



January 2025, Q3 FY 2024-2025
Quarterly Newsletter

The Buzz

Committees Share Their Vision for 2025

Parks and Recreation Committee

Chairman, Trustee Wendie Clark

We are looking forward to finalizing cleanup at the Riverside parcel with the addition of a parking pad and restoration of the gates. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will get a summer crop planted at the Mettawa Savanna. Along with the addition of grasses and the spruce trees at the Old School Road property, we will spread wildflower seeds in the spring!

Finance Committee

Chairman, Trustee John Maier

As the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 comes to an end in April, we continue to have a balanced and conservative financial outlook. In the upcoming FY 2025-2026, I expect revenue to continue in a stable manner and we can expect to continue to produce a balanced and conservative budget. The Finance Committee has recently redone our building and engineering contract to be more transparent and we are developing a forward looking fiscal forecast to assist in budgeting for expenditures.

Public Works Committee

Chairman, Trustee Sweb Smolic

At the end of 2024, the Village completed overhauling the majority of our culverts and ditches. Going forward, we will just have light maintenance every year. This year, we are working on two capital projects, Old School Road drainage ditch renovation and the MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park storm retention area, and these will complete all of the storm management infrastructure overhaul. This work will now last us for decades to come.



Mayor's Note

Planning is the Theme

Hope you all are staying warm! Winter is such a good opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends, but I'm also looking forward to warmer spring weather around the corner.

I am excited to share some great news. In February the Village will be kicking off the process to create an updated Comprehensive Plan (for details, see the article on page 2). It's my honor to lead this important project that will develop updated goals for our Village's future.

Your participation is crucial to this planning process. Working together, we can continue to build an efficient, prosperous community focused on resident priorities.

Later this year we will hold a community input session. I hope you all plan to attend to share your ideas and perspectives. Stay tuned for the date and time.

As always, I am here for you. Don't hesitate to reach out to me at any time with your questions, comments or ideas.

curlacher@mettawa.org

(847) 573-1460

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Safety Commission

Safety Commissioner, Trustee Tim Towne

Happy new year to all! The village of Mettawa remains vigilant on all our safety concerns. We have increased our safety patrols as well as our traffic controls. May I remind you to lock your doors, cars and windows when not at home. Also remember to lock your car door if you are warming it in the driveway during winter. If you see suspicious vehicles or persons in your neighborhood, report them. Always call 911 first to reach the Lake County Sheriff Department. ❁

Village Building Codes & Permits

Mettawa's building codes help ensure the safety of any construction in the Village. Over the last year, the Village Board has been working with B&F Construction Code Services, Inc., to get recommendations and prepare needed updates to our building codes.

The Village Board approved these updates in their November and December 2024 meetings. The new editions include the International Building Code, the International Residential Code for one and two family dwellings, the Electrical Code, and the Fire Code.

Save time and money by getting the right permits before you build. If a resident starts a project without the proper permits, the Village must issue a stop work order and that includes a mandatory fine.

However, determining which permits you need is a straightforward process. When you begin any type of building project, simply reach out to our Village engineers. They will be happy to share the details about any required permits. ❁

Upcoming Municipal Elections

The consolidated election is on Tuesday April 1, 2025. Please note you can now vote at any voting location in Lake County. To learn more, please see: [Lake County, April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election Information](#).

The Village of Mettawa has four positions that will be open for voting, including the Village President and three Village Trustee positions. Casey Urlacher is running for Village President, and John Maier, Carol Batson-Armstrong, and Matthew Witten are running for Village Trustees. ❁

New Comprehensive Plan Will Lay Our Future Foundation

The Village of Mettawa has a long history of carefully planning our municipal growth and development. As a result, we've preserved natural resources and open space, achieved financial stability and built a strong community. For many years, a strategic Comprehensive Plan has helped guide our success, and the last version was completed in 2016.

We are pleased to announce the development kickoff of a new Comprehensive Plan. The project will begin in February and continue for about a year. The Village will be working with the same consultant that produced the 2016 plan, Teska Associates, Inc.

Mayor Urlacher is spearheading this project, and says, "We are looking forward to resident feedback. An open door policy is always a priority for me, and we'll keep that at the heart of this process."

The planning process will follow four phases:

Phase 1: Baseline information gathering

Teska will work closely with the Village's elected officials and staff to better understand our community. They will start by taking a tour of the Village and getting to know our overall goals and environment.

Phase 2: Resident involvement and input

During this phase, Teska will actively seek resident contributions and will facilitate an important interactive community input meeting. All residents are invited to join this session, and your input will help create a shared vision for the Village of Mettawa's future. Please watch for more information about this community input meeting and mark your calendars. We hope you all can attend!

Phase 3: Development of recommendations

The consultant team will take into considerations all of the information gathered in Phases 1 and 2, including vision, goals and objectives. They will compare this with the 2016 plan. Then they will make recommendations for land use, natural resources, community services, infrastructure and transportation.

Phase 4: Plan review and adoption

Teska will prepare a draft Comprehensive Plan for review that includes guidance for implementation. They will present this plan at a public hearing before the Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission. Then they will make any needed revisions before presenting it to the Village Board.

We look forward to seeing this project progress in the year ahead. ❁



Administrator's Report



Village Administrator, Mandi Florip

Budget planning has begun for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026. After we assess capital improvement projects and financials, a full draft budget will be presented to the Finance Committee at its March meeting, and it may include some larger projects.

A proposed budget will be posted on the Village website after the meeting. The final budget will be presented to the Village Board at a public hearing on April 15, 2025. Please do reach out to me with any questions 🌸

Village Board Actions

Highlights of recent Village Board actions during the last quarter are listed below. The complete list of actions may be found in the meeting minutes that are always available online at mettawa.org.

1. Approval of an Ordinance Authorizing Certain Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) Village of Mettawa Budget
2. Approval of a Resolution Determining the Estimated Village of Mettawa Real Estate Property Tax Levy for the 2024 Tax Year
3. Approval of the 2024-2025 Insurance Policy with ICMRT (presented by MGA Insurers, INC) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$17,301
4. Approval of Forest Builders Inc. Proposal for 15409 Old School Road Ditch Stabilization Termination Swale in the Amount of \$6,000
5. Approval of Forest Builders Inc. Proposal for 301 Little Melody Lane Ditch Maintenance in the Amount of \$14,500
6. Approval of Dunlap Tree Experts Proposal to Clear Trees and Brush at 301 Little Melody Lane Ditch Area in the Amount of \$2,000
7. Approval of Forest Builders Inc. for Payment of Completed Ditch Maintenance at Westwood Lande in the Amount of \$7,000
8. Approval of Forest Builders Inc. Proposal for 894 Mettawa Lane Culvert Replacement and Ditch Regrading in the Amount of \$9,800
9. Approval of the Davey Tree Experts Company for the Village's Park Tree Removal Project in the Amount of \$20,800
10. Approval of Davey Tree Experts Company for Anti-Desiccant Treatment for the Eleven Spruce Trees at the 15085 W Old School Road in the Amount of \$375
11. Approval of Dunlap Tree Experts Proposal for Riverside Removal of Dead Trees, Buckthorn, and Clearing of Debris in the Amount of \$9,700
12. Approval of the Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Mettawa, Chapter 9 Building Code
13. Approval of Teska Associates Comprehensive Plan in the Amount of \$19,500
14. Approval of the Resolution Setting Forth the Regular Meetings of the President and Board of Trustees and All Subsidiary Bodies of the Village of Mettawa for 2025
15. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Village President and Village Clerk to Execute Contract with Hilton Garden Inn to Provide for Meeting Room Space for Regular Meetings of the Village Board and All Village Committees and Commissions During 2025
16. Approval of the Amendment to the Agreement with Sandy Gallo LLC for Administrative and Village Clerk Services
17. Approval of the Agreement with Davey Tree Experts Company for the use of Whippoorwill Park
18. Approval of Office Furniture Warehouse Proposal for Filing Cabinets for Scanned Documents in the Amount of \$4,382.81
19. Approval of an Amendment to Security Services Agreement Between Howe Security and the Village of Mettawa
20. Approval of James Anderson Company Agreement for 2025
21. Approval of an Ordinance Authorizing the Levy and Collection of Taxes for the Corporate and Municipal Purposes of the Village of Mettawa, Lake County Illinois, for the Tax Year 2024
22. Review and Recommendation of Tax Incentive Payment to W.W. Grainger
23. Review and Recommendation of Repayment of Loan for Acquisition of W.W. Grainger Parcels
24. Approval of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 898 of the Village of Mettawa
25. Approval of a Resolution Approving the Release of Certain Executive Session Minutes of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Mettawa, Illinois
26. Approval of the Lowest Bidder Dunlap Tree Experts for the 2024 Right-of-Way Tree and Stump Removal Project in the Amount of \$13,995
27. Approval of an Amendment to the Haraden Farms and Stable License Agreement for the 2024 Harvest 🌸



Village of Mettawa

26225 North Riverwoods Boulevard
Mettawa IL 60045

Casey Urlacher, Mayor
Carol Armstrong, Trustee
Wendie Clark, Trustee
John Maier, Trustee
Debra Pelech, Trustee
Swab Smolic, Trustee
Tim Towne, Trustee
Amy Weiland, Village Treasurer
Mandi Florip, Village Administrator
Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk

www.mettawa.org



The Village of Mettawa strives to preserve and nurture
our authentic rural and horse-friendly environment
and to ensure the highest quality of family life for our residents

MEETING CALENDAR

Check the calendar online at Mettawa.org
or contact the Village Clerk for the complete schedule.

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

6:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee,
Public Works Committee

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
7:00 p.m. Village Board

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

7:00 p.m. Zoning, Planning and Appeals
Commission (ZPA)

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

6:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee,
Public Works Committee

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
7:00 p.m. Village Board

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

7:00 p.m. Zoning, Planning and Appeals
Commission (ZPA)

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

6:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee,
Public Works Committee

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
7:00 p.m. Village Board

NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:

February 18, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

CONTACTS

Casey Urlacher, Mayor

Mandi Florip, Village Administrator
(224) 602-9478

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk
(847) 573-1460

PUBLIC SAFETY:

DIAL 911 FIRST

NON-EMERGENCY:

Lake County Sheriff:
(847) 377-4000

Village Security Patrol Car:
(847) 404-6272

GARBAGE & RECYCLING

Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC
(847) 366-8582 or (815) 675-0400

VILLAGE WEBSITE:

mettawa.org