



Town of Cortland
Board of Trustees Town Board Meeting

Town Hall, 59 S. Somonauk Road Cortland, IL 60112
April 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 7:00 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 Chief Lin Dargis, Julie Thomsen, Lauterbach & Amen, Town Engineer Brandy Williams and Deputy Clerk Catherine Koks.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK

There was no public present.

CONSENT AGENDA

There was no consent agenda presented.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. Consideration of Ordinance 2026-XX, An Ordinance Modifying Title 9 “Zoning Regulations”, Chapter 2 “Definitions”, Section 2 “Selected Definitions” And Title 9 “Zoning Regulations”, Chapter 3 “Miscellaneous Zoning Regulations”, Section 7 “Permitted Uses By District”, G “ Other Uses”, In The Town Of Cortland, DeKalb County, Illinois (*If approved this change allows for outdoor storage in all C-2 Commercial zoned districts*)

Trustee Fioretto made a motion, seconded by Trustee Haier, to approve An Ordinance Modifying Title 9 “Zoning Regulations”, Chapter 2 “Definitions”, Section 2 “Selected Definitions” And Title 9 “Zoning Regulations”, Chapter 3 “Miscellaneous Zoning Regulations”, Section 7 “Permitted Uses By District”, G “ Other Uses”, In The Town Of Cortland, DeKalb County, Illinois.

Board members asked Engineer Williams for clarification on the proposed changes. Williams explained that she had advised the applicant to file for the text amendment because the current code did not have an appropriate definition for them to operate their business under in the C2 Zoning definition. The proposed changes more clearly define the use "Outdoor Storage".

Roll Call vote

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

Nays: Trustee Corson

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Ord. 2026-04

2. Consider a motion to RATIFY the Mayor's signature on the Statement of Work pursuant to the Master Professional Services Agreement dated March 16, 2026, between Sikich and the Town of Cortland for the FY2026 Audit

Trustee Haier made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fioretto, to ratify the Mayor's signature on the Statement of Work pursuant to the Master Professional Services Agreement dated March 16, 2026, between Sikich and the Town of Cortland for the FY26 Audit.

Trustees asked what the document was for. Trustee Siewierski clarified with Ms. Thomsen that the fee for the annual audit that appears on the statement of work was \$23,350.00.

Roll Call Vote

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

3. Cortland Fire Protection District - Chief Trent Moser, Trustee Mark Yaeger
Discussion of fire station expansion project and TIF funding.

Cortland Fire Chief Trent Moser presented general details for the proposed expansion of the Fire Station. They are hoping to break ground in September or October 2026. A survey of the lot next to the station has been completed and vendors have been sourced and approved. The addition would be 120ftx70ft and will include space for six new bays, three office spaces and a receptionist area. The older section of the station will be renovated and reorganized into a new bunk space, a gear room, and will also feature a new exhaust system. The anticipated cost of the project is \$3 million dollars. The department has funds in a capital fund but anticipates a drop in that fund balance this year after payment for other committed projects.

Fire Board Trustee Mark Yaeger presented more specific financial details related to the project. The Fire Department plans to ask the Town Board to allocate TIF funds for this project in the amount of \$300,000 a year for the next six years to help finance the project. He stated that property tax allocations (approximately \$476,575, payable in 2026, each for Corporate (fire service) and Ambulance, approximately \$953,152 total). Corporate line pays for equipment and repair, with Ambulance line paying for training and salaries for the staff members. Currently the Fire Department is unable to support full-time staff through tax funding alone.

4. Discussion only - Electric Scooter and Bicycle Regulations

Mayor Pietrowski mentioned some possible changes coming to Illinois State Statutes regarding Electric Bicycle and Scooter usage. He had been asked by a group of concerned residents to consider an ordinance to also address the issue, but he would like to hold off on doing anything locally until there is more clarity on the changes to the State Statutes.

Chief Dargis stated that he was in favor of an "Educate Before Enforce" approach to the issue and provided the board with some examples from another community. He stated that education of parents is a form of enforcement and officers on the street would also educate young people that were stopped for non-compliance before writing a ticket. Board members discussed issues regarding liability, safety, and whether enacting a local ordinance would put too many restrictions on the use of the equipment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5. FY2027 Budget Discussion

Julie Thomsen of Lauterbach & Amen presented some changes that were made to the proposed FY 27 budget. The Travel and Training budgets for all departments have been reduced and the annual donation to the Lions Club is proposed to be reduced from \$20,000 to \$10,000. Trustee Corson had concerns about the reduction to the donation to the Lions Club and he stated he would like to see more businesses be brought to the community to offset the losses from the departure of some larger businesses. He stated that without the full \$20,000 donation, Cortland Fest could not go on as scheduled.

Thomsen also reported that the final tax computation has been received and revenues were updated accordingly.

Trustee Olsen asked about the status of TIF funds allocated for the old school renovation.

The final FY27 Budget will be voted on at the April 27, 2026, Town Board Meeting.

COMMENTS

Trustee Corson asked the board to seriously reconsider the reduction in the donation to the Lions Club.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pietrowski reported that the Lions Club had asked about assistance with the purchase of a new roof for the Lions Den using TIF funds. Clerk Aldis added that she had been in touch with the TIF attorneys (Jacob & Klein) to determine what levels of assistance the Lions Club would be eligible for and to obtain the proper paperwork to apply. She explained that an agreement would need to be made between the Town and the Lions Club. The amount of the project is approximately \$18,715.00. The Town could approve an agreement that covers up to \$10,500 (75% of the total approved expenditures) of that amount. Aldis asked the trustees to come to a consensus about if they wish to help and what amount to include on the paperwork.

Trustees Stone and Haier recused themselves from all TIF discussion participation and voting.

Trustees Corson, Olsen, Fioretto, and Siewierski discussed at what level the Town would be willing to help the Lions Club with the project.

Trustees came to a consensus that they would like to move forward with an agreement at the maximum amount of assistance (75%, \$10,500). Clerk Aldis will be in touch with Jacob & Klein to draw up paperwork for board consideration.

Mayor Pietrowski also brought forward research and information gathered and analyzed by the Clerk's office about the Community Text Notification products. The report showed various programs that were available along with features. The board will see an agenda item on this at the future meeting.

Pietrowski also announced that the next board meeting would likely be held at the Lions Den due to an anticipated large crowd.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Trustee Siewierski moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Fioretto. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Koks, RMC
Deputy Town Clerk