

WALNUT VILLAGE BOARD MINUTES Tuesday, July 8, 2025

The meeting with the President and Board of Trustees held on the 8th day of July 2025 started at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall in the Village of Walnut, IL.

President Rosenthal directed the Clerk to call roll, and the following Trustees answered present: Brian Stull, John Middleton, Brian Smith and Melissa Dye.

President Rosenthal asked if there were any additions or corrections to make to the regular meeting minutes from June 17, 2025. With no corrections being made, a motion made by Smith and second by Dye to approve the minutes. On roll call vote, all present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Treasurer Wolf presented the bills for \$56,440.06. A motion was made by Stull and second by Middleton to approve the bills as presented. On roll call vote, all present voted in favor and the motion carried.

For Visitors/Public Comment we had Kristina Jacobs and Mary Zittle. Kristina Jacobs was first and wanted to discuss the side by sides. She stated that she has been contacted on two separate occasions by two separate individuals who are from out of town. The individuals talked to Kristina about the interactions that they had with the Village Police Officer and how the situation escalated. She understands the Village Ordinance but what she doesn't understand is why the situation escalated between the individuals and the Village Officer. Kristina stated that her suggestion for the situation is to have the Village Office open 7 days a week. 24/7. So the tourist can come in and purchase a Village sticker for their side by sides. Kristina stated that we need more than just Walnut residents to keep the businesses in town going. Again, Kristina's solution to the problem is to open the Village Office 24/7 or amend the ordinance. Middleton stated that a written or verbal warning shouldn't be an issue. If people are getting that upset about a written or verbal warning then they probably need to check themselves. For as far as the interaction with the Officer and the individual, that's a he said she said kind of situation. The Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles is not open 24/7 and they still enforce the law. Middleton agrees with Kristina about needing people to come to Walnut and not being hassled. If there is an issue with the way the law is being enforced than your first stop should be Mr. Stull because he is the Chairman for Law & Order.

The next person to speak was Mary Zittle. She wanted to discuss the parking area for her delivery trucks at Shell. Mary stated that she has always had a good relationship with the Police Dept. and she would like to keep it that way. On June 25th, Interim Chief Roush went into Shell and told Mary that her delivery trucks were no longer allowed to park in the alley to unload their delivery. Mary asked Chief Roush why and he stated that the if a Police Officer needed to get a squad car out, they would need the room to back a squad car out of the police garage. She stated that there is plenty of room to get a squad car out and drive up and down the alley. Mary asked Chief Roush where she should have them park and at first, they discussed parking the delivery trucks on Rt. 92. and she stated that if a semi is parked there people can't see around them for oncoming traffic. Then they discussed having the delivery truck park on Main Street. Mary stated that she has concerns about that too. If someone is coming off of Rt 92 and turning onto Main Street that vehicle would have to swerve into oncoming traffic to get around the delivery truck. The next day, June 26th, Chief Roush came in again and she asked if one of her vendors made him mad because he parked in the alley. Chief Roush said no. Mary stated that if there was a Police Officer on duty that day the squad car would be out of the garage and if nobody is on duty in town then people would call County. Mary provided the Village Ordinance and that states that delivery trucks can park in the alley. Chief Roush came in on the next day Mary stated that she had a copy of the Village Ordinance stating that delivery trucks can park in the alley. Chief Roush then got a copy of the state law and he said the state law trumps village law. Mary stated that she feels the alley is the safest place for the delivery trucks to park and for everyone's safety. She is unsure why this is just now an issue. She has had delivery trucks parking in the alley since she has been running this location. She feels that it's creating a problem that doesn't need to be. Mary stated that she is looking for permission to allow her vendors to park in the alley. Stull stated that he will talk with Chief Roush about the situation and come to a solution.

Next on the agenda is the changing of the next few meetings. The Board decided to move the meetings to July 22nd, Aug. 12th and Aug. 19th. A motion made by Smith and second by Dye to move the meetings to July 22th, Aug. 12th and Aug. 19th. On roll call vote, all present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Finance Committee – Nothing at this time.

Streets & Alleys – Spt. Minks stated that people have been driving through First St. to get to Casey's. Spt. Minks is going to price out a guard rail for the end of First St.

The culvert tube is going to be replace on Fairview Ct. soon. Spt. Minks stated that they will need to replace the cement walls also. He thought he might be able to save the walls but after looking at them he thinks they are going to fall apart while they are changing the tube.

Stull thanked Spt. Minks for getting the barricades ready for the Celebration.

Water & Sewer – Nothing at this time.

Garbage – Nothing at this time.

Law & Order – Stull thanked Chief Roush and all the Officers for their work during the Celebration.

Cemetery – Nothing at this time.

Local Improvements – Middleton stated that there has been another donation made to the WOW Committee. With that, the WOW Committee is looking to purchase a few more decorative garbage cans for Main Street.

Old Business – Nothing at this time.

With no other business to come before the board, Stull made a motion to adjourn, Dye second the motion and on roll call vote, all present voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Tiffany Miller,
Village Clerk