

## A REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Whitefish Bay was held in-person February 16, 2026.

Pursuant to law, written notice of this meeting was given to the press and posted on public bulletin boards.

### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

President Buckley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Trustees Dettmann, Haller, Kasper, Saunders, Serebin, Vanevenhoven and President Buckley

Also Present: Village Manager – Kelsey McElroy-Anderson  
Village Attorney – Chris Jaekels  
Police Chief – Patrick Whitaker  
Director of Public Works – Matt Collins  
Finance Director/Clerk – Jaimie Krueger  
Director of Building Services – Joel Oestreich  
Library Director – Nyama Reed (via Zoom)  
Deputy Clerk – Erin Granstrom

### **II. Consent Agenda**

It was moved by Trustee Haller, seconded by Trustee Dettmann, to approve the consent agenda with amendment. Motion carried 7-0.

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 2, 2026.
2. Check Register for January, 2025
3. Investment Report for January, 2025.
4. Temporary Beer/Wine Licenses for the fish fry dinners to be held at Holy Family Congregation on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>.
5. Strategic Plan Quarterly Report.
6. Resolution No. 3195 for Migratory Bird Day.

### **III. Report of the Village Officers**

1. Village Attorney – No Report.
2. Village Manager – Stated residents are being asked to not rake leaves in the street at this time, when we do have weather forecasted to allow to collection and how that will occur will be communicated to residents. There is a planned power outage for Village Hall on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm, likely Village Hall will not be able to provide services that day.
3. Village President – Klode Park Ice Rink is no longer frozen.
4. Miscellaneous Trustee – IT transition has gone smoothly, thanked those who planned and executed the transition.

### **IV. Petitions and Communications**

No Petitions or Communications received.

### **V. General Business**

1. **Presentation by the Whitefish Bay School District on the facilities planning process included including the community survey results and recommendations.**

Whitefish Bay School District Superintendent, Dr. Jamie Foeckler introduced staff, school board member and

consultants in attendance. Dr. Foeckler presented information on the facilities and the challenges to those buildings. The proposed improvements to facilities and the recommendation for a new middle school were described. Project cost, district funds being utilized and the referendum amounts were mentioned. The borrow would be a 20 year borrow and would pay off the 2009 referendum costs. Dr. Foeckler stated ways to reach out to the school district. The frequency of referendums was mentioned and if it would continue in the future. Ben Irwin added that state funding would be a factor that would impact if a referendum would be required in the future. Including efficiencies in this plan to result in reduced future costs were discussed. Timing of the referendum was discussed with mention of the school board's history of being fiscally responsible and the interconnection of these projects. Specific issues that are interwoven were mentioned. An overview of how referendums works in terms of financial restrictions and regulations for school districts. Differences for school districts versus municipal borrowing were highlighted. Current interest rates were discussed. There are two projects, a new building and improving existing buildings, being done at the same time was discussed with community support from the survey results. There was discussion on shared revenue and how it affects this referendum. Impacts on state aid was further discussed. Operational concerns of residents were mentioned and if this referendum would address these concerns. The \$20 million from school district fund balances in three sources were discussed including school board policy addressing fund balances as well as history of the fund balances. Going to referendum versus increasing the levy for a period of time was further discussed. It was mentioned that there is also a land swap of the current middle school building area to the proposed middle school area with the school district stating they anticipate that the district would incur the costs to repurpose the site of the old middle school, however, there would be further future discussions on this topic. Village's process of working with Ehler's to plan future debt and affordability of the lead service line and water main replacement project was mentioned, inquiring if the school district if there has been an analysis has been done for our current property taxes and the referendum. The school district does work with financial advisors and this analysis could be done. Dates of upcoming public information sessions and locations were mentioned.

## **2. Discussion on the Klode Warming Shelter Renovation/Reconstruction design firm request for proposals.**

Director of Public Works, Matt Collins, mentioned this is a project from the Capital Improvement Plan, providing further background on this project and other projects included in the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). Staff is seeking input on the board's input this project. John Wilson, village resident, and daughter Henrietta, were introduced. Henrietta introduced herself and presented ideas for the Klode Park Warming House Project, detailing the process to develop a proposed design. Recurring complaints following interviews were listed. Amenities and features to include in the project were listed. Henrietta provided a sketch of a possible layout of a new warming hut.

Collins sought board input on the placement of the warming hut and band shell. The direction the band shell and if a band shell or stage should be included were discussed including mention of proximity to neighbors and if a permanent structure would increase the occurrence of events. Seeking neighbor input and developing ordinances specific to band shell or stage were mentioned. There was discussion on the decibels produced by events and how it will impact neighboring residents. Having another rental space in addition to the Cahill Pavilion would be beneficial. Other suggested features included a small kitchen and a concession window. It was mentioned that currently the school district has managed Cahill rentals, however, that process going forward would be reviewed. Adding covered outdoor seating was mentioned to be a beneficial addition to the project.

It was agreed upon that razing the current structure rather than remodeling being the desired by the board.

Possibly removing the parking lot for safety with review of ADA evaluation without a parking lot or having fewer cars was brought up. It was mentioned that ideal setup would be angled parking on Shore Dr. Adding a recreation center was mentioned with staff pointing out the current project cost and the impact of adding a recreation center to the project budget would be much higher cost. Reviewing the CORP plan was mentioned. Discussion of comparison of usage of Klode versus Cahill occurred. Outdoor lighting improvements were

mentioned. Security cameras were mentioned to be included in the project.

Rentable space may be a conflict with normal usage such as for when the ice rink is operating was discussed. Budget is currently \$1.5 million, however, the board was open to adjustments to that amount based on proposals. The level of community engagement was discussed with mention that increased community engagement requires additional time. Civic Foundation input is important and should be included. Conducting a community survey was suggested for getting community input. Providing options for the public to give input was suggested. Including information in the newsletter to bring it to the community's attention that there are plans to work on Klode Park and where to look for future meetings on the topic was suggested. Using the same firm for both Klode and Cahill parks was agreed upon by the board.

**3. Discussion/action on the 2026-2030 Village Communication Plan.**

Assistant Village Manager, Anna Christopherson, stated this is part of the strategic planning process. The goal of a connected community and how the proposed communication plan accomplishes that was mentioned in addition to core communication goals. External communication portion of the plan was described. Accessibility changes and meeting the Department of Justice requirements by April of 2027 was further discussed. Internal communications in the proposed plan were detailed. Employees checking email was further discussed. In reference to establishing a visual brand it was suggested to pick a standard font to be used that meets accessible requirements.

It was moved by Trustee Saunders, seconded by Trustee Dettmann that the Village Board adopt the 2026-2030 Village Communication Plan. Motion carried 7-0.

**VI. Adjourn**

There being no further business, it was moved by Trustee Saunders seconded by Trustee Kasper to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.



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Erin Granstrom, Deputy Clerk