

CALL TO ORDER

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was held on July 28, 2025 at 300 Plaza Circle, Mundelein. Mayor Meier called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

MINUTES APPROVAL

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RESULT:	Passed [Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0]
MOVER:	Mayor Meier
SECONDER:	Trustee Juarez
AYES:	Mayor Meier, Trustee Juarez, Trustee Krinski, Trustee Lambert, Trustee Ugaste
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Jack McKay started to make commentary but Mayor Meier informed him that his commentary was more likely to be of interest at the Regular Board Meeting, coming up in an hour or so.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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Attorney Ruth Schlossberg spoke regarding the importance of how the Village and Board, especially the Mayor, deal with social media.

Important points she reviewed were first amendment rights, and that government/Village has free speech rights of its own and can choose to post what to post or not to post.

BUT....GOVERNMENT MUST FOLLOW FIRST AMENDMENT GUIDELINES FOR OTHERS – If Village opens up comments, then it can become a public forum subject to rules about moderating and blocking certain comments – Some rules are permitted: “time, place and manner” BUT NO viewpoint discrimination, No blocking for that reason, No deletion of comments for that reason.

As a private citizen – you can discuss what you like and can manage your social media and comments freely – You have your own First Amendment Rights – You have the right to speak about what you learn in your elected capacity and your opinions, but: • As a state actor – you need to follow the First Amendment.

Why has the Village turned off comments?

Limited capacity to moderate: takes considerable time and resources and budget implications

Inability to Respond Effectively: Staff cannot monitor 24/7 – Non-Response/Silence Misinterpreted: Seen as ignoring questions or concerns • Diluted Messaging: – What are the goals of the social media post?

Appearance of censorship or unfair deletion if moderated • Cesspool if not moderated

FOIA Implications: All posts including comments must be retained under Local Records Act and subject to FOIA – Village does not have the right technology for this – Would require new software to manage properly • Personal Attacks and/or Policy Disagreements: – Officials or staff may feel targeted unfairly or inaccurately but cannot respond with facts – Policy or discussions may be misrepresented – Limited Capacity for Responding Effectively – No win in online debates/responses – Do people want the facts? Some do/some don't want to be or can't be persuaded

Ms. Schlossberg pointed out that Board members can have personal social media pages BUT must make it very clear that they are NOT posting as representing the Village/government but as a private person. Having a disclaimer on personal social media pages is a must--this is a PERSONAL page.

Can Board Meeting Agendas be posted on social media? Answer--yes but a best practice is to cite to the Village's website with a link. This avoids any accidental editing or deletions of material in the agenda. As for unofficial recaps, posting summaries on personal or group pages can seem official, and can also create an impression of deliberation outside the public meetings.

Answering questions from Community Facebook pages may be hard to resist but the recommendation is to resist. It can be seen as an official response, instead supplying a link to the official information or discussion on the Village's site.

If you have any doubts about blocking individuals or posts, check with the Village Administrator or Village Attorney first.

ADJOURNMENT

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RESULT: Passed [Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0]

MOVER: Trustee Juarez
SECONDER: Trustee Krinski
AYES: Mayor Meier, Trustee Juarez, Trustee Krinski, Trustee Lambert, Trustee Ugaste
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.