

MINUTES OF MAYOR NELSON AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR, ILLINOIS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

VILLAGE HALL

September 15, 2025

7:00 PM

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Village Clerk Porter took roll. There was a quorum.

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson and Trustees Daggett (arrived at 7:23 p.m.), Dorsey, Lofton, Mitros, Mustafa, and Rodgers

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT:

Bridget Wachtel, Village Manager	Carl Estelle, Chief of Police
Jonathan Bogue, Asst Village Manager	John Brunke, Director of Public Works
Joe Miller, Village Attorney	Dan Milovanovic, Assistant Public Works Director
Scott Bugner, Director of Building & Zoning	Nicole Castagna, Asst to Village Mgr/Communications Mgr
Bob Kopec, Fire Chief	Stephanie Wright, Community Engagement Manager
Matt Berk, Assistant Fire Chief	38 Community Members, Media and Others

**GENERAL STATEMENT/RULES OF ORDER** (Announced by Mayor Nelson):

The meeting was streamed via Zoom. Mayor Nelson reviewed the public comment policy, which is available on the Village website.

**RECOGNITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

**1. A Proclamation Declaring September 2025 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**

Mayor Nelson read the Proclamation for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and introduced Flossmoor Fire Captain Dan Bracken to accept the Proclamation in honor of his daughter, Finley, who passed away from this disease. Captain Bracken provided information about the Finley Forever Foundation. The foundation sponsors an event called the "Lights and Ladders Brigade" to raise money for decorating the homes of cancer patients during the holiday season. More information is available on their website at [www.finleyforever.com](http://www.finleyforever.com)

**2. A Proclamation Declaring September 17 – 23, 2025, Constitution Week**

Mayor Nelson read the Proclamation for Constitution Week to urge all citizens and residents to study the Constitution and reflect on the liberties afforded to Americans and the responsibilities that all citizens carry to uphold the values of the Constitution for future generations. This Proclamation was accepted by Marilyn Tapajna, a representative of The Sauk Trail Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

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**3. A Proclamation Declaring September 15-21, 2025, National Rail Safety Week**

Mayor Nelson read the Proclamation for National Rail Safety Week to encourage all residents to recognize the importance of rail safety education. Mayor Nelson also gave information about the history of the railway system in Flossmoor and discussed why it is an integral part of our community.

**PUBLIC PRESENT WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

(Note: That in reporting these comments, the Village has not researched the accuracy of any comments.)

- 1. Warren Engelberg (Flossmoor resident):** Gave commentary on various issues, including monopolies, capitalism, and universal healthcare. Mr. Engelberg also commented on how national government policies impact the local community.
- 2. Jessica Barnes (Flossmoor resident):** Ms. Barnes, a member of the Flossmoor Library Board of Trustees, raised concerns regarding the sinkhole under the library floor at the Flossmoor Public Library and the anticipated timeline for when repairs will be completed. Mayor Nelson and Village Manager Wachtel advised that the sinkhole is being evaluated by an architect and a structural engineer, who are both working to identify the root cause of the problem and developing a plan to fix it.
- 3. Robert Schepler (Flossmoor resident):** Discussed the pedestrian crossing zones at Flossmoor Montessori school at Western Avenue and his observations of vehicles traveling at excessive speeds in front of the school. He presented a petition signed by residents who share his concerns about pedestrian safety at the school. Mayor Nelson and Village Manager Wachtel provided information about efforts to reduce the speed limit and information about a grant that ComEd awarded to the Village to purchase flashing pedestrian crossing signs. The Village is also looking into other measures to increase pedestrian safety at crosswalks by school zones.
- 4. Jackie Riffice (Flossmoor resident):** Provided information about her book club that meets in Homewood, Illinois. She invited all to attend the next meeting.
- 5. Marlin Hoover (Flossmoor resident):** Spoke in support of Robert Schepler's concerns about pedestrian safety at Flossmoor Montessori school. He lives by the school, regularly observes speeding traffic, and believes this is a serious problem that needs to be addressed as soon as possible.
- 6. Molly Deugaw (Flossmoor resident):** Gave information about Flossmoor's Good Neighbor Week that is being promoted by Flossmoor's Community Relations Commission. She invited all to participate in this new initiative to celebrate members of our community.

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7. **Allisa Opyd (Representative from Anew):** Provided information about Anew and the services it provides to victims of domestic violence. The organization is having a fundraiser on October 3, 2025, and all are welcome to join in this event. More information is available on their website at <https://anewdv.org>

There were no further public comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Nelson called for a Motion to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 1-12**. Trustee Lofton so moved, Trustee Mustafa seconded. Mayor Nelson asked if there were any items on the consent agenda that were requested to be removed from the consent agenda for discussion, and there were none.

A vote on the Motion was presented and passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

AYES: Trustees Daggett, Dorsey, Lofton, Mitros, Mustafa, and Rodgers  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
NAYS: None

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS ACTION ITEMS:**

Mayor Nelson stated there were none. Mayor Nelson expressed gratitude to: (a) Flossmoor's Community Relations Commissioner Molly Deugaw for her presentation during the public comments session of the meeting about Flossmoor's Good Neighbor Week; (b) Flossmoor's Public Art Commission for the two new sculptures; and (c) Flossmoor's Green Commission for the "Fix It" event held at Village Hall.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Agenda Item #13 – Consideration of a Contract Award to Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers for Design Engineering Services for the Dartmouth Pedestrian Bridge Replacement and Streambank Stabilization Project.**

Mayor Nelson called for a Motion to approve this action item. Trustee Daggett so moved, and Trustee Dorsey seconded.

This action item was presented by John Brunke, Director of Public Works, who gave information about the history of the bridge, grant applications and awards, the proposed plan to restore the bridge, and the associated restoration costs and expenses. Mayor Nelson advised that this bridge is regularly used by residents and non-residents of Flossmoor, and that it is a vital part of the community. There was a brief discussion, with questions asked about funding, and praise given to the Public Works Department for securing infrastructure grants for projects of this type.

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A vote on the Motion was presented and passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: Trustees Daggett, Dorsey, Lofton, Mitros, Mustafa, and Rodgers  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
NAYS: None

**Agenda Item #14 – Consideration of an Off-Premise Consumption License (Class BW) for Beyond Borders Cafe**

Mayor Nelson called for a Motion to approve this action item. Trustee Mustafa so moved, and Trustee Daggett seconded.

This action item was presented by Village Manager Wachtel, who gave information about Beyond Borders Café and its request for an off-premises liquor license. The Board engaged Christopher Zarozny (owner of Beyond Borders Café) in a discussion about how liquor will be made available to customers to purchase for off-premises consumption and the packaging requirements.

A vote on the Motion was presented and passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: Trustees Daggett, Dorsey, Lofton, Mitros, Mustafa, and Rodgers  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
NAYS: None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**15. Discussion of the Installation of Cameras at the Heather Hill Detention Basin.**

Village Attorney Miller advised about the information he learned from the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA), the Village's insurance carrier, about having surveillance cameras at the Heather Hill Detention Basin. IRMA researched whether surveillance cameras at detention basins were necessary and whether the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended surveillance cameras at detention basins. IRMA found no sources that recommended surveillance cameras at detention basins and further did not find any articles from the EPA that stated best practices at detention basins included surveillance cameras. Attorney Miller researched this issue and concluded: (a) Surveillance cameras were not needed for detention basins; (b) The federal EPA had not issued any recommendations for surveillance cameras at detention basins; (c) The Illinois EPA had not issued recommendations for surveillance cameras at detention basins; and (d) Surveillance cameras at the Heather Hill detention basin would create liability issues for the Village. He further concluded that the fence around the detention basin was not required. The only recommendation from IRMA for the Heather Hill detention basin was to have a "No Trespass" sign.

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Signage, including the “No Trespass Sign,” had been shared with the school administration and has been ordered.

The following is a brief overview of comments from the Board on this discussion item:

Trustee Daggett: Finds that this discussion should be permanently paused absent action taken by the school board, and absent information that the detention basin is not performing as it has been designed.

Trustee Dorsey: Stated that the school board should share equally in any cost that is incurred by the Village for surveillance cameras at the detention basin. Agrees that surveillance cameras are not required for the detention basin, but may need further consideration if the cost is equally shared between the Village and the school district.

Trustee Lofton: Concludes this discussion should be put on pause.

Trustee Mitros: The board should follow the recommendations from Village Attorney Miller, who found that surveillance cameras were not needed, and further that a fence was not even required for the detention basin. Finds there is no reason to continue with this discussion item.

Trustee Mustafa: Believes this discussion item should be left open pending receipt of information about whether the detention basin operates as it is designed to operate following all phases of construction, and to see if the school board raises any issues with it during the school year. She finds that the Heather Hill detention basin is unique and not necessarily comparable to other detention basins.

Trustee Rodgers: Continues to claim there is an article on the EPA website about best practices for detention basins, including surveillance cameras. Further states there is a similar article that has been published on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website. She has not had time to locate and provide these articles and wants to be clear that she is reporting about best practices recommendations, and that she is not reporting about requirements. Mayor Nelson again requested that Trustee Rodgers, given the amount of time that staff and legal have spent on this discussion item, provide copies of these articles.

Mayor Nelson: Advised that this issue will be tabled to a date to be determined.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Agenda Item #16– A Motion to go into Executive Session to Discuss the Employment of Specific Individuals, Property Acquisition, and Litigation.**

Mayor Nelson stated there was no need for an executive session.

Mayor Nelson asked if there were any comments and the Board responded as follows:

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Trustee Daggett: Expressed his appreciation for the community support for the girls' softball team that he is coaching, and the community support for The Hidden Gem Half Marathon.

Trustee Rodgers: Gave thanks to the Village for maintaining the parkway trees that she walks by on the way to Heather Hill school and to Attorney Miller for his work.

Trustee Mustafa: Was appreciative of Village Manager Wachtel's responsiveness to local businesses during the downtown construction and of Attorney Miller's work for the Village.

Trustee Mitros: Gave accolades to Public Works for the downtown renovation project.

Trustee Lofton: Was pleased with the turnout for the Hidden Gem Half Marathon and asked about radar "speed warning" signs being used for traffic control at Flossmoor Montessori school. Mayor Nelson advised that those devices are being used for traffic control at the school.

Trustee Dorsey: Is impressed with the Board discussion on a wide range of topics. Expressed thanks to Fire Chief Kopec for the fire truck at his neighborhood block party, the expediency the Village uses to address resident concerns, and recent attempts to make Flossmoor a site for film projects.

Clerk Porter: Gave thanks to all of the community members that make possible The Hidden Gem Half Marathon, and the work that the H-F Park District, and Public Works, have done to build a walking path around Leavitt Park.

Village Attorney Miller: No further comments.

Village Manager Wachtel: Acknowledged and praised the hard work that Village staff does behind the scenes to make the Village run successfully and provide excellent community services. Also expressed thanks to the community for their patience during the downtown renovation project.

Mayor Nelson: Praised and thanked everyone for the work that is done to make the Hidden Gem Half Marathon a success and thanked Public Works for their work at the future site of the Veterans Memorial. Donations for the Veterans Memorial can be made by typing "Flossmoor Veterans Memorial" into Google and then going to a Square site. Mayor Nelson also recognized Public Works for obtaining grants for infrastructure projects, the Police Department for assisting with traffic flow in the downtown area, and recognized Conservatory Vintage and Vinyl, owned by Tony and Chogie Fields, for being featured in Chicago Magazine.

Mayor Nelson further announced that: (a) Flossmoor Public Library is having an event to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month; and (b) October 4, 2025, is the grand opening for Flossmoor Social in the downtown area.

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**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

Mayor Nelson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Mitros so moved, seconded by Trustee Lofton. All were in favor, none opposed.

AYES: Trustees Daggett, Dorsey, Lofton, Mitros, Mustafa, and Rodgers  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
NAYS: None

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cecil E. Porter  
Village Clerk