

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF COBDEN, ILLINOIS
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026
AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Call to Order

Village President Larry J. Hackethal called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Upon roll call, the following Trustees were present:

Jean A. Britt
Andrew Brumleve (arriving 6:10 p.m.)
Austin Sellars
David Stewart

Absent: Patrick Brumleve
Dennis Maze

Also Present: Beth Morrison, Ona C Rivero Winfield, Lydia Nelson, Jennifer Barbee, Carla Foskey, Belinda Sheffer, Ty Petersen, Haydee Webb

Minutes of August 17, 2026 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Sellars, seconded by Stewart, to approve the Minutes of the August 17, 2026, regular meeting as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: 3 – Britt, Sellars, Stewart
Nays: 0 – None
Absent: 3 – A. Brumleve, P. Brumleve, Maze
Motion declared carried.

Resolution No. 7 – 2026 – Support of Choate Mental Health and Development Center

Ona C Rivero Winfield, Lydia Nelson, Jennifer Barbee, Carla Foskey, Belinda Sheffer, Ty Petersen, Haydee Webb were present to request the Village's support of the Choate Mental Health and Development Center. Following their presentation, motion was made by Sellars, seconded by Britt, to pass and adopt Resolution No. 7 – 2026 in support of Choate Mental Health and Development Center. Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: 4 – A. Brumleve, Britt, Sellars, Stewart
Nays: 0 – None
Absent: 2 – P. Brumleve, Maze
Motion declared carried. (Trustee A. Brumleve arrived during this discussion.)
Resolution No. 7-2026 reads as follows:

WHEREAS: Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in Anna serves a vital function in the Illinois Department of Human Services' system of care for individuals with severe developmental disabilities and mental illness, including those who have been found not guilty by reason of insanity or unfit to stand trial in criminal cases; and

WHEREAS: For many of these individuals, Choate is the only suitable place in Southern Illinois that can care for them and meet their needs; and

WHEREAS: Choate is an important source of good jobs and meaningful work in Southern Illinois, employing over 450 people at the facility; and

WHEREAS: IDHS commissioned a study with SIU School of Medicine, which on July 14, 2023, issued the Choate Transformation Plan that called for an expansion of services on the Choate campus; and

WHEREAS: Choate employees have long advocated for improved funding, staffing and training opportunities recommended in the SIU study to better meet the needs of residents, while the Illinois Department of Human Services instead has transferred a number of residents to other developmental centers elsewhere in the state where they have struggled to adjust to these new settings; and

WHEREAS: In July 2026, DHS announced plans to further slash services at Choate and lay off some 250 staff at the facility; and

WHEREAS: DHS has also announced that the treatment program provided on the "stepdown" unit that serves individuals with mental illness who are ending their term of confinement mandated by the courts will be moved to Madden Mental Health Center in the Chicago metro area, which is not equipped to serve such a population; and

WHEREAS: Such a drastic cut to mental health services available in Southern Illinois would profoundly affect the availability and quality of care for vulnerable Village of Cobden residents; and

WHEREAS: Village of Cobden residents in need of such care for severe mental illness and developmental disabilities would be forced to seek care further away from family, friends, and support systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village Board of the Village of Cobden, Illinois

That the Village Board of the Village of Cobden, Illinois urges the Illinois Department of Human Services to reverse its decision to drastically downsize Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That the Village Board of the Village of Cobden, Illinois urges the State of Illinois to reverse the trend of divestment in mental health services available to Southern Illinois residents.

Zoning Permit No. 1018 – Paulette Aronson

Motion was made by Sellars, seconded by Britt, to issue Zoning Permit No. 1018 to Paulette Aronson for an addition to her residence on East Ash Street. Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: 4 – A. Brumleve, Britt, Sellars, Stewart

Nays: 0 – None

Absent: 2 – P. Brumleve, Maze

Motion declared carried.

Approval of Bills and Salaries

Motion was made by Sellars, seconded by A. Brumleve, that presented bills in the amount of \$31,018.68 and regular salaries be approved for payment. Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: 4 – A. Brumleve, Britt, Sellars, Stewart

Nays: 0 – None

Absent: 2 – P. Brumleve, Maze

Motion declared carried.

Transfers to Illinois Funds

Motion was made by Sellars, seconded by A. Brumleve, to transfer \$45,000.00 from the TIF Savings account to the TIF Illinois Funds account and \$5,000.00 from the Sewer Debt Service Savings to the Illinois Funds Sewer Debt Service account. Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: 4 – A. Brumleve, Britt, Sellars, Stewart

Nays: 0 – None

Absent: 2 – P. Brumleve, Maze

Motion declared carried.

Budget Report and Line Item Transfers

Motion was made by Sellars, seconded by A. Brumleve, to approve the Budget Report and Line Item Transfers as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: 4 – A. Brumleve, Britt, Sellars, Stewart

Nays: 0 – None

Absent: 2 – P. Brumleve, Maze

Motion declared carried.

Employee Expense and Overtime Report

The Employee Expense and Overtime Report for the period ending August 31, 2026 was presented.

Resolution No. 6 – 2026 – Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)

Motion was made by Sellars, seconded by Britt, to approve Resolution No. 5-2026 – A Resolution in Support of an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant Application for the Front Street & Appleknocker Drive Streetscape Project. Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: 4 – A. Brumleve, Britt, Sellars, Stewart

Nays: 0 – None

Absent: 2 – P. Brumleve, Maze

Motion declared carried. Resolution No. 5-2026 reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village of Cobden, located in Union County, State of Illinois, desires to participate in the development and construction of streetscape and related pedestrian improvements along Front Street and Appleknocker Drive (the "Project") to improve the appearance, safety, accessibility, and functionality of the transportation corridor and enhance pedestrian and non-motorized transportation within the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Cobden has determined that the proposed Project will provide transportation and community benefits and is consistent with the Village's goals for improving its transportation infrastructure, pedestrian environment, and community streetscape; and

WHEREAS, an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant may fund 80% of eligible preliminary engineering, design, construction, and construction engineering costs and 50% of eligible right-of-way and street lighting costs of the proposed improvements; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Village of Cobden, Union County, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1: The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated into, and made part of, this Resolution.

SECTION 2: The Village of Cobden does hereby commit to being responsible for payment of any required matching funds and/or ineligible or other costs associated with the Front Street & Appleknocker Drive Streetscape Project as determined by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

SECTION 3: The Village President and/or his or her designee is hereby authorized to execute such applications, agreements, certifications, and other documents as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Resolution and the Project.

SECTION 4: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval as provided by law.

Ordinance No. 2026-1074 – An Ordinance Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABS Master Agreement 2022)

Motion was made by Sellars, seconded by Britt, to pass and approve Ordinance No. 2026-1074 An Ordinance Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABS Master Agreement 2022). Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: 4 – A. Brumleve, Britt, Sellars, Stewart

Nays: 0 – None

Absent: 2 – P. Brumleve, Maze

Motion declared carried.

Resolution No. 5-2026 – A Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABS Master Agreement 2022)

Motion was made by Sellars, seconded by A. Brumleve, to pass and approve Resolution No. 5-2026 A resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABS Master Agreement 2022). Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: 4 – A. Brumleve, Britt, Sellars, Stewart

Nays: 0 – None

Absent: 2 – P. Brumleve, Maze

Motion declared carried.

Sewer Short Lived Asset Savings Transfer to Operating Account

Motion was made by Sellars, seconded by Britt, to transfer \$8,869.22 and \$838.03 from the Sewer Short Lived Asset account to the Sewer Operating Account. Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: 4 – A. Brumleve, Britt, Sellars, Stewart

Nays: 0 – None

Absent: 2 – P. Brumleve, Maze

Motion declared carried. These transfers are for system maintenance reimbursement.

Well Project – Construction Loan

Motion was made by Sellars, seconded by Britt, to apply for an interim construction loan for approximately \$1,374,000.00 through Farmers State Bank for the upcoming well project with Village President Larry J. Hackethal and Village Clerk Karen M. Winzenburger as authorized signers for the loan. Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: 4 – A. Brumleve, Britt, Sellars, Stewart

Nays: 0 – None

Absent: 2 – P. Brumleve, Maze

Motion declared carried.

Request for Sewer Adjustment – Linda Michaels

Motion was made by Sellars, seconded by A. Brumleve, to approve a sewer adjustment of \$30.60 to Linda Michaels due to a water leak outside her residence. Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: 4 – A. Brumleve, Britt, Sellars, Stewart

Nays: 0 – None

Absent: 2 – P. Brumleve, Maze

Motion declared carried.

Christmas in the Village

Mayor Hackethal's appointment of Pat Brumleve, Debbie Stroehlein and Judy Travelstead to the Christmas in the Village Committee was approved by consent vote as follows:

Ayes: 4 – A. Brumleve, Britt, Sellars, Stewart

Nays: 0 – None

Absent: 2 – P. Brumleve, Maze

Trick or Treat

Motion was made by Sellars, seconded by Britt, to set Trick or Treat hours for 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31. Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: 4 – A. Brumleve, Britt, Sellars, Stewart

Nays: 0 – None

Absent: 2 – P. Brumleve, Maze

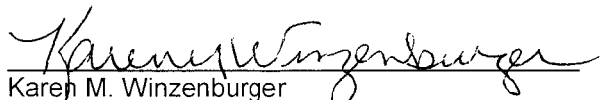
Motion declared carried.

Notice of Election – Pre-filing Notice

The Consolidated Election will be held April 6, 2027. Candidate petitions are available now for filing the week of November 16 – 23, 2026. Three trustees will be elected. Expiring terms are Andrew Brumleve, Patrick Brumleve and Dennis Maze.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Sellars, seconded by A. Brumleve, that the Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees be adjourned. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.


Karen M. Winzenburger
Village Clerk