

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBUARY 11, 2026, IN THE COTTONWOOD ROOM A**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Upon a call of the roll the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Clark and Members Towne and Witten

Absent: None

Chairman Clark declared a quorum present.

Attendees: Village Clerk, Sandy Gallo; Village Administrator, Mandi Florip; Village Engineer, Scott Anderson; Trustees Armstrong and Smolic

**C. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANAURY**

Meeting minutes of January 14, 2026, were reviewed. It was moved by Member Towne seconded by Member Witten that the regular meeting minutes be approved and be placed on file. The motion was carried.

**D. REVIEW THE DAVEY TREE EXPERT COMPANY TWO PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATION WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE TREE TREATMENTS AS OAK HILL LANE AND WHIPPOORWILL PARK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,257**

Chairman Clark stated annual Oak Tree treatments proposals were received by Davey Tree Expert Company. Oak Hill Lane treatments will cost \$16,708 and Whippoorwill Park will be \$14,549. These are granulated applications and injections for the Oak Trees in both locations. Member Towne stated he did work on this park in 1982, this location has been there for 44 years, and no maintenance was done before. In 2011, a few trees fell with no damage. Member Towne stated this location does not require this type of maintenance. Chairman Clark indicated the village is losing a number of these heritage trees. With this treatment, we are ensuring the Oak Trees continue to thrive. Chairman Clark stated she disagreed that the maintenance is not substantial to keep these trees healthy. Trustee Armstrong added when buckthorn was removed around the Oak Tree, that treatment impacted the trees. As a result, support of the Oak Trees after a buckthorn treatment is necessary. This will be the second year treating the Oaks. Member Witten stated he has seen trees on his own property be contaminated with diseases and needed to remove them. Member Witten added if the cost of replanting these trees is less than the treatments, than its not necessary. However, Member Witten added the Committee should consider completing the year's treatment and evaluate the trees when the next session is due.

A motion was made to approve the Davey Tree Experts Company for the Oak Tree treatments in the amount of \$31,257. The motion was made by Chairman Clark and seconded by Member Witten. Member Towne was a Nay. The motion was carried.

**E. UPDATE ON THE NEW FENCE AT WHIPPOORWILL PARK**

Member Witten has been obtaining fence proposals for Whippoorwill Park. Member Witten asked the Committee if they preferred cedar or galvanized posts. The Committee consensus was to install a cedar post. Member Witten indicated the fence is an open style and it will have a 48-inch concrete footing. It will be a double gate closure. Member Towne asked that the gate width be sufficient for pick-up trucks. The west entrance gate will be moved into the park 12-feet from its current location.

**F. DISCUSS THE MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ITEMS FOR FY2026-2027 BUDGET**

Chairman Clark asked Village Engineer Scott to write-up the Old School Road trail specifications for it to go out to bid next month. Village Administrator Florip indicated this project has been budgeted for \$135,000. The additional trail maintenance amount will be used to treat the weeds. Chairman Clark indicated the mowing expenditure should be increased to capture the additional service needed at Old School Road and Riverside lots. Village Administrator indicated the Pizzo & Associates is a 4-year contract, 2025-2028. Chairman Clark added she is looking to remove the arborvitaes at the Riverside lot. However, no big tree removal project will be necessary due to the current tree inventory listing on all the village lots. Member Towne asked if the Savanna will be farmed this year. Chairman Clark stated the land will be tilled and harvested this year. Bob Haraden did not farm Savanna as it had been treated for weeds. Village Administrator Florip added this budget will be updated and reviewed next month too.

Chairman Clark added she spoke to a few contractors to add dirt at Whippoorwill Park. Village Engineer Scott Anderson commented once the larger hole is filled, good topsoil and seed will be the finishing layer.

**G. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY APPEAR TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION, AND IF APPROVED, BE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Member Towne seconded by Member Witten to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk