



## Town of Cortland

### Board of Trustees Town Board Meeting

Town Hall, 59 S. Somonauk Road Cortland, IL 60112

March 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM

#### MINUTES

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#### CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ROLL CALL

Mayor Pietrowski called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was called showing as present Trustees Corson, Fioretto, Haier, Siewierski, Stone and Olson. Quorum was present. Also present were Town Clerk Cheryl Aldis, Attorney Kevin Buick, Director of Public Works Joel Summerhill, Police Commander Bruce VanWankum, Julie Thomsen, Lauterbach & Amen, and Deputy Clerk Catherine Koks.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Corson moved and Trustee Haier seconded a motion to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of item #4 under New Business for the presentation of the proposed FY2027 budget. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

#### PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK

There was no public present.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Regular Town Board Minutes of February 23, 2026; Approve Expenditures and Accept Treasurer Report of February 2026; Approval of Special Event for Honey Aura Market, September 13 2026, in Cortland Community Park from 10 am to 2 pm

Clerk Aldis read the consent agenda into the record, Approval of Regular Town Board Minutes of February 23, 2026; Approve Expenditures and Accept Treasurer Report of February 2026; Approval of Special Event for Honey Aura Market, September 13 2026, in Cortland Community Park from 10 am to 2 pm.

Trustee Stone moved to approve the consent agenda as read, seconded by Trustee Siewierski.

Roll call vote:

Yea: Trustees Stone, Siewierski, Corson, Fioretto, Olson, and Haier

Nay: None

Absent: None Motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

2. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for the Provision of Joint Salt Purchasing with DeKalb County for the Town of Cortland for the 2026-2027 winter season

Trustee Corson moved to Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for the Provision of Joint Salt Purchasing with DeKalb County for the Town of Cortland for the 2026-2027 winter season, seconded by Trustee Haier.

Public Works Director Summerhill reported the department has used 350 tons of salt with approximately 3 truckloads remaining. He stated the salt price for next season is an unknown factor at this time.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None Motion carried.

3. Approval of an Amendment of the Public Comment Policy. *If approved this policy is making a small housekeeping change which removes the requirement for a speakers address.*

Trustee Olson moved to approve the amendment of the Public Comment Policy; removing the requirement of a speakers address; seconded by Trustee Stone.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None Motion carried.

4. Review of Proposed FY2027 budget - Julie Thomsen, Lauterbach & Amen

Ms. Thomsen submitted a draft FY2027 budget to the table. She reviewed the document with the board. Notes from Finance:

- FY2027 Budget has a deficit of \$824K in the General Fund which brings the end of the year fund balance to (\$479,800). The overall budget is using \$629,315 in total fund balance leaving an ending fund balance of \$9,298,668. We are suggesting the board approve a \$1M transfer out of the Capital Improvement Fund to the General Fund for the FY2027 budget. The Capital reserves are 75% of operations and there is no reserve in the General Fund.
  - a. \$1M transfer from the Capital fund to the General fund. This will leave \$400K in the general fund reserve at the end of FY2027
  - b. Move the non-home rule sales tax from the Capital Fund to the General fund (about \$230,000 for FY2027 budget)
  - c. Allocate Brandy's salary to be 77% in the Engineering Department/16.5% in the Water Fund and 16.5% in the Wastewater Fund.
  - d. Allocate Julie's salary to be 60% in the General Fund/20% in Water Fund/20% in Wastewater Fund.
- There is a police vehicle budgeted for 2027 in the amount of \$70K and will be funded out of the Capital Improvement Fund. This amount seems low and should include the retrofitting expenses. There are 5 squad cars currently. All 5 police officers are not on the schedule at the same time. Thomsen asked, what are the intended uses of the 5 squad cars along with the purchase of a 6<sup>th</sup> car?
- Police Union Contract has taken a toll on the police budget in the General Fund. The shift differential pay, officer in charge pay and overtime have been costly. Thomsen asked, can staffing be done differently to help reduce the amount of overtime the

officers are receiving as well as the officer in charge pay? What can be done to reduce the amount of shift differential pay that is occurring? There are only 6 times on the police schedule where part time officers are scheduled. Can the hiring of more part-time officers be done?

- If more part time officers are scheduled, the police salary budget can be decreased and the part time officer budget can be increased.
- Salary increases for supervisory staff across the Town have impacted the General Funds budget for the past year and a half.
- Budget reductions were made, where possible, across all departments and funds for Cortland.
- Utility Billing will occur May 4<sup>th</sup>. Is it agreed the Town will go to 8 ½ x 11 paper bills? The folding machine will aid in the process of utility billing. The new bills will have to be stuffed, and envelopes stamped with the bulk rate stamp. Do we need to order more window envelopes?
- Finance will need to contact Caselle Civic to change the utility bills to 8 ½ x 11 if this is agreed upon. We will add a message to the bill encouraging e-bills and auto payments. If the resident selects e-bills, we would like them to also select no paper invoices. The resident/customer has to enroll in e-bills and sign up for no paper invoices.
- Cortland has heard from IPBC regarding health insurance quotes. The quote deadline has been set for the end of March.
- Management should encourage employees to take vacation time. Even if the personnel policy was changed, and hours over a set limit rolled into Sick, there is a limit on how much sick time can accrue. Some employees would max out that bank as well.
- Does the Town have plans to bring new businesses? With Camping World and the fence company no longer in Cortland, the sales use tax revenue has decreased for FY2026.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

There was no unfinished business.

## **COMMENTS**

5. Statements of Economic Interest have been sent to each REQUIRED staff and Trustees town e-mail and need to be filed electronically with the county by May 1, 2026. Failure to file this statement by the due date will result in a daily fine until the statement is received.

Mayor Pietrowski reviewed the requirements of the Statements of Economic Interest with the board and reiterated that beginning this year these are electronic filings and must be done by May 1, 2026, or penalties will apply.

6. Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police statewide recognition was awarded to Officer Robert Harris for his outstanding investigative work in a complex child exploitation case that ultimately resulted in multiple arrests across several states.

Mayor Pietrowski reported on the honor to be bestowed upon Cortland Officer Robert Harris as the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police selection as the

2026 Officer of the Year.

Commander VanWankum stated that in his career he has never previously personally known a recipient of this statewide award. He stated that he would provide more information once the award has been officially published.

## **PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Fioretto gave a brief report of committee work. She stated that they had ideas for this years potential work. However, after the budget review she feels this may hinder plans. They are attempting to develop community outreach and encourage participation of other people. They would like to build Legacy Park.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

### 7. Public Works Report, Police Department, and Permits Reports of February 2026

There were no questions or comments regarding the written reports.

Mr. Summerhill reported that Well #1 has a new pump and motor to be installed. It was less expensive than abandoning the well and mitigation of the radium removal equipment. Well #4 will have its column pipe pulled to learn why its production is down. Pine Street lift Station had rotted conduit which which shorted the the power cables to the pump and breaker. A spare pump was installed and All Around Pumping serviced the lift station. No residences were impacted. Mr. Summerhill reported that this lift station is 50 years old and will need to be replaced. The approximate cost is 1 million dollars.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Pietrowski reported that the Cortland Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Friday, April 3rd from 5:30 to 7:45 p.m.

## **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Exception to Open Meeting Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11))

*Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.*

Exception to Open Meeting Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21))

*Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.*

Trustee Corson moved and Trustee Fioretto seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session under the exceptions: **Exception to Open Meeting Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11))** *Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting;* and **Exception to Open Meeting Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21))** *Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.*

Board of Trustees  
March 23, 2026

Yea: Trustees Stone, Siewierski, Corson, Fioretto, Olson, and Haier

Nays: None

Absent: None Motion carried. 7:50 p.m.

### **RECONVENE OPEN SESSION**

Open session of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was reconvened at 8:14 p.m. with the following in attendance: Trustees Corson, Fioretto, Haier, Siewierski, Stone and Olson. Also present were Mayor Pietrowski, Attorney Kevin Buick, Director of Public Works Joel Summerhill, Town Clerk Cheryl Aldis, and Deputy Clerk Catherine Koks.

### **POSSIBLE RELEASE OF CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES THROUGH MOTION**

Trustee Corson moved and Trustee Fioretto seconded a motion to continue to hold seven (7) sets of Closed Session minutes; namely, June 14, 2021, May 22, 2023, September 11, 2023, January 22, 2024, November 25, 2024, March 10, 2025, and June 23, 2025.

Roll call vote:

Yea: Trustees Stone, Siewierski, Corson, Fioretto, Olson, and Haier

Nay: None

Absent: None Motion carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss a motion for adjournment was entered by Trustee Siewierski and seconded by Trustee Haier. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Aldis  
Town Clerk