

APPROVED MINUTES

VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Village of Antioch, Lake County, Illinois
Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60002
March 12, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gartner called the March 12, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:36 pm at the Antioch Municipal Building located at 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL and via Zoom.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor and Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Trustees were present: Burman, Bluthardt, McNeill, Pierce, Macek and Pedersen. Also present were Mayor Gartner, Attorney Vasselli, Administrator Guttschow and Clerk Romine.

IV. Absent Trustees Wishing to Attend Remotely

There were no Trustees wishing to attend remotely.

V. Mayoral Report –

Acknowledgements – National Women's History Month, World Down Syndrome Day

Mayor Gartner discussed a contract that will need to be approved and ratified for the 2025 kickoff concert, however there is an NDA until the contract is executed. The cost is the same as the previous year, and needs to be signed by March 22. There were no objections to the execution of the contract.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

Clerk Romine read aloud the following public comment submitted from Mr. John Mathatas regarding the VFW support for the placement of the Veteran's Memorial:

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, Mayor Gartner, Honorable Trustees, Village Officials and my fellow residents. My name is John Mathatas. I am the Junior Vice Commander at the Antioch Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4551, ad hoc member of the Antioch Veterans Memorial committee and resident of the village. I thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding the Antioch Veterans Memorial (AVM) site location. These comments reflect both my personal and duty position with the Antioch VFW Post 4551. As time has evolved since the inception of the AVM concept, there have been a number of ebbs and flows in various forms. This includes, public support, financial support, organizational support (private and public) and interpersonal issues. This is the nature of a project, any project with a population wide impact for various reasons and motivations. But, in this instance, this project also tugs on the heart-strings of many residents and officials alike due to the "Veterans" association. To provide some clarity for the Board and Residents of the Village, the VFW membership (through a general meeting vote) supports the efforts of both the AVM Committee, the Village in their allocation of the land and resources necessary to begin the immediate construction of the Memorial as presented in renderings and text. I share this as the Junior Vice Commander, as well as an Antioch resident. While personally a transplant to the Village after my military service, I feel a strong sense of community here and believe that this

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Memorial, in its current form, will further the communities commitment to their Veteran neighbors. Delaying any progress will be detrimental to the public support and negatively impact the financial viability of the project. Mothers, Fathers, generations before, sons and daughters for generations to come, will all have this icon in a great location that is conducive to the "Feel" of the downtown area. The time for protracted deliberations as to the location has passed. I strongly encourage a unanimous "Yes" vote by the Trustees, as well as a Supplementary "Yes" Vote from the Mayor to ratify the Village location as previously presented by the AVM Committee. Again, thank you for the opportunity to address you all and your consideration of the position of the Antioch VFW Members and my personal position. Good Evening, God Bless America and our Nation's Veterans.

Ainsley Wonderling reviewed the proposed location for the veterans memorial, and voiced her opposition to the proposed location. She said because this is a large concrete area, it will require the approval of the Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA. She believes it is too large, and will prohibit the views intended as green spaces in the wetland. She indicated there are people willing to step forward and help restore the wetlands to their originally intended use. She said there are several other locations in which the memorial could be placed, and asked the board to consider those locations rather than the wetlands.

VI. Regular Business

1. Approval of the February 26, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented - Trustee Pedersen moved, seconded by Trustee Burman, to approve the February 26, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented.

Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 6: Burman, Bluthardt, McNeill, Pierce, Macek and Pedersen.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

2. Discussion regarding Electronic Vehicle Charging Stations – Assistant Village Administrator (AVA) Jim Moran presented the proposed ordinance to set the rate for the charging station at Sequoit Creek Park. The ordinance outlines potential enforcement for EV parking only, and charging stations. In surveying other communities in the area, some charge per kwh and some per hour. He asked the board to consider charging per hour.

Trustee Macek discussed charges at other locations, and asked how minutes would be charged if a full hour isn't used. AVA Moran will look into the option.

Trustee Pierce asked for comparisons and costs before the board considers the ordinance. Administrator Guttschow advised that under current ordinance, we have a designated space for EV parking only, and staff is seeking direction on how to regulate that at Sequoit Creek Park. We do have an existing ordinance that restricts EV parking. He discussed designated spaces for EV parking, and recommends not designating specifically for EV use, but available to EV if the stall is open. Attorney Vasselli clarified the only change to the existing ordinance is subsection "E".

3. Discussion regarding the Veteran's Memorial project location – Mayor Gartner stated that borings and engineering were done at the wetlands location, and asked the board for an open discussion, and their input in order to keep this item moving forward.

Trustee Macek asked how Trustee Bluthardt could comment since he sits on the veteran's committee. Attorney Vasselli asked Trustee Bluthardt if he was making money off of the project. Trustee Bluthardt said he is not. Trustee Bluthardt confirmed that he has no pecuniary interest in the

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project after responding to several questions from the Village attorney. The Village Attorney said there appears to be no conflict.

Trustee Bluthardt discussed the originally proposed location at Sequoit Creek Park, and the path toward the consensus on the currently proposed location. The AVM has raised money for over a year advising people that the memorial would be placed at the location near the wetlands. It has been well known for over a year where the memorial would be located, and a large amount of money has been raised. He expressed concern that a change in the location may result in the request of refunds from previous donations. He also expressed concern that a different location may delay or end the project. He understands the concerns raised, but wishes they would have been voiced earlier when the location was considered. At this time he fully supports the existing location.

Trustee McNeill asked if the location has been designated wetlands. Director Heimbrodt responded that, based on the plan by Manhard Consulting, the flood plain would not be impacted, so the Army Corps would not be involved. We are a certified community under the Stormwater Management Commission, and the job would be permitted if required under those guidelines. Trustee McNeill agrees with Trustee Bluthardt on the location, and thinks it may bring more people to that area.

Trustee Pierce agrees with the previous comments and said the time has passed for deliberation, and it is a good location.

Trustee Macek is in favor of a memorial, but said it encroaches on the William Brook Memorial and that is his issue. He also expressed concern with carnivals, and how the wetlands would be protected. He thinks everyone should be involved, including the American Legion and Antioch Township, and is happy the VFW is on board. Trustee Macek added that he was told by the American Legion they will not participate as the color guard for the parades if this is the location of the memorial.

Trustee Pedersen asked if this location would interfere with the Bill Brook Wetland, and was told no, that it would be next to it. She spoke with Ainsley and found out that the main circle of the memorial is 50 feet and does go right up to the gravel, and trees planted for the wetland memorial will need to be removed. Changes will be necessary for the wetland because of this. She asked the veteran's committee if they were open to reducing the size of the memorial so it doesn't encroach on the wetlands.

Trustee Burman agrees that the size is too large for the area. She asked the board to consider whether this would be discussed if a wetland was going to encroach on a veteran's memorial. She fully supports veterans, but wants it done right and to last a long time. She asked that the project be paused until it can be figured out, and thinks all points need to be considered without pushing forward. Trustee Burman thinks all other involved groups need to be a part of the discussion as well.

Mayor Gartner agrees with both sides, and understands how the project can be delayed. He is concerned that it won't be completed if it goes back to the drawing board, and is disappointed in how this has transpired over the last 2 years. He is committed to making sure it gets done, and hopes everyone feels welcome and part of the project.

Trustee Macek said the American Legion spent a lot of time and money on the tank, and asked if there will be separate memorial locations. Trustee Pierce said he supports having multiple memorials, and doesn't agree that the project should be delayed because the Legion is not involved. He said they were involved, and decided to withdraw from the project.

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Trustee Pedersen said she knew Bill Brook, and this town is what it is today because of him. She believes it's disrespectful to him to encroach on the wetlands.

Ms. Deb Rentner, Antioch Veterans Memorial, will be meeting with the contractor on Friday and can talk with him about the request to reduce the size. She said it will not block the entrance to the wetlands. Ainsley Wonderling said it doesn't encroach on the entrance but does encroach on the walkway, and will block the entrance view from the street. She said it would fit better and look better if the size is reduced.

Mayor Gartner said this is on the regular meeting for consideration and a vote, and is looking for guidance from the Board on how to move forward.

Trustee Pedersen asked if the vote could be postponed until after the meeting on Friday.

Trustee Bluthardt said the Board will never be unified 100% on the location, but it sounds like there is a consensus to keep it there, but reduce the size or shape.

Mayor Gartner asked for renderings and engineering sketch for the meeting in order to have a vote on it. He wants to keep it on track for the contractors who are donating their time for the veterans.

4. Discussion regarding the Lions Club proposed renovation of the Williams Park Pavilion –

Administrator Guttschow reviewed the request to allow the Village to work with the Lions club to rebuild the south pavilion at Williams park, which was originally constructed 40 years ago. A structural review was done in 2023 that showed it had reached the end of its useful price. The total project cost was \$200k to demolish the current structure and rebuild a new structure. The Lion's Club has agreed to take on costs with a small contribution of \$55k from the Village, along with the services of the Village's electrician.

Mayor Gartner commented on the many community donations made by the Lions Club.

Mr. Kevin Fielder, Lions Club immediate past president, reviewed the proposed project. He said they previously asked for the rights to make necessary repairs to the Standard Oil building, and the Village was able to grant a lease on the building at a very low cost. As the club was looking into the repairs of the pavilion, and had the structural integrity assessed, they put the Standard Oil building repairs on pause, with the focus on the pavilion. They opened up to 3 contractor bids for repairs at approximately \$90k. The committee recommended going with Lake Shore Construction for the project. The Lion's Club met with the Village about the type of structure they wanted, and decided it would be appropriate to build a direct replacement of what is there. The estimated cost of demolition, materials, and construction are roughly \$175-200k. They would like to move forward immediately, and asked for assistance from the Village removing the electric and providing temporary electric during construction.

Mayor Gartner said pickleball courts are included in the Centennial Park project budgeted this year, and those funds could be used for this project since the park will be covered by the OSLAD grant.

Mr. Fielder said the goal is to have this done by the 4th of July.

5. Discussion regarding a memorandum of understanding with Protect Lake County –

Administrator Guttschow reviewed the agreement to enhance public safety, which will be funded by a grant. The agreement will provide a resource to the police department to conduct full behavioral threat assessments. There is no financial impact to the Village to participate beyond offering members of personnel as resources.

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6. Discussion regarding new financial software – Finance Director Peterson presented the proposal to upgrade the financial software package due to the current provider requiring a movement to a cloud based solution. Many staff expressed dissatisfaction with the current vendor's support and resources. The desktop version must be moved to a cloud version by the end of the year, and rather than going through two migrations, an opportunity came up for BS&A software. He said it is used in 149 IL local governments, 24 of which are in Lake County. Director Peterson said it is user friendly, right-sized and he and other staff has experience with it. Most importantly, they can deploy prior to December 31, 2025. Given the deadline and urgency, he asked that the board waive the bidding and RFP requirements. This item will be budgeted in FY26. He discussed training and resources available from other communities. Director Coppari discussed the various applications available for building and permitting. Director Peterson said this is replacing existing financial software, and there is an annual cost savings compared to the current vendor.

Director Pederson responded that he is 100% comfortable with the software, which he believes is right-sized for the Antioch community.

7. Discussion regarding dates for strategic planning meetings – Mayor Gartner discussed the quarterly or bi-annual meetings, and hoped the board could decide on two dates this calendar year that may work to host those meetings for 2-4 hours. He asked to keep meetings on Friday afternoons for a couple of hours in order to avoid staff working weekends.

Trustee McNeill asked if a day other than Friday could be considered.

Trustee Pierce said some Trustees may be required to take vacation days in order to attend these meetings, and he would like to see them occur at nighttime for board convenience and for public attendance.

Trustee Pedersen said the days don't matter to her, and she previously took vacation days in order to attend.

Trustee Burman asked the Board to consider staff being here during the day and into the evening, and is not in favor of having this on weekends.

VII. Other Business

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Romine, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk