



Village of Maple Park

302 Willow Street ♦ P.O. Box 220 ♦ Maple Park, Illinois 60151

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Approved by the Village Board
of Trustees on May 5, 2026

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026
MAPLE PARK CIVIC CENTER
302 WILLOW STREET, MAPLE PARK
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Village President Chris Rebone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Rebone led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL/QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Village Clerk Maria Taylor called the roll call, and the following Board Members were present: Village President Chris Rebone, Trustee Andy Bingley, Trustee Tonia Groezinger, Trustee JT Peloso, Trustee Chris Simon, Trustee Cliff Speare, and Trustee Jen Ward.

Also present: Village Administrator Cheryl Aldridge and Village Clerk Maria Taylor.

Members of the public present were found on the meetings sign-in sheet.

President Rebone confirmed a quorum was established.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Any resident wishing to address the Board may do so according to the guidelines set forth in the “Rules for Public Comments at Public Meetings” handout. Please complete a speaker request form and submit it to the Village Clerk. You may also send an e-mail to villageclerk@villageofmaplepark.com in advance of the meeting. The Village Clerk will read such comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Time Limit: 5 minutes per speaker.*

None.

5. DISCUSSION OF CMJ AGREEMENT

Administrator Aldridge has been discussing with CMJ IT the network needs of the Village. Administrator Aldridge provided a spreadsheet that explains the services and mentioned that the Village has been with CMJ since 2015. Currently, the Village pays hourly for some services in pre-paid blocks of hours. She mentioned that looking at recent years of hours purchased, the higher level of service will be a less expensive option. Administrator Aldridge recommends updating the CMJ Agreement to their ultimate service with support inclusive of the current service of their premier package with block hours. She also mentioned that there is an optional email security package that would be \$7 per month per

email address, if the trustees would also like to include this service. Administrator Aldridge asked if the trustees had questions and or comments. Trustee Bingley asked for some clarification regarding email. The Village President stated he supported staff on this decision. Further questions can be answered before voting at the Village Board Meeting.

6. DISCUSSION OF VILLAGE CODE SECTION 6-2-9 LIVESTOCK AND RESIDENTIAL CHICKENS

The Village President reported that a resident is currently keeping ducks for egg production. Administrator Aldridge noted that the current code references “Livestock & Residential Chickens,” which would classify ducks as livestock under the current code. Administrator Aldridge asked the trustees whether they wanted to amend the ordinance to specifically address ducks and potentially include other animals with clearer language. Trustee Ward inquired whether ducks are noisier than chickens, to which Administrator Aldridge responded that they are. The Village President then asked each trustee for their opinion on allowing ducks within village limits. Most trustees expressed agreement that ducks should not be permitted in town. Administrator Aldridge will work to have the ducks removed.

7. DISCUSSION OF VILLAGE CODE SECTION 6-3-6-1 OPEN LIQUOR CONTAINERS - REFERENCE TO FILMORE PARK CORRECTING TO LIONS PARK

President Rebone mentioned that this would be just correcting language in the code. Lions Park is currently listed as Filmore Park. All agreed.

8. DISCUSSION OF THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK UPDATES

Village Administrator Aldridge reported that Treasurer Warford and Trustee Groezinger have met to make updates, including cleaning up language from the previous version, which was last revised in December 2023. They spent many hours reviewing the document to ensure everything is properly aligned. The updated version will be sent to the Village Attorney prior to the meeting and is expected to be ready for motion at the May Village Board meeting. Administrator Aldridge noted that these updates will help prepare the Village for the addition of a full-time patrol officer and asked if the trustees had any questions. The Village President requested clarification regarding the appendix, stating a preference to have the Trustees listed over the Village President, and asked that this page be revised accordingly. Administrator Aldridge added that she will notify the board if the Village Attorney makes any further changes.

9. DISCUSSION OF SCOOTERS & E-BIKES

This will be revisited after state legislation information becomes available.

10. DISCUSSION OF VILLAGE CODE SECTION 11-10 SIGNS

Administrator Aldridge noted that the Village’s sign code section 11-10 (Permits for Permanent Signs) does outline requirements for permits, while Section 11-10-10 (Signs Permitted in All Zoning Districts) states that, unless otherwise specified, signs listed in that

section do not require a permit. She requested that this portion of the code be reviewed to resolve any inconsistencies and determine how to proceed. Administrator Aldridge further explained that any amendments to the sign code would require a Planning & Zoning Commission public hearing. She asked the Board for guidance on next steps. Trustee Ward requested clarification regarding which types of signs were affected. The Village President responded that the code already identifies the applicable sign types, and the primary issue is determining whether a permit is required. Administrator Aldridge stated her goal is to eliminate contradictions and ensure there are no additional inconsistencies within the code. The discussion ensued regarding other code in this section about painted windows. Administrator Aldridge asked that the Trustees review the section of the code provided and asked for guidance on how to proceed by the end of May.

11. DISCUSSION OF VILLAGE CODE SECTION 5-9 OPEN BURNING AND RECREATIONAL FIRES

Trustee Simon shared that he had spoken with residents, who expressed a desire for greater electronic accessibility to information. Administrator Aldridge responded that the information is already available on the Village website. Trustee Groezinger stated her preference to remove the burn permit requirement. She noted that her fire pit is mobile and that she has homeowners' insurance. She expressed concern that the Village should not overly regulate residents or require permits for bonfires. Trustee Simon agreed with removing the permit requirement but emphasized that residents should still be clearly informed about what materials are permitted to be burned. Trustee Ward stated she would support eliminating the permit requirement, and Trustee Speare indicated agreement. Administrator Aldridge shared an example of a resident having an excessively large fire, highlighting potential safety concerns. The Village President stated that the existing code should remain in place, but the permit requirement should be removed. He emphasized that residents must act responsibly and noted that enforcement already exists under Section 5-9-5 (Penalties), which grants Chief Peterson the ability to address violations. He concluded that the permit requirement is unnecessary and should be removed. Administrator Aldridge suggested conducting a public relations effort to remind residents of approved burning practices. The Village President added that Chief Peterson should lead outreach efforts related to fire protection and safety.

12. DISCUSSION OF THE ILLINOIS AMERICAN 250 COMMEMORATION RESOLUTION

Administrator Aldridge read that IML is encouraging all municipalities to adopt a model resolution that is in support of the Illinois American 250 Commemoration. Adoption of the resolution demonstrates our community's commitment to honoring the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and celebrating this moment in our nation's history. Village President agreed that we are all for celebrating our country.

President Rebene stated that DeKalb has a cool program which ties into the 250th anniversary. He stated that he had been discussing this with Administrator Aldridge and Public Works Director Johnson without knowing that this was based on 250. They are hosting a paint-a-fire hydrant program as a competition and figured this could be something fun for Maple Park.

President Rebone stated that, prior to Fun Fest, we would host a competition to paint fire hydrants on Main St. and spruce it up. The way DeKalb is proceeding is that people submit a design and application. He stated DeKalb applied for a grant for the paint. The Village President requested that the Village adapt this idea; however, we will supply the paint specifically for hydrants. We want to avoid residents using the wrong paint. Discussion ensued regarding hydrants. They agreed to open it up to all the hydrants in town.

A discussion began regarding the pond plan that has been a discussion for 4 years. The Village President stated he had a plan and that this has been discussed. He stated that the pond has raised 4 ½ feet and we must let it sink. He stated we need to have engineers look at it and give us some recommendations. The discussion ensued.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Administrator Aldridge will review the fire hydrants painting program. She will ask for permission from DeKalb to use their application. There is a process that they will have to go through to be approved before the resident can paint the hydrant. Trustee Speare suggested that it get inspected. If there are issues, then there may be a fine, and it could be considered destruction of property.

Trustee Groezinger stated that she received a call from Taylor Miller, who wants to add flowers to the Beau Miller Park sign during Mother's Day weekend. Administrator Aldridge stated she would notify Susan Ward, the Beatification Committee contact in town.

The Village President stated he met with Terry Keenan a few days ago. He stated that there is an interested person who would like to put a pizza shop next to Family Hairloom. Mr. Keenan is on board to do a mural on the west side of the building. He will be asking for TIF money. A discussion ensued regarding TIF funds.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business before the Board, motion was made by Trustee Simon with 2nd by Trustee Speare to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Maria Taylor, Village Clerk