet service providers and will be presenting them at a future Board meeting:

-Work Area Limits: Providers will be restricted in how many construction zones they can open at one time to prevent overextension.

-Enhancing Installation Rules: The Village is expanding rules related to fiber installation:

-Proof of Direct Resident Notification: Providers must send certified mail or provide documented notice before work begins in a neighborhood.

-Vehicle Identification: All contractor vehicles must clearly indicate which internet provider they are working for.

-Fines for Violations: The Village will expand fines for utility disruptions, failure to follow safety protocol, and length of time for site restoration.

-Stop-Work Orders: Any company not in full compliance with the rules, will be issued a stop-work order and will not be able to resume until they can demonstrate full compliance.

During construction, internet service providers will continue to be responsible for mitigating any damage, addressing all resident issues, and restoring all construction areas. The service provider will be responsible for meeting with Village representatives on a schedule deemed appropriate by the Public Works Director to better hold contractors more accountable and also reviews all calls for service.

#### Why Are There So Many Fiber Optic Internet Installations

Connect Illinois, the state's 2019 broadband investment program, provides \$400 million in matching grants to internet service providers to enhance high-speed internet throughout the State of Illinois. In addition to \$400 million in competitive grants, the Connect Illinois program included \$20 million for upgrades to the 100 GB Illinois Century Network, the state's existing 2,000-mile open access institutional fiber network serving over 3,400 K-12, higher education, and library locations across the state.

The current Connect Illinois Round 4 is being supported by the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funds made possible by the

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. BEAD funding in Illinois is meant to get Connect Illinois closer to its goal of ubiquitous statewide broadband access - for homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions throughout the state. Investment in broadband access is meant to support economic development, education, precision agriculture, and telehealth efforts statewide.

President Dodge had comments regarding this matter. (refer to audio)

Village Manager George Koczwara presented information regarding this matter. (refer to audio)

President Dodge and Village Clerk Norwell had comments regarding this matter. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara made additional comments. (refer to audio)

President Dodge had a question. (refer to audio)

Public Works Director Joel Van Essen responded to President Dodge. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawler had a question. (refer to audio)

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

President Dodge had questions. (refer to audio)

Village Manager Koczwara and Director Van Essen responded to President Dodge. (refer to audio)

I move to adopt Resolution 2571, entitled: A RESOLUTION HALTING FIBER OPTIC CONSTRUCTION;

AND

Authorize Village staff and the Village Attorney to draft an Ordinance creating new rules for internet service installations to be presented to the Village Board at a future meeting.

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

**Aye:** 5 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and Village President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 2 - Trustee Nelson Katsenes, and Trustee Milani

**2025-0998 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 26, of Title VII, of the Municipal Code Implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax in The Village of Orland Park**

Following the Board's approval of the grocery tax, the certified ordinance was submitted to the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) on September 10, 2025. After an extended period without response, we received confirmation from IDOR that the ordinance was accepted by the October 1, 2025, filing deadline. However, IDOR has requested two minor wording revisions:

- Replace the original language, "1% for those gross receipts from such sales made in the course of business while this Ordinance is in effect," with the more specific phrasing, "1% of the selling price of all groceries transferred by such servicemen as an incident to sales of service while this Ordinance is in effect."
- Add an explicit effective date for the tax: January 1, 2026.

Based on available information, this requester revision has been made to municipalities statewide.

Once this amendment is approved by the Board, it will be submitted electronically to IDOR before January 1, 2026, ensuring there is no delay or disruption in the collection of this tax.

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

Trustee Leafblad had a question. (refer to audio)

Village Attorney Stillman responded to Trustee Leafblad. (refer to audio)

Trustee Lawrence had a comment. (refer to audio)

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

President Dodge had a comment. (refer to audio)

I move to adopt Ordinance 6081, entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 26 (IMPOSING A GROCERY TAX), OF TITLE 7, OF THE ORLAND PARK VILLAGE CODE.

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

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

**Nay:** 1 - Trustee Healy

**Absent:** 2 - Trustee Nelson Katsenes, and Trustee Milani

**ADJOURNMENT: 5:20 P.M.**

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

**Aye:** 5 - Trustee Healy, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Lawler, Trustee M. L. Leafblad, and Village President Dodge Jr.

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 2 - Trustee Nelson Katsenes, and Trustee Milani

**2026-0056 Audio Recording for December 12, 2025 - Board of Trustees Special Meeting**

**/AS**

APPROVED:

Respectfully Submitted,

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**Mary Ryan Norwell, Village Clerk**