

AGENDA
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF SWANSEA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
January 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
Administrative Building Board Room 1444 Boul Avenue, Swansea, IL 62226

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – 6:00 – 6:05

Chair: Trustee Jablonski; Vice-Chair: Trustee Lewis V. Members: Trustees Lanter, Pochek, McGuire, Thouvenot

1. Travel Request- Kari Speir- IGFOA Downstate Chapter Conference Feb. 5-6, 2026
2. Travel Request for Sgt. Breanna Kemper-Damm for the 2026 Shield of Armor Wellness Conference in Cape Girardeau, MO, April 27-28th
3. Travel Request for Chief Blomberg and Sgts. Reuter and Kociemba to Attend the 2026 Southern Illinois Criminal Justice Summit in Effingham, IL, February 24-26th
4. Request to Hire: Paid on Call Firefighter - Connor Mackin

The Personnel Committee opened at 6:00 PM to discuss various travel requests and a hiring recommendation.

Travel Request- Kari Speir- IGFOA Downstate Chapter Conference Feb. 5-6, 2026

The committee reviewed a travel request for Finance staff member Kari Speir to attend the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA) Downstate Chapter Conference on February 5-6, 2026. Ben explained this was Kari's professional group's annual conference, noting that IGFOA is a certifying agency that provides important education for the position. The total cost for conference fees, hotel expenses, and other related costs was estimated at \$703, which was confirmed to be within the training budget.

Motion to forward the travel request to the Village Board made by Trustee Jablonski, seconded by Trustee Thouvenot. Trustee Votes – All Ayes.

Travel Request for Sgt. Breanna Kemper-Damm for the 2026 Shield of Armor Wellness Conference in Cape Girardeau, MO, April 27-28th

Chief Blomberg explained that Sergeant Kemper-Damm developed and oversees the department's wellness program. He noted that she attended this conference last year and found it "absolutely amazing." The Chief added that Sergeant Kemper-Damm had even convinced their certified counseling service to send their therapist to the conference as well. The estimated total cost for training, lodging, meals, and fuel was \$389.98 for the April 27-28, 2026 conference in Cape Girardeau.

Motion to forward the travel request to the Village Board made by Trustee Jablonski, seconded by Trustee McGuire. Trustee Votes – All Ayes.

Travel Request for Chief Blomberg and Sgts. Reuter and Kociemba to Attend the 2026 Southern Illinois Criminal Justice Summit in Effingham, IL, February 24-26th

Chief Blomberg described this as the largest law enforcement conference in the state, run by the regional training unit. The Chief explained that the conference offers a 2.5-day training that helps fulfill many mandated training requirements. He typically takes supervisors to the conference to provide them with updated information and as a reward for their hard work. The Chief noted that while he had originally planned to take three staff members, only two supervisors (Sergeant Reuter and Sergeant Kociemba) would be attending this year. The committee learned that Sergeant Reuter had attended previously, while this would be Sergeant Kociemba's first time. The estimated total cost for all attendees was \$1,061.78, covering training costs, lodging, meals, and fuel.

Motion to forward the travel request to the Village Board made by Trustee Jablonski, seconded by Trustee Lanter. Trustee Votes – All Ayes.

Request to Hire: Paid on Call Firefighter - Connor Mackin

The committee considered a request to hire Connor Mackin as a Paid-on Call Firefighter. The Fire Chief explained that Mackin is a local resident who has lived in the village his entire life. He was previously a member of a Boy Scout troop through Wolf Ranch and completed his Eagle Scout project by building a flag depository at Ingenau's. The Chief noted that Mackin wanted to give back to his community again and had attended multiple Monday night meetings to learn about the fire department. Mackin had passed all pre-appointment exams and physical requirements. The position was described as a non-exempt hourly position paying \$15 per call and per training.

Motion to forward the hiring recommendation to the Village Board made by Trustee Jablonski, seconded by Trustee Lewis. Trustee Votes – All Ayes.

The Personnel Committee closed at 6:05 PM.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – 6:05 – 6:22

Chair: Trustee Lanter; Vice-Chair: Trustee Thouvenot Members: Trustees Lewis V, Pochek, McGuire, Jablonski

1. Audit Presentation
2. Res. No. _____ A Resolution Authorizing The Village Of Swansea To Enter Into A Sixty (60) Month Lease Agreement With AMERICOM Imaging Systems, Inc, 10352 Lake Bluff Drive, St. Louis, MO 63123 At A Cost Of \$188.25 Per Month, For A Canon C5735 35ppm Color Multifunctioning System At The Swansea Police Department*

The Finance Committee was opened at 6:05 PM.

Audit Presentation

The committee received a presentation from auditor Chris regarding the annual audit. The auditor thanked the board for the opportunity and specifically acknowledged Kari and her team for their timely provision of the hundreds of documents needed for the audit process.

The auditor explained that because the Village exceeds the population threshold in state statute, it is required to have an annual audit conducted by a CPA or CPA firm. He reported that the Village received an "unmodified opinion," which he described as the equivalent of a "clean opinion" - the best possible outcome.

Key highlights from the audit presentation included:

- The General Fund had approximately \$7.5 million in cash and investments, an increase from the prior year
- Major revenue sources (income tax, sales tax, and grants) had increased
- Expenditure has also increased, partly due to union-negotiated contracts and additional personnel hires as the municipality grows
- The Village had approximately 8-9 months of operating expenses in reserves
- The sewer operations continued to perform well financially, with assets increasing while debt associated with IPA loans continued to decrease
- The auditor commended the Village for its investment practices, noting that many municipalities fail to generate investment income by keeping funds in checking accounts
- The Fire Pension was approximately 95% funded and the Police Pension was 74% funded, both well above the state average (estimated around 60%)

During questioning, Trustee Thouvenot expressed concern that the General Fund reserves (8-9 months) exceeded the Village's code of ordinances, which stipulates a maximum of 4 months of reserves. The auditor acknowledged this was unusual, noting that while minimum reserve requirements are common

among municipalities, maximum limits are rare. He stated that he was not aware of any state statutes setting maximum reserve limits.

The Mayor indicated the board would revisit the reserve policy at the next meeting, expressing his concern that the 14-15 year old policy may not reflect current economic realities, especially given increased costs and potential emergency needs.

Res. No. _ A Resolution Authorizing The Village Of Swansea To Enter Into A Sixty (60) Month Lease Agreement With AMERICOM Imaging Systems, Inc, 10352 Lake Bluff Drive, St. Louis, MO 63123 At A Cost Of \$188.25 Per Month, For A Canon C5735 35ppm Co

The committee reviewed a resolution for a 60-month lease agreement with AMERICOM Imaging Systems for a Canon C5735 copier for the Police Department at a cost of \$188.25 per month. It was confirmed that this was the same company the Village had been using.

Motion to forward the resolution to the Village Board made by Trustee McGuire, seconded by Trustee Lanter.
Trustee Votes - Ayes.

The Finance Committee closed at 6:22 PM.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Chair: Trustee Lewis V.; Vice-Chair: Trustee Thouvenot Members: Trustees Lanter, Pocek, McGuire, Jablonski

Nothing Requested At Agenda Time

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Trustee Lanter; Vice-Chair: Trustee Jablonski Members: Trustees Lewis V, McGuire, Pocek, Thouvenot

Nothing Requested At Agenda Time

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chair: Trustee McGuire; Vice-Chair: Trustee Pocek Members: Trustees Lanter, McGuire, Jablonski, Thouvenot

Nothing Requested At Agenda Time

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Chair: Trustee McGuire; Vice-Chair: Trustee Lanter Members: Trustees Pocek, Lewis V., Jablonski, Thouvenot

Nothing Requested At Agenda Time

CULTURAL COMMITTEE – 6:23 – 6:29

Chair: Trustee Lewis V.; Vice-Chair: Trustee Pocek Members: Trustees Lanter, McGuire, Jablonski, Thouvenot

1. Res. No. ____ A Resolution of the Village of Swansea Adopting the Illinois Municipal League Civility Pledge

The Cultural Committee opened at 6:23 PM.

Res. No. _ A Resolution of the Village of Swansea Adopting the Illinois Municipal League Civility Pledge

Trustee Lewis introduced a resolution for the Village to adopt the Illinois Municipal League Civility Pledge. He emphasized the importance of board members showing respect for each other even when they disagree, stating that civil discourse sets an example for citizens and the nation. He suggested that adopting the pledge would not just be a gesture but would add weight to the commitment to respectful interaction.

During discussion, Trustee Thouvenot brought up a past incident where he claimed Trustee Lewis had yelled at him after a meeting, using inappropriate language. Trustee Lewis acknowledged there had been

a confrontation but disputed the specific language alleged by Trustee Thouvenot. Trustee Lewis maintained he had called Trustee Thouvenot a "liar" but denied using profanity. The mayor intervened to move the discussion forward.

Motion to forward the resolution to the Village Board made by Trustee McGuire, seconded by Trustee Lewis.
Trustee Votes – All Ayes.

The Cultural Committee closed at 6:29 PM.

SWANSEA REPORT COMMITTEE

Chair: Trustee Jablonski; Vice-Chair: Trustee Pocek
Thouvenot

Members: Trustees Lewis V, McGuire, Lanter,

Nothing Requested At Agenda Time

Before adjourning, the Mayor suggested potentially changing the schedule for meetings, proposing that committee meetings start at 6:00 PM with the regular meeting at 6:30 PM to avoid waiting when committees finish early. It was confirmed that specific times must be set for meetings rather than using language like "immediately following." More discussion to follow.