

## **Executive Summary: Committee as a Whole Meeting – January 29, 2026**

### **Village of Minerva Park**

The Committee as a Whole meeting on January 29, 2026, served as an open forum for updates, issue identification, and strategic discussion across village operations. While no formal committee agenda items were scheduled, the meeting covered a wide range of operational, legislative, infrastructure, and strategic planning topics. Key themes included public services reliability, public safety and liability concerns, pool operations and long-term capital planning, financial oversight, and regulatory considerations related to food trucks and village revenue.

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### **Key Discussion Areas and Outcomes**

#### **1. Public Services and Operations**

- **Food Trucks:**

Progress continues on scheduling food trucks for the summer season, with most dates filled and only four remaining. Council members raised broader concerns about regulatory oversight, taxation, and fairness—particularly regarding stationary food trucks operating within the village without apparent income tax contributions.

- Action Needed: Further legal and financial review to determine municipal tax obligations, permitting requirements, and potential policy updates.

- **Waste and Recycling Services:**

Several resident complaints were noted regarding missed trash or recycling pickups, including reports of entire streets being skipped. While some issues may be attributed to billing lapses or recent severe weather, there is concern about a perceived increase in incidents.

- Action Needed: Gather concrete data from the waste provider on complaints originating in the village and follow up to ensure service reliability.
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#### **2. Public Safety, Liability, and Ordinances**

- **Ice Skating on Minerva Park Lake:**

Attention was drawn to Chapter 1062.01, which allows ice skating and hockey on Minerva Park Lake when deemed safe by Village EMS—a department that no longer exists. This creates ambiguity and potential liability exposure.

- Options Discussed:
  - Amend or repeal the ordinance.
  - Explicitly prohibit access to frozen ponds.
  - Post signage clarifying restrictions.
- Action Needed: Legal review to determine the proper mechanism for ordinance revision and risk mitigation.

- **Snow Removal and Resident Responsibilities:**  
Streets were plowed promptly—ahead of Columbus—which was positively noted. Residents were reminded of responsibilities such as clearing access to fire hydrants and ensuring sump pump drains are unobstructed to prevent freezing and backups.
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### 3. Infrastructure and Capital Projects

- **Pool Replacement Project & Design-Build Process:**  
A significant portion of the meeting focused on the planned pool replacement and whether to proceed with a design-build approach. Legal guidance indicates design-build projects typically apply to projects exceeding \$8 million and require a specific statutory process, including the selection of a criteria architect/engineer.
    - Concerns Raised:
      - The village has already invested substantially in prior engineering work.
      - Council members expressed discomfort finalizing a major decision without full participation from absent leadership.
    - Outcome: General support for tabling final action briefly to ensure due diligence and confidence in the process.
  - **Cost-Saving Design Adjustments:**  
Minor modifications to pool features—such as zero-entry design elements—could reduce long-term operational costs (e.g., water turnover and pump requirements) without materially affecting usability.
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### 4. Pool Operations, Revenue, and Community Engagement

- **Short-Term Strategy (Pre-Replacement):**  
The Parks and Recreation discussion emphasized limiting pool maintenance to essential needs only, given the planned replacement within the next two years.
- **Marketing and Membership Growth:**  
A comprehensive strategy was discussed to increase awareness and usage of the pool:
  - Early marketing of pool rentals, swim lessons, and birthday parties.
  - Reintroduction of swim lessons and lifeguard certification courses.
  - A resident appreciation weekend offering free admission and potential membership discounts.
  - Increased use of signage, QR codes, social media, and surveys to gather resident feedback.
  - Partnerships with schools and community influencers.
- **Naming and Branding:**  
The name “Swim Club” may unintentionally convey exclusivity. Alternatives such as “Minerva Park Community Pool” were discussed to emphasize inclusivity and accessibility.

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## 5. Financial Oversight and Accountability

- **Audit Review:**

Plans are underway to schedule a meeting with the auditor to review findings and maintain financial transparency.

- **Roadrunner Plumbing Issue (Resident Concern):**

Council continues fact-finding regarding a disputed repair invoice and scope of work related to potential village responsibility. The focus remains on clarifying facts, costs, and appropriate next steps rather than assigning blame.

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### Key Takeaways for Leadership

- Several issues discussed—ice safety, food truck taxation, and pool procurement—carry **legal, financial, and liability implications** that require follow-up and possibly professional review.
- The village is actively balancing **short-term operational needs** with **long-term capital planning**, particularly around the pool replacement.
- There is strong emphasis on **resident experience, transparency, and community engagement**, especially through improved communication, surveys, and proactive outreach.
- Council members demonstrated a preference for **deliberate decision-making** on high-cost projects, even if it means modest delays.

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Jeffrey Wilcheck, Fiscal Officer

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Tiffany Southard, Mayor