

Village of Westville Regular Meeting Minutes

201 N. State St., Westville, IL
Wednesday, May 13, 2026 – 6:00pm

Mayor Strebin called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

	Mayor Strebin	Trustee Gallion	Trustee Sparling	Trustee Ellis	Trustee Hughes	Trustee Delhaye	Trustee Jordan
Present	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Absent							

Also present was Village Clerk Kendra Hepburn and Village Treasurer Kaleb Pierce.

4. Agenda

Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to approve the agenda and place on file. Motion by Hughes; Second by Jordan. No further discussion. Motion carried.

5. Public Comments

John Brown inquired about progress regarding regulations on e-bikes and scooters, noting a recent incident on W. Main Street involving junior high-aged individuals riding while multiple vehicles were behind them. He also referenced a near encounter involving a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction.

Trustee Gallion acknowledged that e-bikes and scooters have been an ongoing concern, including issues observed at the park. He stated that Trustee Varvel is currently working on potential amendments to the ordinance. Additionally, the School Resource Officer (SRO) is working to provide education and speak with students regarding safety.

Trustee Gallion also noted that the Salt Fork Community Unit School District has prohibited scooters on school grounds. He suggested the Board may consider additional restrictions, such as limiting usage during certain times of day, including after dusk.

Allen Daniels wanted to provide an update on the solar project. He clarified that he is not a spokesperson for the developer but shared that Ameren is proposing to reduce the allowable power capacity on their transmission line by half. Discussions are ongoing in an effort to maintain a higher capacity. He stated that until a resolution is reached, the project remains stalled. He further noted that if the capacity is reduced, the project may be scaled back from approximately 30 acres to 15 acres, and it is uncertain whether that would remain viable.

Paul Riggelman expressed concerns regarding motorized side-by-side vehicles operating at high speeds and revving engines on residential streets.

6. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing on April 20, 2026. Motion by Ellis; Second by Sparling. Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular meeting on April 22, 2026. Motion by Hughes; Second by Delhaye. No further discussion. Motion carried.

7. Claims

Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to approve the claims and place the report on file. Motion by Hughes; Second by Jordan. No further discussion. Motion carried.

8. Clerk's Report

Trustee Delhaye made a motion to approve the Clerk's Report, place the report on file, and turn the money over to the Treasurer; Second by Hughes. No further discussion. Motion carried.

9. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pierce reported that financial reporting is expected to improve as the Village continues planning for future capital purchases. He provided an update on the audit, noting that work is ongoing and that auditors have also begun preliminary fieldwork for the upcoming audit cycle.

Pierce further noted that the report includes required annual disclosures, including gross wages and payments to vendors exceeding \$25,000.00. Auditors are currently in the detailed stages of the audit process.

Treasurer Pierce also reported that gas credits are continuing to be utilized, with only a small number of accounts remaining.

Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and place the report on file. Motion by Sparling; Second by Delhaye. No further discussion. Motion carried.

10. Communications

A letter was received from the Friends of the Library requesting permission to install a Little Free Library at the park.

The Board was informed that Brian and Danelle Klugow applied on behalf of the Village to become a Tree City, and the Village has since received that designation. Commemorative plaques recognizing this achievement were presented to the Board. We will need to begin planning for an Arbor Day celebration.

Information regarding upcoming Clean-Up Days was provided, including details for both pick-up and drop-off services. A flyer has been prepared for distribution and posted on our Facebook page and at City Hall. We have also begun accepting addresses for the Town Rummage Sales.

11. Police Report

The Flock camera system project is progressing more quickly than anticipated. One camera has been installed on E. Kelly Avenue, and approval has been received from IDOT for installation along Route 1. Additional installation is expected to occur sooner than originally planned.

A new squad car has been delivered and is currently being outfitted for service. Trustee Ellis noted that an existing vehicle is planned to be taken out of service due to mechanical issues, including needed air conditioning repairs. Discussion included the possibility of either selling the vehicle or transferring it to the Gas and Water Department to replace an older Expedition, with that vehicle potentially being put out for bid. Equipment that cannot be reused will be removed and made available to smaller police departments.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) has been conducting outreach with Giacoma students and at Friendly Town.

Police activity for the reporting period included 117 traffic stops and 63 citations. There were four reported bar-related incidents.

Trustee Hughes reported that she, along with Faraci and Varvel, reviewed alleys and commercial properties to explore potential improvements. The Village will monitor available grant opportunities and determine next steps.

Trustee Ellis also reported that due to funding reductions within ILEAS, reimbursement for officer training will no longer be provided. As a result, the Village will likely discontinue participation in the program.

Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to approve the Police Report. Motion by Gallion; Second by Ellis. No further discussion. Motion carried.

12. Public Works Report

a. Streets & Alleys

Trustee Delhaye reported there were no major issues. He thanked the Mayor and Village staff for placing flags throughout the community in preparation for the upcoming celebration. He also reported that the 650 dump truck recall has been completed and the vehicle has been repaired. Public Works crews are continuing general clean-up efforts, including brushing and maintenance of alleys throughout town.

b. Sewers

Trustee Sparling reported that the vac truck is performing very well with no issues to date. Crews have also completed repairs to three catch basins.

c. Gas & Water

Trustee Delhaye reported that work continues on new gas line installation along Illinois Street. Service at 316 Bridgett Street has been disconnected. The Shaw and Delanois project is now 100% complete. Mack Street is anticipated as the next project, with engineering currently underway and a tentative timeline of late June to July.

d. Sidewalks

Trustee Ellis reported that he will follow up with Bennett regarding the status of this year's sidewalk projects and Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funding. Discussion also occurred regarding a retaining wall on State St, which IDOT has indicated is not under their responsibility.

e. Park

Trustee Gallion reported that new pickleball nets have been received and installed. The nets are heavy-duty and expected to perform well. Mulch has been ordered and is anticipated to be delivered either Friday or early next week.

Concerns were raised regarding e-bikes and scooters in the park. It was noted that enforcement of ordinances may need to be strengthened. The School Resource Officer (SRO) is expected to spend additional time in the park during evening hours and may assist with enforcement if restrictions are clearly communicated.

There have also been multiple incidents reported on the basketball courts, with at least three calls within the past month. Additionally, concerns were noted regarding littering in the park despite the availability of trash receptacles.

f. Community Beautification

Trustee Hughes reported that bids were opened last month in coordination with the Landbank, and three properties are scheduled for demolition by June 11. Additional properties will be evaluated moving forward.

He also thanked Public Works staff for preparing planters near the Depot for painting. Red, white, and blue flowers are being coordinated for planting, with installation anticipated sometime next week.

g. Public Works Director Report

Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to approve the Public Works report and place the report on file. Motion by Sparling; Second by Gallion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

13. Licenses/Insurance Report

a. Chairman Report: Delhaye

Trustee Delhaye had nothing to report.

14. Business District

None.

15. Unfinished Business

None.

16. New Business

a) Discussion/Vote: 2026-2027 Committee Appointments

Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to approve the 2026–2027 Committee Appointments. Motion by Hughes; Second by Jordan. No further discussion. Motion carried.

b) Mayor Appointments (1-Year Terms)

i) Chief of Police – Justin Varvel

Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to approve the appointment of Justin Varvel as Chief of Police. Motion by Ellis; Second by Hughes. No further discussion. Motion carried.

ii) Public Works Superintendent & Zoning Administrator – Mike Bennett

Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to approve the appointment of Mike Bennett as Public Works Superintendent & Zoning Administrator. Motion by Delhaye; Second by Hughes. No further discussion. Motion carried.

iii) Village Attorney – Dave Wesner

Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to approve the appointment of Dave Wesner as Village Attorney. Motion by Hughes; Second by Sparling. No further discussion. Motion carried.

c) Discussion/Vote: Ongoing Contract with Grant Writing Company for As-Needed Services

Discussion was held regarding transitioning the current agreement with the grant writing company from a monthly retainer to an as-needed service arrangement. It was noted that funds could instead be allocated toward other services, including a coding company to perform a comprehensive review of Village ordinances.

Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to approve the change to an as-needed service agreement. Motion by Hughes; Second by Delhaye. No further discussion. Motion carried.

d) Discussion: Friends of the Library – Little Free Library at Park

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Friends of the Library to install a Little Free Library at the park. A potential location near the sidewalk on the south end of the park was considered. The Board expressed support for the project as a way to encourage reading within the community. The Friends of the Library will coordinate with the Village regarding installation and final placement.

e) Discussion/Vote: Ordinance Amending Chapter 360 of the Village Code Pertaining to Zoning

Discussion was held regarding a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 360 of the Village Code pertaining to zoning. It was noted that the Village currently does not have regulations in place regarding solar, and this draft, prepared by Attorney Wesner, includes the recommended updates requested from the Board.

It was further noted that, due to the zoning amendment, a public hearing is required prior to final adoption. The public hearing has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. prior to the next regular meeting and has been duly published.

Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to approve the ordinance for the purpose of proceeding to public hearing. Motion by Delhaye; Second by Sparling. No further discussion. Motion carried.

f) Discussion Carpet Cleaning Quotes

Discussion was held regarding carpet cleaning quotes. For transparency, it was noted that three quotes were obtained. The Board agreed to move forward with Atlas as the lowest quote received. The Clerk's Office will coordinate scheduling of the service.

g) Discussion/Vote: Cost Share Lighting for New Police Station

Discussion was held regarding a cost-share lighting project for the new police station in coordination with RC Electric and the State of Illinois. The project includes upgrading lighting to LED, including fixtures in the downstairs storage area. The total project cost is \$4,100.00, with the Village's portion being \$1,585.00.

Trustee Gallion made a motion to approve the cost-share lighting project; Second by Hughes. No further discussion. Motion carried.

17. Closed Session

None.

18. Adjournment

Mayor Strebin entertained a motion to adjourn at 6:56pm. Motion by Hughes; Second by Sparling. Motion carried.