MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Village of Arlington Heights

Arlington Heights Village Hall
33 S. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
November 12, 2025
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

President Tinaglia and the following Trustees responded to roll: Wendy Dunnington, Colin Gilbert, Robin LaBedz, Bill Manganaro, Carina Santa Maria, Jim Tinaglia, Greg Zyck. Trustee James Bertucci, Tom Schwingbeck were absent.
Also present were: Randy Recklaus, Melissa Gallagher, Emily Rodman, Charles Perkins, Deputy Chief Lance Harris and Maggie Mattio.
Others Present: Tiffany Gates, Johanna McKenzie Miller and various Metropolis Theater staff and Board Members

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. COW Meeting Minutes 10/15/25

Trustee Zyck moved to Approve. Trustee LaBedz Seconded the Motion.
The Motion: Passed
Ayes: Trustee Dunnington, Trustee Gilbert, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Manganaro, Trustee Santa Maria, President Tinaglia, Trustee Zyck
Nays: None
Absent: Trustee Bertucci, Trustee Schwingbeck

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Staff Follow-up from Previous Meeting

Trustee Zyck had a question regarding pensions that staff will continue to research and provide an answer prior to the December 1st Village Board Meeting.

B. Metropolis Performing Arts Centre

Mr. Recklaus provided a brief background about the relationship between the Village and the Metropolis Theater. He mentioned that the Village provided the Theater with a yearly operational contribution of $290,000.

Ms. Tiffany Gates, Executive Director, and Ms. Johanna McKenzie Miller, Artistic Director, presented the budget for the Metropolis Theater of Performing Arts. Ms. Gates said the theater kicked off its 26th year with a blockbuster season wherein all performances were movie titles. The season launched with Grease, which became the highest-grossing production in the Theater's history. In terms of the budget, she reported a $271,000 increase in total income compared to 2024, an 8% increase in ticket sales driven by strong attendance and higher service fees, and an increase in development income from $419,000 to $506,000 due to a high-netting gala, special event, and an increase in grant funding and donations. Revenues from the School of Performing Arts had a slight decrease due to District 25's summer schedule shifting from 12 weeks to 10 weeks. Overall, the Theater saw a gross profit of $1.59M, up from $1.39M in 2024.

In 2026, the Theater will strategically invest in production quality, artists and technical staff, and specialized marketing outreach to continue to grow while keeping a conservative budget. Ms. Gates' projections for 2026 included an increase in income growth, ticket sales, education revenues, and development revenues.

C. Review of Department Budgets
To view proposed budget [click here]:

- Boards and Commissions
- Planning & Community Development
- Public Works
- Fire

Boards and Commissions
Mr. Recklaus said there were no significant changes to the Boards and Commissions budget other than an increase in dues to Meet Chicago Northwest, which are based on hotel tax receipts.

Planning & Community Development
Ms. Rodman said a key focus over the past year and into 2026, has been the strategic restructuring of the department to meet increasing workloads and prepare for major upcoming projects. The restructuring included reclassification and promotion of two planners, redistribution of duties based on staff strengths and expertise, and the addition of a CDBG consultant and an on-call planning consultant to expand capacity during peak periods. The proposed budget also included a permit technician to help manage the more than 3,000 annual building permits and allow for higher-level staff to focus on advanced responsibilities. In 2026, the department will begin a comprehensive update to the nearly 20-year-old Downtown Master Plan, evaluate existing housing programs, provide development review of various large projects, and continued redevelopment efforts within the four TIF districts. Lastly, Ms. Rodman said the budget allocated $125,000 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to begin a housing study assessing housing supply, demand, affordability, and future needs.

Trustee LaBedz asked for an explanation on the use of TIF funds for a grant program. Ms. Rodman said TIF V was set to expire within the next few years and had outstanding monies. Staff recommended that the Economic Development Manager explore the creation of a facade grant program that would allow shopping centers within the district to make facade or exterior improvements before the TIF expired.

Trustee Zyck inquired about the use of the $1.34M in the Affordable Housing Fund. Ms. Rodman said staff has been working with the Housing Commission to develop guidelines that will set the criteria for how organizations can apply for and be evaluated for funding. Staff was also reviewing whether some existing housing programs would be more efficiently run by nonprofit agencies. Partnership with other organizations could expand services and may be another appropriate use of the fund monies.

Public Works

Mr. Papierniak provided an overview of the Public Works Department and their 2025 achievements. He mentioned that Public Works has experienced significant staff turnover within the last 5 years and anticipated additional turnover in the coming years. Therefore, in 2026, the department will continue to focus on staff development, succession planning, and employee engagement. An increase in project costs due to inflation has led staff to combine contracts to increase scale and value. Work has also shifted in-house to reduce contractual expenses. He reported that an estimated 40% of known lead service lines are expected to be replaced by early 2027.

In terms of the budget, Mr. Papierniak said Public Works was responsible for 7 funds, 165 accounts and roughly $65M in the 2026 budget. Due to the nature of the work, some items fluctuate by more than 5% and variances could be explained by encumbrances, rebalancing, scope changes, or redistribution of funds to improve efficiency or levels of services.

President Tinaglia asked for an update on the Euclid project. Mr. Papierniak said the project timeline was originally two-years, but staff condensed it to a one-year project to reduce long-term disruption. There have been delays due to permitting, but he anticipated the project to be completed by the end of the year and street resurfacing to occur in 2026.

Fire

Chief Harris thanked the Board and staff for their support, which has been instrumental in strengthening the Fire Department, improving services, and ensuring the safety of the community. He highlighted that 2025 was the final year of implementation of the fifth ambulance and shared that as of September it had responded to 645 calls, reducing mutual aid by 46%, and has shown a net positive income of over $400,000. The Department hired eleven new personnel, including the paramedics to staff the fifth ambulance full-time. He added that hiring certified candidates has resulted in significant training cost savings for the Village.

The Department remains focused on operational readiness, fiscal responsibility, and maintaining a high standard of emergency services.

D. Final Recommendation of the Committee-of-the-Whole to the Board of Trustees for the 2025 Property Tax Levy payable in 2026

Trustee Zyck inquired about the 2% loss in cost factor and asked if it was included in the budget. Ms. Gallagher said the 2% percent loss in cost factor was standard as the Village does not receive 100% of the tax levy. She clarified that the actual increase in the levy was 2.29% and not 2.29% plus the 2% loss in cost factor.

Discussion ensued regarding how the Village could budget in future years as it pertained to staffing levels, reserve fund balance, and application of surpluses. It was decided that those discussions would be had during the budget-ceiling process.

Trustee LaBedz moved to Approve. Trustee Gilbert Seconded the Motion.
The Motion: Passed
Ayes: Trustee Dunnington, Trustee Gilbert, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Santa Maria, President Tinaglia, Trustee Zyck
Nays: Trustee Manganaro
Absent: Trustee Bertucci, Trustee Schwingbeck

E. Final Recommendation of the Committee-of-the-Whole to the Board of Trustees for the 2026 Budget

Trustee Manganaro moved to Approve. Trustee Santa Maria Seconded the Motion.
The Motion: Passed
Ayes: Trustee Dunnington, Trustee Gilbert, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Manganaro, Trustee Santa Maria, President Tinaglia, Trustee Zyck
Nays: None
Absent: Trustee Bertucci, Trustee Schwingbeck

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to speak on a subject not on the Agenda may speak at this time. Please limit your comments to three minutes.

Residents Martin Bauer and Arlen Gould were in support of the proposed increase in the tax levy as there are many uncertainties in the future.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee LaBedz moved to Adjourn at 9:11PM. Trustee Zyck Seconded the Motion.
The Motion: Passed
Ayes: Trustee Dunnington, Trustee Gilbert, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Manganaro, Trustee Santa Maria, President Tinaglia, Trustee Zyck
Nays: None
Absent: Trustee Bertucci, Trustee Schwingbeck

Persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, such as an American Sign Language interpreter or written materials in accessible formats, should contact the Health & Human Services Department, at 33 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, healthmail@vah.com or 847/368-5760.