



Town of Cortland

Board of Trustees Town Board Meeting

Cortland Lions Den 70 S Llanos St, Cortland IL

July 13, 2026

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ROLL CALL

Mayor Pietrowski called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was called showing as present Trustees Corson, Fioretto, Haier, Siewierski, Stone, and Olson (arrived 7:04 p.m.). There was no one absent. Quorum was present. Also present were Town Clerk Cheryl Aldis, Attorney Kevin Buick, Director of Public Works Joel Summerhill, Police Commander Bruce Van Wankum, Town Engineer Brandy Williams and Deputy Clerk Catherine Koks.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Corson moved and Trustee Siewierski seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the Regular Town Board Minutes of June 8, 2026

Trustee Corson moved and Trustee Stone seconded a motion to approve the Regular Town Board Minutes of June 8, 2026, as submitted.

Roll Call vote:

Yeas: Trustees Stone, Siewierski, Corson, Fioretto, Haier

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Olson

Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Trustee Olson arrived at 7:04 p.m.

2. Information Only - Resignation of Chief of Police Lin Dargis

Mayor Pietrowski announced after 38 years in law enforcement, Chief Lin Dargis will be retiring as of August 10, 2026. Pietrowski read an excerpt from a letter penned by Dargis announcing his retirement.

3. Consider a motion to approve the appointment of Commander Bruce Van Wankum as the Interim Chief of Police effective with the resignation of Lin Dargis

Mayor Pietrowski introduced Commander Bruce Van Wankum as his choice to fill the Interim Chief of Police position. Van Wankum would complete a 30-day interim period before the board would decide whether or not to appoint him as the new Chief of Police.

Trustee Siewierski made a motion to approve the appointment of Bruce Van Wankum as the Interim Chief of Police effective August 10, 2026, Trustee Haier seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote:

Yeas: Trustees Stone, Siewierski, Corson, Fioretto, Haier, Olson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

4. Confirm Mayor's appointment of Stephanie Kouba to fill a vacancy of the Planning Commission with a term ending May 2029.

Mayor Pietrowski introduced Stephanie Kouba as the new appointment to the Planning Commission.

Trustee Siewierski moved, seconded by Trustee Corson, to confirm the appointment of Stephanie Kouba to the Planning Commission, for a term ending in May 2029.

Roll Call vote:

Yeas: Trustees Stone, Siewierski, Corson, Fioretto, Haier, Olson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

5. Apex Solar - Grand Prairie Special Use Permit

Consideration of Ordinance 2026-XX, An Ordinance Granting a Special Use Permit to Grand Prairie Solar, LLC to Operate a Solar Farm on 77.54 Acres of Land Located East of Somonauk Road and Generally Bounded by East Meadow Drive on the North and East North Avenue on the South, PIN 09-20-426-002, in the Town of Cortland, DeKalb County, Illinois

This ordinance, if passed in the affirmative, would grant the request for a special use permit sought by Grand Prairie Solar, LLC to construct and operate a solar garden on a parcel identified as 09-20-426-002 within the Town of Cortland limits, upon annexation of said parcel. The Town Board may, alternatively, pass an ordinance denying the request.

To view the complete application for this recommendation, view the link below:

<https://mccmeetings.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/cortlandil-pubu/MEET-Packet-86973c196a2543e1acbb1d449be4d367.pdf>

Pietrowski introduced the Special Use Permit application and recommendation from the Planning Commission for Grand Parade Solar, LLC.

Apex Clean Energy representative Sidonie Shira gave an overview with a printed presentation about the project. This project will connect to the existing grid.

Subscriptions to the energy generated by the projects are free to join. This is the largest size the project can be and there can be no upgrade later. Ms. Shira explained the location and logistics for installation, vegetative screening, tax benefits and decommissioning plan.

Ms. Shira gave an overview of why she feels this project meets the Special Use Standards set forth in the Town Code.

Trustee Olson moved to approve granting the special use permit for Grand Parade Solar. Trustee Haier seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote:

Yeas: Trustee Olson

Nays: Trustees Corson, Fioretto, Stone, Haier, Siewierski
Absent: None Motion Failed

Attorney Buick addressed the board and stated that to properly deny the Special Use Permit Request, they would need to find and submit evidence that contradicts the findings of the Planning Commission, who had recommended approving the permit.

There was discussion and commentary from Trustees Corson, Stone, and Fioretto about their dislike of the use of the land for solar use and would like to see more commercial development. Trustees had questions about decommissioning costs. Ms. Shira answered that the decommissioning plan would be revisited every 5 years and the cost is included as part of the agreement.

Trustee Stone asked about the material used for the pylons, he was concerned about the use of galvanized steel driven into the ground. Ms. Shira replied that study is in progress and would be completed at the permitting stage.

Trustee Olson made a statement that this project is proposed on private property, and the owners should be able to make a choice to have the project there if they choose. Attorney Buick reviewed the Standards with the board members. There was brief discussion on the legislative requirements and reiteration of what would be required to properly deny the request.

Trustee Corson moved to reconsider the failed motion, seconded by Trustee Haier.
Roll Call vote:
Ayes: Trustees Corson, Stone, Haier, Olson
Nays: Trustees Fioretto, Siewierski
Absent: None Motion Carried

Trustee Olson moved to approve granting the special use permit for Grand Parade Solar. Trustee Haier seconded the motion.

Trustee Olson made another statement that this project is proposed on private property, and the owners should be able to make a choice to have the project there.
Roll Call vote:
Yeas: Trustees Corson, Stone, Haier, Olsen
Nays: Trustees Fioretto, Siewierski
Absent: None Motion Carried **O 2026-09**

6. Consideration of Ordinance 2026-XX, An Ordinance Annexing 77.54 Acres Owned by Andra L. Olson as Trustee of the Andra L. Olson Declaration of Trust Dated October 28, 2022 To The Town of Cortland, DeKalb County, Illinois.
This ordinance, if passed, would annex 1 parcel identified as 09-20-426-002 into the Town of Cortland as part of the process associated with the request for a Special Use permit to operate a Solar Farm being brought by Grand Parade Solar, LLC. The property must be annexed in order for the Special Use Permit to become valid.

Mayor Pietrowski introduced an Ordinance to Annex 77.54 Acres Owned by Andra L. Olson. The parcel identified is associated with the request for a Special Use Permit for a solar farm for Grand Parade Solar, LLC.

Trustee Corson moved to approve An Ordinance Annexing 77.54 Acres Owned by Andra L. Olson as Trustee of the Andra L. Olson Declaration of Trust Dated October 28, 2022 To The Town of Cortland, DeKalb County, Illinois. Trustee Stone seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote:

Yeas: Trustees Stone, Corson, Haier, Olson

Nays: Trustees Siewierski, Fioretto

Absent: None

Motion Carried

O 2026-10

7. Consider an Ordinance Amending Title 3, "Business and License Regulations", Chapter 3, "Peddlers and Solicitors", of the Cortland Town Code.

If approved, this ordinance makes minor changes to existing code and adds new language for "Pop-Up Food Vendor" regulations.

This item is being pulled back for more work on the language before passage.

8. Consideration of Approval of Quote for Meetings and Agenda Conversion by CivicPlus and Authorization for the Mayor to sign the Statement of Work (SOW) in the amount of \$5,300; monies to come from fund 01-6000-321

This quote will address the required upgrade of the Agenda and Meeting Minutes software as well as address the federal ADA law.

Mayor Pietrowski introduced the request from the Clerk's office for approval to upgrade the Meetings & Agenda software with Civic Plus.

Trustee Siewierski moved to approve the Quote for Meetings and Agenda Conversion by CivicPlus and Authorization for the Mayor to sign the Statement of Work (SOW) in the amount of \$5,300; monies to come from fund 01-6000-321. Trustee Fioretto seconded the motion.

Clerk Aldis explained that the version of the software the Town currently uses will reach it's end of life early next year and an updated version that meets the impending deadline for ADA compliance on municipal websites has been presented. The Town would be moving from the Essential to Select program.

Roll Call vote:

Yeas: Trustees Siewierski, Corson, Fioretto, Haier, Olson

Nays: Trustee Stone

Absent: None

Motion Carried

C 2026-05

9. Consideration of Approval of Quote for Catalis Website Upgrade and Authorization for the Mayor to sign a four year contract in the total amount of \$11,354.30; monies to come from fund 01-6000-321

This quote, if approved will authorize the upgrade of the current Town Website as well as address the federal ADA law.

Mayor Pietrowski introduced the request from the Clerk's office for approval to upgrade the Town's official website with Catalis.

Trustee Olson moved to approve the Quote for Catalis Website Upgrade and Authorization for the Mayor to sign a four year contract in the total amount of

\$11,354.30; monies to come from fund 01-6000-321. Trustee Haier seconded the motion.

Clerk Aldis explained that the Town's current website is built on a very old template which will no longer be supported next year. Catalis presented the opportunity for a redesign and an upgraded version that meets the impending deadline for ADA compliance.

Yeas: Trustees Siewierski, Corson, Fioretto, Haier, Olson

Nays: Trustee Stone

Absent: None

Motion Carried

C 2026-06

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

There was no unfinished business.

COMMENTS

There were no comments.

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Fioretto stated that the next meeting is on Tuesday and invited anyone to come.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

10. Permit Reports for May and June 2026;

Police Report for May 2026

The board reviewed the submitted reports. There were no questions.

Heather Black stated that she did submit the Annual Report for the Library. It will appear on a future agenda and packet for review.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pietrowski reported on the June 27th event at Suppeland Park and the American 250 Celebration. He would like to explore similar Music In the Parks events for the future. He announced that Summerfest is approaching and there are lots of opportunities to volunteer. Food, music, and fireworks will be featured.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Trustee Corson moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Fioretto. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm

Respectfully submitted

Catherine Koks, RMC
Deputy Town Clerk