

**VILLAGE OF BROWNSTOWN
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
August 18, 2026**

The Brownstown Village Board met on August 18, 2026 at the Brownstown Village Hall.

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance before the Board meeting.

Village President Virginia Wilber called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Robin Lovett, Village Clerk, called roll and those present were: Village President Virginia Wilber, Village Trustees Tony Thomason, Samantha Wall, William Lytle, Nikki Sidwell, and Billie Enlow. Village Trustee Jake Kelly was absent. A quorum was found to be present. Village Employees Brad Sidwell and Todd Sovey were in attendance. Attorney Steve Mahrt attended via phone.

Motion was made by Nikki Sidwell, seconded by Billie Enlow to approve the Consent Agenda Items as follows: a-August 18, 2026 Agenda; b- July 21, 2026 Minutes; c-Bills – August 18, 2026; and, d-Treasurer's Report for month ending July 31, 2026 – to be placed on file for 2026/2027 Audit. Voting aye – Billie Enlow, Nikki Sidwell, Tony Thomason, William Lytle, and Samantha Wall. Voting nay – none. Village Trustee Jake Kelly was absent. Motion carried.

Visitors: Clint Holcombrink with Wabash Communications – Fiber Optic Internet Service being put in on College Ave. Wabash Communications main office is in Louisville, IL. A fiber optic line is being ran from St. Peter, IL to Herrick, IL and is running right through Brownstown. Fiber Optic provides internet service (\$62.95/month for a 1 gig pkg up to \$95.95) as well as TV (\$83 - \$200 3 different packages) and phone (\$29.95) service. Wabash requires a 4-year payback to bring service to town. The best part, the line is already here. Discounts of \$5.00 are available for ACH payments, Military service, and/or over 65. Qualifiers in all categories can earn a \$15.00 credit per month. One of the perks for the Village is that Wabash offers free wi-fi to downtown area for the Village. Wabash is a Co-op, so they give back to community. Outages are few due to the line being buried in the ground. This provides the most reliable product for residents. In order to take advantage of this provider the Village can spread the word around town. Wabash will begin targeted ads on Facebook, sending out mailers, door hangers, etc.

Police Report – Police Report for July 2026 was distributed.

Village Treasurer Monica Struble is working with the St. Elmo PD and the Schools planning Red Ribbon Week for this fall.

Village President Virginia Wilber and St. Elmo Mayor Kim Baron met to discuss the Intergovernmental Agreement for Police Services. The Agreement would be renewed keeping the same fees - \$54,000/year or \$4,500.00/month. **Motion made by Billie Enlow, seconded by Tony Thomason, to renew the Police Intergovernmental Agreement with St. Elmo at a cost of \$54,000/year paid monthly at \$4,500 to St. Elmo. Voting aye** – Billie Enlow, Tony Thomason, William Lytle, Samantha Wall, and Nikki Sidwell. **Voting nay** – none. Village Trustee Jake Kelly was absent. **Motion carried.**

The lease agreement on the 2016 Ford Taurus Police Car would be cancelled. Attorney Mahrt advised that Brownstown create an Ordinance declaring the car as surplus property. The car could then be gifted to St. Elmo, or sold to them. Chief Scruggs reported that the vehicle is still being used in the Fleet and is planned to continue in the fleet for this budget year. The vehicle has 100,000 miles on it, so would look at replacing sometime in FY 27/28. Village President Wilber will talk to St. Elmo Mayor Kim Baron about continuing the Lease Agreement of \$500.00/month for this contract period, or until the time the car is removed from fleet use.

National Night Out 2026 hosted by St. Elmo PD in St. Elmo had a lower turnout due to the Effingham County Fair. Chief Scruggs says there are plans to host in Brownstown and Ramsey as well, since we all share police services. The 2027 National Night Out also falls during the Effingham County Fair week, so Chief Scruggs anticipates the local outing will be scheduled on a different day than the National Day.

The monthly **Code Officer report** was presented from Code Officer Sovey, a copy of which is attached to the official copy of these minutes.

Todd asked for input on proceeding with an Ordinance Violation to the owner of the vehicle that is parked in front of the National Road Kiosk. Chief Scruggs and the Trustees instructed Code Officer Sovey to move forward with issuing a violation.

Code Officer Sovey has been looking at Ed Black property at 319 W. North St. There are vehicles sitting, the house in disrepair, tall grass, and a vacant camper. Code Officer Sovey will begin searching for owners since Mr. Black's death.

Attorney Report – nothing to report

Village Engineer – nothing to report. Village President asked about the plans and permits for Sewer Plant. Engineering Representative William Lytle commented everything is being worked on.

Public Works – Received quote from Municipal Equipment for Water Tower Distribution Connection Communication Package in the amount of \$13,182.50. This price includes the installation and start-up. The communication annual rate would cost \$433.00/year. Appropriated in the Water Fund. **Motion made by Nikki Sidwell, seconded by Tony Thomason to approve the purchase of the Water Tower Distribution Connection Communication Package in the amount of \$13,182.50 and pay \$433.00 annually for the communication renewal. Voting aye** – Nikki Sidwell, Tony Thomason, William Lytle, Billie Enlow, and Samantha Wall. **Voting nay** - none. Village Trustee Jake Kelly was absent. **Motion carried.**

Street signs are in and are being replaced as time permits.

Village Trustee Samantha Wall asked about mowing of ditches around town. Attorney Mahrt commented the Village can adopt an Ordinance requiring the property owner to maintain the grass beyond their property line. Trustee Lytle asked Attorney Mahrt if we can legally require them to mow out to the hard surface. Attorney Mahrt reiterated that regardless of where the property ends, we can pass an Ordinance that requires them to maintain beyond their property line.

The County Board discussed the Fayette County Animal Control Agreement at their July, 2026 meeting. The revised agreement has been provided for signature by each Municipality. **Motion made by Billie Enlow, seconded by Nikki Sidwell, to allow Village President Virginia Wilber to sign the Fayette County Animal Control Agreement as presented and pay the fees when invoiced. Voting aye** - Billie Enlow, Nikki Sidwell, William Lytle, Tony Thomason, and Samantha Wall. **Voting nay** – none. Village Trustee Jake Kelly was absent. **Motion carried.**

The quarterly meeting of the Clerk/Treasurer Organization is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2026 in Effingham. Village Clerk Robin Lovett is requesting the office be closed on this day to allow office staff to attend the meeting. **Motion made by Nikki Sidwell, seconded by Billie Enlow, to close the office on Thursday, September 10, 2026 to allow office staff to attend the Clerk/Treasurer meeting in Effingham. Voting aye** – Nikki Sidwell, Billie Enlow, Samantha Wall, William Lytle, and Tony Thomason. **Voting nay** - none. Village Trustee Jake Kelly was absent. **Motion carried.**

Renewal of Health Insurance for full-time employees was presented. The Blue Cross Blue Shield renewal rate for 3 full-time employees is \$4,597.03 per month, up from \$3,985.18 per month – an approximate increase of 15%. The annual appropriations allowed for a 30% increase. **Motion made by Nikki Sidwell, seconded by Billie Enlow, to renew the Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance at a cost of \$4,597.03 per month for 3 full-time employees – Robin Lovett, Brad Sidwell, and Monica Struble. Voting aye** – Billie Enlow,

Nikki Sidwell, Tony Thomason, Samantha Wall, and William Lytle. **Voting nay - none.** Village Trustee Jake Kelly was absent. **Motion carried.**

Annual employee raises are typically effective on October 1 of each year. The annual appropriations allow for a 5% increase for each employee. Personnel/Finance Committee will meet to discuss on Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The website is up and running. It can be accessed at villageofbrownstown.com.

Village President Wilber and Village Clerk Lovett attended an informational meeting of USDA programs on August 12, 2026 in Effingham. Cathy Thompson with USDA talked with Village President Wilber and Village Clerk Lovett about possibly applying for the Revolving Loan Program. Village President Wilber will invite Cathy Thompson to the September 15, 2026 meeting to provide more information on how the program works.

Mayors from Brownstown, St. Elmo, and Vandalia met with Rural Med on August 6, 2026 to discuss Ambulance Service for Fayette County. Rural Med will take patients wherever they want to go. Looking at putting together a solid package to be put out for bid that will attract an ambulance service to Fayette County.

Motion was made by Nikki Sidwell, seconded by Billie Enlow, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was unanimously carried and Village President Virginia Wilber announced the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



**ROBIN LOVETT
VILLAGE CLERK**

APPROVED: _____ September 15, 2026 _____