

**VILLAGE OF JOHNSBURG
JANUARY 29, 2026 MEETING
OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

President Hettermann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Attendees

~~Trustee Mike Fouke~~ (*absent*)

Trustee Josh Hagen

Trustee Scott Letzter

Trustee Jamie Morris

~~Trustee James Sylvanus~~ (*absent*)

Trustee Keith Von Allmen

~~Village Administrator Claudett Sofiakis~~ (*absent*)

Assistant Village Administrator Vinny Lamontagna

Chief of Police Jason Greenwald

~~Village Attorney Michael Smoron~~ (*absent*)

~~Special Projects Coordinator Riek Quinn~~ (*absent*)

MINUTES - Trustee Morris moved to approve the minutes. Trustee Letzter seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted aye on the roll. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN REPORT – Village President Hettermann advised to the committee the employment offer for Assistant Village Administrator has been accepted, background and medical screening results are pending and typically take 7–10 business days, upon clearance, he is willing to start within 24 hours. Village President Hettermann also reminded the members about proposed planned Strategic Planning Meeting, Saturday, March 7th and to-date Trustee Fouke and Trustee Morris have submitted their SOAR analysis, remaining submittals are due no later than Monday, and emphasized timely submission is necessary to proceed with the strategic planning meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

-ECONOMIC COMMITTEE – Trustee Hagen provided an overview regarding small shops proposed at Rescue Squad Park and EDCs continued progress on planning container-style small business units. Currently evaluating options including two 20-foot containers or one 40-foot container with four separate units, or individual 10x10 units. He’s expressed his thoughts on cost comparisons underway with the vision of additional costs include mini-split HVAC units, electrical connections, and site work. Trustee Hagen expressed Public Works to handle site preparation, electrical work to be contracted. EDC exploring sponsorships and donor contributions to offset costs. Currently consideration likely a partnership, similar to McHenry model where JABA manages operations. Discussion among the COW continued with the aesthetics to be reviewed once Trustee Hagen was further along and cost and visuals to be shared. Trustee Hagen then identified Rt-31 redevelopment as a key annual goal. Village President Hettermann advised Belle Tire planned for corner lot near Walmart, pending architectural review phase. Additionally, shared ongoing discussions with property owners of the JC Penney center with potential redevelopment involving one confirmed tenant, possibly two, and reconfiguration of existing space with updates anticipated by April meeting. Trustee Hagen expressed in summary, that retail trends have shifted significantly since the 2006 R-31 Comprehensive Plan and we need to update plans and marketing materials to reflect modern development targets. Village President Hettermann responded the Strategic Planning session will address long-term direction for the corridor. Assistant Administrator was asked to respond regarding grocery store updates “ArrivaDeli” with a meeting scheduled with ownership to discuss operations and gather input. Additionally, owner was invited to participate in March 7th Strategic Planning session to align business plans with community vision. Trustee Hagen marketing and communication comments encompassed focus on completing foundational marketing tools; finalize and update website, relaunch e-blast communications via constant contact system set up, resume regular communications (weekly/bi-weekly updates; quarterly newsletter) and new assistant administrator hire expected to significantly assist in completing these initiatives. Keeping in mind long-term marketing strategy to follow once foundational efforts are reestablished. In concluding by Trustee Hagen wanted to emphasis on proactive outreach to local businesses for grand openings, anniversaries, and milestone celebrations. EDC and Village goal to strengthen promotion and support for small businesses, while continuing to pursue larger R-31 economic opportunities.

-ORDINANCE COMMITTEE – Trustee Morris proposed amendment to Chapter 15 (Non-Highway Vehicles); discussion regarding a proposed amendment to allow side-by-sides (UTVs) on Johnsburg Road between Fairview and May Ave, proposal originated in August from Trustee Sylvanus and was previously tabled due to road construction. Trustee Morris advised ordinance committee revisited the issue and voted 4-1 in favor of allowing side-by-sides, excluding golf carts. Emphasis within the committee identified vehicle distinctions of UTVs vs. golf carts from a roadway safety perspective. Police Chief Greenwald expressed opposition, citing anticipated enforcement complications and community division. Discussion among the COW referenced neighborhood impact with some trustees noted allowing side-x-sides on Johnsburg Road could reduce neighborhood congestion, noise complaints, and other unwanted activity in subdivisions while others cautioned against making decisions based on subdivision complaints alone. Assistant Administrator shared with the COW discussion referenced pending Illinois legislation, currently not in effect which allowed Trustees to advise suggested waiting for state action to avoid local controversy. Village President Hettermann recapped said amendment was a first read and ordinance will return for second reading at the next regular board meeting, Trustees encouraged to review and consider impacts prior to final vote.

-PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - Trustee Letzter commented whether to hold COW meetings after the third Tuesday regular meeting to reduce additional meeting nights as concern expressed that combining meetings could result in very late sessions. Village President Hettermann advised they are as needed and meetings will not be held if there are no agenda items. Additionally, Hettermann expressed SOAR analysis submissions are intended to streamline discussions and avoid lengthy regular meetings. Trustee Letzter then commented on review of private roads; ongoing concerns from a River Terrace resident regarding the condition of the private road, resident claims unaware the road was private at time of purchase, board members noted disclosure responsibility lies with realtor/attorney, not the Village. Village President Hettermann shared Village plows for emergency access and performs limited patching and drainage assistance. Concern expressed about fairness to other subdivisions that funded their own road improvements through SSAs or HOA contributions. Village President Hettermann further stated improvements must be resident-driven, Village cannot assume responsibility without required standards and funding participation. Trustee Letzter requested clarification regarding vending machines at parks at which time Assistant Administrator advised in summary; vending machine delivered and stored at Hiller Park garage, vendor must install a dedicated 20-amp electrical breaker before operation, and anticipated activation in spring.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Letzter shared recent participation in District 12 strategic planning session. Expressed positive feedback regarding leadership and direction under new Superintendent, and teachers expressed desire for increased collaboration time among staff. Police Chief Greenwald responded in summary regarding the School Resource Officer (SRO) discussion. Chief expressed ongoing discussions with District 12 regarding implementing a dedicated SRO at the high school. Understanding Superintendent supports the program; some board members reportedly have concerns of cost and perceived necessity. Chief advised sharing a proposed IGA suggesting 70/30 cost-sharing model. Officer would serve approximately 9 months in school and assist Village during summer months. Role would focus on mentorship, counseling, behavioral threat assessment, and relationship-building, not routine enforcement. Advising no presentation date yet scheduled before the school board.

ADJOURNMENT - Trustee Von Allmen moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Morris seconded the motion. All Trustees voted aye. Motion to adjourn was carried at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

*Vinny Lamontagna
Village Assistant Administrator*