

**AGENDA**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF SWANSEA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**January 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**  
Administrative Building Board Room 1444 Boul Avenue, Swansea, IL 62226

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**I) Call to Order**

Mayor called the Regular Meeting of the Village of Swansea Board of Trustees to order on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

**II) Pledge Allegiance to The Flag**

Mayor Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III) Roll Call**

Village Clerk Gloria Collier conducted roll call.

**IV) Mayor's Announcements/Correspondence**

The mayor announced that the Swansea Rotary Club would be holding their annual dinner on Saturday, February 8th at the Swansea Moose Lodge with tickets available through the Swansea Rotary website. The mayor encouraged attendance, noting the Rotary Club's paddle race would benefit local causes. Previous beneficiaries included Special Olympics participants and the Children's Advocacy Center.

The mayor also reported that he and Trustee Thouvenot had met for breakfast and agreed to move forward together for the benefit of the village despite past election differences. The mayor emphasized that while they may not always agree, they would work to better the entire village.

Trustee Thouvenot added that he took it upon himself to "set 2026 in a different direction" and hopes they can work as a unified board to look out for taxpayers who have chosen Swansea as their hometown. He expressed hope that issues he shared would lead to changes that could continue the village's progress.

**v) Approval of Minutes**

1. Committee Minutes- December 15, 2025\*
2. Board Minutes- No meeting- no quorum
3. Special Board Meeting- December 19, 2025\*
4. Special Board Meeting- December 22, 2025\*
5. Special Committee Meeting- December 22, 2025\*

**Committee Minutes- December 15, 2025**

Motion by Trustee McGuire, seconded by Trustee Lanter, to approve the Committee Minutes of December 15, 2025.

Motion carried with Trustee Jablonski and Trustee Thouvenot abstaining as they were not present at the meeting.

**Board Minutes- No meeting- no quorum**

It was noted there was no meeting due to lack of quorum.

**Special Board Meeting- December 19, 2025**

**Special Board Meeting- December 22, 2025**

**Special Committee Meeting- December 22, 2025**

Motion by Trustee Lanter, seconded by Trustee McGuire, to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of December 19, 2025, Special Board Meeting of December 22, 2025, and Special Committee Meeting of December 22, 2025.

Motion carried with Trustee Jablonski abstaining as she was not present at the meetings.

## **VI) Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer John Walter presented the report for November 30, 2025, detailing the balances of various funds:

- Fund 1 (General Fund): \$7,529,817.45
- Fund 6 (Motor Fuel): \$1,649,198.18
- Fund 11 (Rural King District): \$264,508.95
- Fund 12 (159 Gold Business District): \$1,846,473.00
- Fund 13 (2501 Redevelopment Area): \$198.26
- Fund 14 (TIF #1): \$2,310,374.09
- Fund 15 (TIF #2): \$322,567.84
- Fund 21 (Sewer Operation and Maintenance): \$814,708.98
- Fund 22 (Sewer Capital Replacement): \$8,127,952.16
- Fund 25 (Sewer Reserve Fund): \$758,147.17
- Fund 97 (Capital Fund): \$32,369.96
- Fund 99 (Capital Maintenance Fund): \$1,077,869.01

Total balance of all funds: \$25,634,185.42

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Trustee Jablonski and seconded by Trustee Thouvenot to place on file.

Trustee Votes – All Ayes

## **VII) Acceptance of Minutes of Advisory Boards/Place on File**

No advisory board minutes were presented.

## **VIII) Park Board Chairman Report**

Park Board Chairman Charlie Pitts announced that the next Park Board meeting would be held on Saturday at 8:00 AM at Thompson Center. He reported on the successful 2025 Santa House, which saw 525 children attend. The event was financially even, with picture revenues covering costs. Decorations were provided through a donation from Swansea VIPs.

Chairman Pitts acknowledged the more than 50 volunteers who made the event possible, giving special thanks to public works employees who assisted with emergency situations. The mayor added that Mike and his son played a significant role in the Santa House event.

## **IX) Village Attorney/Village Administrator-Announcements/Comments**

Village Attorney/Village Administrator-Announcements/Comments

**Police Chief Matt Blomberg** announced with sadness that retired **Sergeant Woolery** had passed away on Christmas Day at age 71. Willard had worked for the village for 28 years and was one of the first four sergeants. His remains would be driven through Swansea and around the Police Department the next day, with an informal gathering at Thompson Center on Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

Chief Blomberg also reported that the awards committee had selected Detective Alex Wilkin as Officer of the Year, with a presentation planned for the first meeting in February.

**Fire Chief Doug Little** reported that their awards banquet would be held on January 17th, with presentation of 2025 awards to members. He noted continuing inquiries about both paid-on-call and part-time duty shifts, with more applications in the queue beyond the one being presented at the meeting.

**Public Works Director Rick Tucker** reported that road projects for the season were complete with a few punch list items remaining. A large culvert storm drain project would start early February. He noted that good weather had allowed outdoor work to continue, and preparations for next fiscal year's budget were underway.

The mayor mentioned that winners had been selected from school art contests for "Welcome to Swansea" signs, with plans to display the artwork and credit the student artists on the signs.

**Building and Zoning Director Dan Thomas** reported that a potential applicant for the 4510 Locust Street music building had backed out, but another individual was now interested in creating a bar/restaurant in the building. This would require gaming and liquor licenses, and he wanted to gauge the board's interest before the applicant invested more in the project. The board suggested individual discussions with Thomas or the administrator to provide feedback.

**Village Administrator Ben Schloesser** reported on several items:

- End of calendar year activities including invoices and reporting
- Upcoming storm water projects
- Next steps on 159 streetscape projects
- Application for federal service transportation project grants
- Metro East Parks and Recreation District acknowledgment of the trans park project application
- Upcoming application for reimbursement to St. Clair County Parks and Recreation
- Continued work on proposed development of Triple Lakes with positive recommendations
- Upcoming requirements for economic interest statements

Schloesser also congratulated Trustee Natalie Jablonski on her promotion to director of project governance, prioritization, and corporate facilities operations.

## x) Public Comment

### Public Comment

Timothy Buchanan expressed concern that the village was not following its ordinance on the reserve fund, questioning what other ordinances might not be followed. He requested clarity on who would be responsible for ensuring ordinance compliance. Regarding the reserve fund, he argued that 3-4 months of reserves would be adequate, noting that excess reserves collected from current residents might end up benefiting future residents after population turnover.

**Steve Duff** inquired about several issues:

- Whether anything had been done about trampolines in front yards since he raised the issue at a previous meeting
- Suggested that garbage cans should not be visible except on garbage day
- Reported a hole at Fullerton and 159 that needed repair, suggesting village vehicles could report such issues
- Thanked the road department for repairs on Twin Lake

Building Director Thomas responded that current code does not allow intervention for trampolines in front yards unless they're dilapidated or in poor condition, though the board could consider changing the code.

## **XI) Report of Committees**

### **A) Personnel Committee – Comments**

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 27-28<sup>th</sup>
3. Travel Request for Chief Blomberg and Sgts. Reuter and Kociemba to Attend the 2026 Southern Illinois Criminal Justice Summit in Effingham, IL, February 24-26<sup>th</sup>
4. Request to Hire: Paid on Call Firefighter - Connor Mackin

### **Personnel Committee – Comments**

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

Motion to approve the travel request for Kari Speir to attend the IGFOA Downstate Chapter Conference February 5-6, 2026, at a cost of \$703.00.

Motion made by Trustee Lanter, seconded by Trustee McGuire. Trustee Votes – All Ayes.

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

Motion to approve the travel request for Sgt. Breanna Kemper-Damm to attend the 2026 Shield of Armor Wellness Conference in Cape Girardeau, MO, April 27-28, 2026, at a cost of \$389.98.

Motion by Trustee Lanter, seconded by Trustee Jablonski. 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 24-26<sup>th</sup>*

Motion to approve the travel request for Chief Blomberg and Sgts. Reuter and Kociemba to attend the 2026 Southern Illinois Criminal Justice Summit in Effingham, IL, February 24-26, 2026, at a cost of \$1,061.78.

Motion made by Trustee McGuire, seconded by Trustee Jablonski. Trustee Votes – All Ayes.

*Request to Hire: Paid on Call Firefighter - Connor Mackin*

Motion to approve hiring Connor Mackin as a Paid-on Call Firefighter at a rate of \$15.00 per call/per training.

Motion made by Trustee Jablonski, seconded Trustee McGuire. Trustee Votes – All Ayes.

### **B) Finance Committee Report – Comments**

1. Approval of Bills\*
2. Ord. No. 2006 An Ordinance Declaring Personal Property Owned By The Village Of Swansea As Surplus, Specifically A White 2020 Ford Interceptor VIN: 1FM5K8AW9LGC94863, And A Mr. Manhole 40-SIXSHOOTER, Serial#: 60704\*
3. Res. No. 1-2724 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\*

### **Finance Committee Report – Comments**

*Approval of Bills*

Motion to approve bills in the amount of \$869,926.31.

Motion made by Trustee Lanter, seconded by Trustee McGuire. Trustee Votes – All Ayes.

Ord. No. 2006 An Ordinance Declaring Personal Property Owned By The Village Of Swansea As Surplus, Specifically A White 2020 Ford Interceptor VIN: 1FM5K8AW9LGC94863, And A Mr. Manhole 40-SIXSHOOTER, Serial#: 60704

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2006, an ordinance declaring personal property owned by the Village of Swansea as surplus, specifically a white 2020 Ford interceptor and a Mr. Manhole 40-SIXSHOOTER, Serial#: 60704.

Motion made by Trustee McGuire, seconded by Trustee Lanter. Trustee Votes – All Ayes.

Res. No. 1-2724 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 Multifunction System at the Swansea Police Department

Motion to approve Resolution No. 1-2724, 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 multifunctional system at the Swansea Police Department.

Motion made by Trustee Lanter, seconded by Trustee McGuire. Trustee Votes – All Ayes.

### **C) Judiciary Committee – Nothing Requested At Agenda Time**

### **D) Community & Economic Development- Comments**

1.Ord. No. 2007 An Ordinance Amending Section 115.07 Within Chapter 115: Liquor Control\*

Ord. No. 2007 An Ordinance Amending Section 115.07 Within Chapter 115: Liquor Control

Motion by Trustee McGuire, seconded by Trustee Lewis, to approve Ordinance No. 2007, an ordinance amending section 115.07 within Chapter 115: Liquor Control.

Trustee Votes – All Ayes.

### **E) Public Safety Committee – Nothing Requested At Agenda Time**

### **F) Public Works Committee – Nothing Requested At Agenda Time**

### **G) Cultural Committee –**

The Cultural Committee presented Resolution No. 1-2725, a resolution of the Village of Swansea adopting the Illinois Municipal Civility Pledge.

Trustee Lewis requested that if approved, every board member signs and dates the pledge, suggesting it be recommitted on a yearly basis. Trustee Jablonski agreed this would be a good opportunity to "recharge, refresh, and reflect" annually.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 1-2725, a resolution of the Village of Swansea adopting the Illinois Municipal Civility Pledge.

Motion made by Trustee McGuire, seconded by Trustee Lanter. Trustee Votes – All Ayes.

### **H) Swansea Report Committee – Nothing Requested At Agenda Time**

### **XI) Old Business**

Trustee McGuire inquired whether Fort Worth Road striping was the village's responsibility. Public Works Director Tucker confirmed it was and noted that it had been completed last year, though the quality wasn't ideal. He explained that changes in paint composition (less lead) had affected durability, and that higher quality striping like that used by the state on Route 159 would be much more expensive.

There was discussion about potentially making road striping an annual budget item due to safety concerns, particularly in rainy conditions. The mayor indicated he would discuss this with Jeff and bring recommendations back to the board.

## **XII) New Business**

Trustee McGuire presented a business directory that he suggested could be incorporated into the Swansea Report once a year. The directory listed all businesses, churches, and fraternal organizations in the village, along with municipal phone numbers. He suggested providing it to new residents applying for occupancy permits. Trustee Jablonski agreed it was an excellent idea that could be incorporated into the workflow of the economic development position.

## **XIII) Announcements**

No announcements were made.

## **XIV) Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn.

Motion carried with all Trustees voting Aye.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:37 PM.

**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

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**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** – 6:00 – 6:05

Chair: Trustee Jablonski; Vice-Chair: Trustee Lewis V.  
Thouvenot

Members: Trustees Lanter, Pocek, McGuire,

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 27-28<sup>th</sup>
3. Travel Request for Chief Blomberg and Sgts. Reuter and Kociemba to Attend the 2026 Southern Illinois Criminal Justice Summit in Effingham, IL, February 24-26<sup>th</sup>
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 27-28<sup>th</sup>**

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 24-26<sup>th</sup>**

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  
Jablonski

Members: Trustees Lewis V, Pochek, McGuire,

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.