

**April 15, 2025**

**State of Illinois  
County of Cook  
Village of Stickney**

**The Board of Trustees of the Village of Stickney met in regular session on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 7:07 p.m. in the courtroom located at 6533 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Illinois.**

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustees were present:  
Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa  
Absent: Trustee Savopoulos**

**Trustee Hrejsa moved, duly seconded by Trustee Kapolnek to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025.**

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:  
Ayes: Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, Savopoulos and Hrejsa  
Nays: None  
Absent: Trustee Savopoulos  
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.**

**Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Milenkovic that the bills, approved by the various committees of the Board, be approved for payment, and to approve warrants which authorize the Village Treasurer to draw checks to pay the bills, to be signed by the authorized signers, as provided for by the Ordinances of the Village of Stickney.**

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:  
Ayes: Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa  
Nays: None  
Absent: Trustee Savopoulos  
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.**

**At this point Police Chief James Sasseti introduced Officer Daniel Rodriguez. The Chief went on to tell us that on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, Officer Rodriguez was out on patrol on 39<sup>th</sup> and Harlem when he observed the male subject who earlier in the day tried to lure a child back to his apartment. Officer Rodriguez recognized him from the description that the prior shift left for him. Upon observing him, immediately remembered him, took enforcement action, and detained the individual. The individual is a child murderer and was wanted for violating the Child Murderer Violent Registration Act. If it were not for the keen observation of Officer Rodriguez, the memory of what the prior shift told him, this individual would be roaming the streets. Thankfully, this child who this individual tried to lure did not fall prey to this. We are here tonight to commend Officer Rodriguez for the excellent work in protecting the residents including the children of the Village of Stickney. At this point Officer Rodriguez was presented with a certificate of Commendation.**

Trustee Milenkovic moved, duly seconded by Trustee White to Pass and Approve Ordinance 2025-03, "An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving the Disposal of Personal Property for the Village of Stickney, County of Cook, Illinois"

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:

Ayes: Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Savopoulos

Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Trustee Hrejsa moved duly seconded by Trustee Kapolnek to Pass and Approve Ordinance 2025-04, "An Ordinance Implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailer's Occupation Tax and a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax for the Village of Stickney"

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:

Ayes: Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Savopoulos

Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Prior to the vote, Village Attorney Jessica Fese explained that this tax will become effective January 1, 2026. It is not raising taxes. It is replacing the state tax.

Trustee Hrejsa moved duly seconded by Trustee Kapolnek to Pass and Approve Ordinance 2025-05, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 14, Section 14-159 of the Municipal Code, Village of Stickney, Illinois Regarding Handicapped Parking"

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:

Ayes: Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Savopoulos

Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Prior to the vote, the Village Clerk told them that she has been contacted by people who are concerned that they are going to have their handicapped sign taken away. In some cases, they feel that they have gone through the lawful way of getting permission for their signs and now they are going to be analyzed again. This is a law. How do you respond to this. The Village Attorney said that those who are entitled will have to apply. We will analyze the block to see if there is already sufficient parking and which is appropriate. This is an audit. In some cases, people have either passed away or moved. People will have to reapply and pay \$5.00 to reserve that space. It is a way to keep tab and provide parking for those who do not need it. The clerk continued to say that people have said that we have people who live in a house on a 30-foot lot and have three or four cars. It is like they get priority, and the handicapped person may lose their handicap spot and must park further down the block. The attorney then said that they would, when possible, have the sign as close to the handicapped person as possible. They attorneys said that the legislation is very robust.

Trustee Hrejsa moved, duly seconded by Trustee Kapolnek to Grant Permission for a May 3, 2025, Block Party on 44<sup>th</sup> Street between Home and Wenonah Avenue from 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:

Ayes: Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Savopoulos

Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Prior to the vote, the Village Attorney Jessica Fese asked about the application that requested an 11:00 p.m. ending time. The Clerk explained that she had a conversation on the phone with the applicant and he admitted that he was trying to pull a fast one and extended the ending time. He understands the ending time now.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** She reported that there are three people who still have not completed their Statement of Economic Interest. The mayor then proceeded to call out the names. Two of those people were in the audience. The clerk then continued with the following statement, considering this was her last official Board Meeting:

"On May 5, 2009, I was sworn in by Stanley T. Kusper to be the eleventh clerk for the Village of Stickney. It turns out that I would become the third longest serving clerk in the history of the Village. I was elected with President Danny O'Reilly during a tumultuous election. My goal was to write the minutes in the most transparent fashion. I wanted our residents to be able to know exactly what was said and done at Board meetings. During this time, an actual website was started. I made sure that all Village legislation was posted on this site. I helped Supervisor Cody Mares get an OSLAND Grant for Haley Park. Again, we worked on making changes such as getting an OSLAND Grant for the Oak Park Avenue Playground. I was part of the lobbying in Springfield to get a racetrack bill that would be advantageous for Stickney. Horne Football Field was created this term. One of my first clerk challenges was the 2010 Census. The time dedicated to this was overwhelming. We raised the population from 6148 to 6786 citizens.

In 2013 there was another tumultuous election. I was elected with President Deborah Morelli. From the very start, I dedicated myself to clerkdom education. Every course I took was applied toward my clerk certifications. On September 10, 2014, I achieved Registered Municipal Clerk. On September 24, 2014, I achieved Certified Municipal Clerk to enhance my knowledge. During the Morelli term Stickney celebrated its 100-Year Centennial. As the clerk, I had the privilege of being able to read each book of minutes dating back to the very beginning. During our Centennial year I would read excerpts from 10 years' worth of board meetings at each Stickney Board meeting.

I was elected again in 2017 with Jeff Walik as Village President. In 2020, I again marketed the Census. We went from 6,780 to 7,110 citizens. Remember that this is important because the taxes we receive from the state are based on population. During this term I was instrumental in organizing the documents and meetings for the Pershing/Cicero Avenue TIF District and the Pershing/Harlem Avenue TIF District. I became a Master Municipal Clerk on October 23, 2020. This equates to approximately one year of college. There are only 42 Master Clerks in the 1,298 municipalities in the State of Illinois.

The clerk's position is not just a clerk, they should be knowledgeable of law, policies, and governance. The clerk manages elections, oversees the legislative processes, and maintains public records. My goal was to ensure transparency, accuracy, and accessibility in government operations. I feel proud of my time dedicated to being the elected clerk for the Village of Stickney. "

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

**Trustee White:** He thanked Clerk McAdams for all she has done for our Village and wished her the best. He thanked Officer Daniel Rodriguez for the apprehension he was recognized for. He thanked him for what he does every day to protect us. He invited the students to come forward after the meeting to receive their signatures.

**Trustee Milenkovic:** He thanked Clerk McAdams for her many years of service and wished her luck in her future. The trustee then presented Police Chief Sassetti with a bag of Challenge Coins.

**Trustee Torres:** She thanked Audrey for her service. She also thanked Officer Rodriguez for his service and all the police officers for their service. We are proud of you all. In addition, she spoke of the Easter Egg hunt. She described the activities and thanked all the volunteers. The children loved all the activities available. The mayor thanked her and Trustee Hrejsa for all their hard work organizing this.

**Trustee Kapolnek:** Thanked the clerk for her service. I hoped it would be beneficial and relaxing. He gave Officer Rodriguez his appreciation for his act. Trustee Kapolnek thanked Trustee Torres and Hrejsa for the Easter Egg Hunt event.

**Trustee Hrejsa:** He thanked Clerk McAdams for her service. He recognized Officer Rodriguez. He told us that there were over 250 kids at the Easter Egg hunt. He thanked all the departments for their help in running the event. He mentioned that on May 4<sup>th</sup> Stickney will be hosting Cinco de Mayo. There will be live music, food, and games.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:** All the department heads gave their thanks to the clerk.

**Interim Public Works Director Sam Alonzo:** We were told that the water feature at O'Reilly Park is being repaired. Apparently, it froze over the winter.

**Fire Chief Jeff Boyajian:** The fire men started training with Pierce on the new truck.

**Police Chief Jim Sassetti:** He presented the 2024 Annual Report from the Stickney Police Department. He recognized the mayor and the Board of Trustees for their support that allowed the police to accomplish what they have done this year. The outstanding work that the men and women of the police department brought an applause from the audience. In 2024 we saw a 26.17% increase in Village-wide calls for service. That is 8,843 more calls for service than the prior year. If we average it, it equates to 737 calls on an average per month increase or 184.25 calls per week increase. He congratulated the men and women of the police department for handling it. A data chart was displayed. He noted that Sunday is our busiest day.

In 2024 we have seen again a slight decrease in crime. This is the fifth year in a row that we have seen a decrease. Again, he referred to the men and women of the department that go out there every day to protect the people of the Village.

We have seen an increase in criminal investigations. In 2024 initiated 174 investigations and closed 108 of them resulting in Felony and Misdemeanor arrests. They recovered weapons and rifles that potentially could have been used in the community to harm the residents and visitors. They executed more than forty search warrants over the course of twelve months. It is a testament to Detective Sergeant

Cruz Ortiz and Officer Ramsey who worked tirelessly in that unit. We are part of the Major Case Assistance team and the West Suburban Major Crimes Task Force. We have seen a major spike in the results. It encompasses the surrounding area. The 174 cases are a 300% increase over the prior year. The 108 cases closed is a 400% increase over prior years. They work with the assistance of our uniform officers. They generate leads and pull video. It really is a team.

We use modern police initiatives Village wide. He mentioned the open houses. We monitor our streets via live-stream television. The license plate readers are located at inlets and outlets in the Village. We use that technology to put hot files in there for certain plates when they enter the Village. Each one of our officers' signs into this technology at the beginning of each shift. They receive data in their squad cars. When they get these alerts, they are in close proximity to take action.

We have challenges to take with the new Safe-T-Act that took effect over two years ago. This is state-wide. We can no longer bring people in. We can no longer detain people for serious felonies. We site them and release them immediately. Most of the time before the officer completes their police report. We are putting some violent criminals back on the street immediately after catching them committing a serious felony.

Two years ago, we brought in a dedicated training officer. In 2024 we are 100% compliant with officer training for the mandated training requirements. We have been told that we are one of the only communities in this general area that is 100% compliant. Our training officer has gone above and beyond for the training requirements to prepare them for critical incident situations. Our officers are receiving in-house training. We do send them out for training externally above and beyond what the state mandates. Our officers are thriving and want more training. Knowledge is power.

We held the police department open house. There were over 350 in attendance. We displayed everything that we have done here; technology, personnel and our K-9 units did demonstrations. People rarely see the inside workings. We displayed that. We showed them our streaming cameras and our license plate readers. This is our new technology to keep our residents safe. Pictures were shown of various events that the police have been part of.

We continue to receive grant funding for the benefit of the Village. Currently we are in year three of a Department of Justice Cops grant that allowed us to get four additional police officers. Their salaries are supplemented by the Department of Justice Cops grant. We are also heavily involved in the Illinois STEP grant. This is a grant provided by the Illinois Department of Transportation. This pays back our officer's overtime for various transportation initiatives such as DUI, cell phone, seat belt, and other life-saving initiatives. We will continue to apply for grants to offset the burden of payroll by obtaining grants to buy things.

We are well positioned for the social issues that are in society today. We are trained and ready for anything that could come our way whether it was unexpected or expected. Just because we are a small bedroom community, it does not make us

immune to what the City of Chicago and some of our surrounding communities are seeing. We are constantly preparing our officers for civil unrest or other types of unique incidents which we may be required to respond to internally or externally on a mutual aid basis.

He thanked the mayor, the Board, the residents, and our residents because it truly is a team effort, otherwise we could not do this. He went on to say that he came here from a community where they did not get the community support. The residents here give us support. On behalf of each police officer, he extended extreme gratitude to the elected officials and the residents. He said it is truly the minority where your community backs your police department.

There were no questions asked.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** He read a proclamation concerning the Monarch Butterfly and declared that April 15, 2025, is the Monarch Butterfly Day in the Village of Stickney and took the Mayor's Monarch Pledge.

In addition: The mayor read a proclamation concerning declaring April 25, 2025, as Arbor Day in the Village of Stickney. The citizens were encouraged to plant trees to further beautify the Village.

The mayor then congratulated Police Chief Sassetti on his retirement. He came here from the Berwyn Police Department. He said he has known the Chief for 30 years. They went through the police academy together. Chief Sassetti has taken us to new levels. He has brought in training and technology. He has brought in innovative ideas. Five years came quickly. He thanked him for his hard work and dedication to the Village of Stickney. He wished him good luck.

The mayor then presented an engraved Plaque commemorating his service to the Village of Stickney. The Chief gave a touching speech incorporating his 31 ½ years of police service. Lastly, he said that it was not about himself. It was about the team. The residents should be honored and privileged that you have a team that is top notched from the top to the newest officer. He recognized Officer Rodriguz that we honored today. In conclusion he thanked the residents who have been gracious and generous.



**Proclamation Regarding the Village's Recognition of Police Chief Jim Sassetti**

**WHEREAS** Jim Sassetti currently serves as the Chief for the Village of Stickney Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Sassetti has a long and distinguished history of service in law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim Sassetti was sworn in as a police officer on January 2, 1994, and served on various regional gang and drug task forces and a joint Berwyn/Cicero drug enforcement team that conducted interdictions removing countless firearms and drugs from the area; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim Sassetti was later sworn in as a special federal officer with the FBI and participated in various drug operations on cartel level targets taking place in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Ohio; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim Sassetti also earned numerous awards including Cook County Sheriff Meritorious Service award; and

**WHEREAS**, he has also had a distinguished career in teaching law enforcement courses at Morton College; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Sassetti has served as the Village's Police Chief with honor and tireless dedication; and

**WHEREAS**, under Chief Sassetti's leadership, the Police Department has implemented countless upgrades and improvements that serve the men and women of the Department and protect the health, safety, and welfare of Village residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim Sassetti is an asset to the Village of Stickney as a leader, colleague, and friend; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Sassetti's efforts have improved life for Village residents and his hard work has been an integral part of the Village's success over the years; and

**THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Jeff Walik, and the Board of Trustees wish to express our sincere thanks to Chief Jim Sassetti for his dedication to the Village and congratulate him on his retirement.

**There being no further business, Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Milenkovic that the meeting be adjourned. Upon which the Board adopted the motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**, Village Clerk**

**Approved by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025**

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**Jeff Walik, President**