

Streets Committee Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

The Streets Committee meeting was called to order on March 12, 2026. Present for the meeting were Councilman Bell, Councilwoman Rensel, Councilman Chris Berger, Councilman Porter, Street Commissioner Tim Young, Village Engineer Eric Haibach, and several residents including Todd Kruse and John Buda. The purpose of the meeting was to review current street department operations, discuss ongoing maintenance projects, and address several operational and policy issues related to village infrastructure and services.

Street Commissioner Tim Young began the meeting with an operational update from the street department. Young reported that the department had recently completed its annual accounting of salt usage by the local school district. For the winter season, the school district used 146 tons of salt from the village supply. Based on the agreed-upon rate, the school district owes the village \$7,013.84, and an invoice has already been sent to the district. Young noted that, assuming there are no additional major snowfall events, the salt usage for the season appears to be largely complete.

Young then reviewed several recent maintenance activities completed by the street department. These included litter patrol work around the village and the installation of new traffic signage in the Lake Louise area. Residents in that neighborhood had requested signage warning drivers that cross traffic does not stop at certain intersections, and the department has now installed those signs.

Young also reported that new poles are being installed for the police department's speed monitoring boxes. The upgraded poles are heavier and more durable than the previous installations, providing better long-term support for the equipment requested by the police chief.

Seasonal cleanup work has also begun as the department transitions from winter operations into spring maintenance. Crews have started cleaning village parks, clearing walking trails, and cleaning parking lots throughout the community. Cold patching of potholes has also continued throughout the winter, with approximately three tons of cold patch used so far this year to address pavement deterioration caused by freeze-thaw cycles.

Young stated that the department has also been preparing equipment and facilities for the upcoming spring and summer work season. Crews have been cleaning trucks, organizing equipment, and generally preparing the department's fleet for the transition away from winter operations.

Council members then discussed the installation of a Flock camera pole along State Route 306. Young clarified that the pole installation was handled by the police department following an accident that damaged the previous installation.

Young also reported that replacement corporation limit signs are ready for installation. The department plans to mount the signs on four-inch steel square posts set in concrete footings with

anchor bolts. This method will make it easier to replace the signs in the future if necessary and will eliminate problems previously encountered with wooden posts deteriorating over time.

The committee next discussed repairs to the gate at the village cemetery. Young explained that he had worked with Nick DiVita to contact the insurance company and obtain a repair estimate for the damaged gate and nearby tree. The original estimate was quoted at \$5,600. However, when the contractor was contacted to schedule the repair, the company stated that the estimate had been incorrect and that the correct cost would be \$8,300. Because the change represented a \$2,500 increase, DiVita contacted the contractor to dispute the revised estimate and requested that the contractor review the situation and correct the error. The matter is currently under review by the contractor. Young noted that the village has documentation supporting the original estimate, including photographs and supporting materials.

Young also provided an update regarding a recent burial at the cemetery. He reported that a full burial was conducted recently despite very wet ground conditions. The burial proceeded smoothly and resulted in minimal ground disturbance, which he noted was a positive outcome given the weather conditions.

The committee then briefly discussed the removal and storage of holiday decorations used throughout the village. Young reported that all wreaths, bows, and ground lighting have been removed and carefully packed. The decorations were organized into clearly labeled containers based on their installation locations so that they can be efficiently redeployed next season. For example, lights and cords associated with specific areas of the village were packed together so that crews can easily reinstall them in the correct locations next year.

Young explained that the department will soon rent a lift for approximately one week in order to remove holiday lights installed on taller structures, including the high light poles and areas that cannot be reached safely without specialized equipment. While the lift is on site, the police chief has also requested use of the equipment to relocate or replace an antenna on top of Village Hall. Young confirmed that the lift will be approximately 55 feet tall, which should allow access to the required areas of the building. Street department staff are comfortable walking on the police station roof for certain work, but Young stated that the roof of Village Hall has a steep pitch that makes it unsafe for staff to access without the lift.

Council members asked whether the village has considered installing permanent decorative lighting on municipal buildings rather than installing and removing seasonal lights each year. Members discussed systems that allow permanent lights to remain installed while being programmed to display different colors for holidays or special events. For example, the lighting could be changed to orange for Halloween or red and blue to recognize police and public safety personnel. Committee members noted that while permanent lighting systems require a larger initial investment, the village could potentially save money over time by avoiding the annual cost of lift rentals and the labor required to install and remove temporary lights. It was suggested that the issue be evaluated further by the Properties Committee to determine the cost and potential payback period.

The committee then returned to the topic of the village's salt supply arrangement with the local school district. Young explained that after a previous committee meeting he contacted the school district to address concerns about how the district accesses the village salt supply. Historically, school personnel have come to the village salt facility during snow events—often early in the morning—to load salt using village equipment. Young expressed concern about potential liability if non-village personnel operate village equipment when no village employees are present.

In response to those concerns, the school district drafted a proposed agreement outlining the terms under which they would access the salt supply. Young forwarded the draft agreement to the village law department for review. The law director responded with revisions and also provided a copy of the original agreement that had been used in prior years, which apparently permitted the practice.

Young explained that the main issue is ensuring that the village is protected from liability if a school employee is injured while operating equipment or loading salt. The committee discussed the need for the agreement to include indemnification language requiring the school district to assume responsibility for any injuries or damages arising from their use of the equipment or facility.

Young described how communication currently works between the village and the school district during snow events. Typically, school officials contact him between 3:00 and 4:00 a.m. to discuss weather conditions and road conditions within the village. One of the school district employees who is familiar with the process then comes to the facility to load salt. That employee usually calls Young after arriving and provides updates about weather and road conditions throughout the village. Young noted that communication between the school district, the street department, and the police department during snow events has generally worked well.

However, council members reiterated their concern about allowing non-employees to operate village equipment without direct supervision. Even though police officers are often on patrol during snow events, members felt it was important to ensure that the legal agreement clearly addresses liability and training requirements. Young indicated that he has copies of the proposed agreement, the law department's revisions, and the original agreement available for review and can distribute them electronically to council members.

The meeting concluded with general agreement that the committee would continue reviewing the proposed agreement and ensure that proper legal protections are in place before finalizing the arrangement with the school district.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.