

Village of Mazon Board Minutes

September 22, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm on September 22, 2025.

Present were: Jeff Marques, Melanie Murphy, Jared Kowalewski, Kirk Houchin, Kris Webster, Diane Punke, Roland Tondini, Larry Pastick, Tim Stiles, Chris Dearth, Tim Hejny

Absent: Rachel Carrell, John Frederick

The minutes for September 8, 2025, were presented for approval. **K. Webster made a motion to approve the September 8, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by D. Punke. Roll was taken. J. Kowalewski-Yes, K. Houchin-Yes, K. Webster-Yes, D. Punke-Yes, R. Tondini-Yes. Motion carried.**

The bill list for September 22, 2025, was presented for approval. **D. Punke made a motion to approve the bill list for September 22, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by J. Kowalewski. Roll was taken. J. Kowalewski-Yes, K. Houchin-Yes, K. Webster-Yes, D. Punke-Yes, R. Tondini-Yes. Motion carried.**

K. Webster made a motion to approve the appointment of Pamela Pastick as Trustee. The motion was seconded by D. Punke. Roll was taken. J. Kowalewski-Yes, K. Houchin-Yes, K. Webster-Yes, D. Punke-Yes, R. Tondini-Yes. Motion carried.

Treasurer:

The August 2025 Treasurer's Report was presented for approval. **K. Webster made a motion to approve the August 2025 Treasurer Report as presented. The motion was seconded by K. Houchin. Roll was taken. J. Kowalewski-Yes, K. Houchin-Yes, P. Pastick-Yes, K. Webster-Yes, D. Punke-Yes, R. Tondini-Yes. Motion carried.**

Secretary:

M. Murphy informed the board that she and Rachel met with the Program Manager from the Illinois Comptroller Office regarding Illinois Debt Recovery. She stated they went through all the steps of the program. She added that after learning about what would be required to pursue collection, the Village has not established an adequate system for keeping track of delinquent accounts/proper notifying of accounts. A new system will need to be established to track and ensure appropriate notices are going out to people that have delinquent accounts.

Public Comment:

K. Webster stated that she has been asked what the Halloween trick-or-treating hours will be this year. M. Murphy stated that last year the hours were 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm. The board agreed to keep it the same and a motion will be made at the next meeting.

K. Webster also asked about if the Village will be doing the hotdog dinner on Halloween night. This was discussed and it was stated that not enough of the village officials volunteer for this event.

J. Marques stated that a resident asked him about the alley along the fire department.

He was informed that a kid was riding their bike and scraped their leg on equipment that the fire department has had sitting there for years. The board had a discussion about the fire department having a lot of junk that is just sitting outside. Some of which is located on village property. They agreed this all needs cleaned up right away. K. Webster stated that she will talk with the Chief and the board about things on village property and request they are removed.

President:

j. Marques stated that MVK Christmas Basket is requesting donations. In 2024, the village donated \$1,000.00 to the Basket Project. The board discussed how many families they are able to help in this community. D. Punke stated that she does not believe that the organization should give out gift cards to families. She stated that you can't trust what people will spend it on. K. Webster then explained that the way the donations work has changed around covid. She stated that the amount of work that went into actually doing the shopping, packing, and delivery of all items was overwhelming and there are not enough volunteers to keep it going in that manner. The way it is done now is more efficient. MVK Christmas Basket Donation will be added to the next agenda. The board also discussed raising costs of ordinance violation for uncut grass. The village has an on-going issue with residents not cutting grass and not paying fines.

Committee Reports:

K. Houchin stated that he is going to hold a kick-off for the Mazon Sesquicentennial Celebration. He is going to try to get a committee together and he plans for a tentative meeting date of November 13th.

Old Business:

Nothing at this time.

New Business:

K. Houchin made a motion to accept bid from Captain's Concrete for village concrete work in the amount of \$18,870.00. The motion was seconded by P. Pastick. Roll was taken. J. Kowalewski-Yes, K. Houchin-Yes, P. Pastick-Yes, K. Webster-Yes, D. Punke-Yes, R. Tondini-Yes. Motion carried.

Mazon Park Foundation submitted a Special Event Park Use application for their community Fall Bike Ride on October 3rd from 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm. They estimate attendance of 50-100 people. They will serve hot dogs and drinks. The foundation provided certificate of insurance. **J. Kowalewski made a motion to approve the application for Special Event Park Use submitted by Mazon Park Foundation. The motion was seconded by K. Webster. Roll was taken. J. Kowalewski-Yes, K. Houchin-Yes, P. Pastick-Yes, K. Webster-Yes, D. Punke-Yes, R. Tondini-Yes. Motion carried.**

Director of Public Works:

J. Frederick reported to the board. He stated that public works patched Jewett St and the alley behind 507 Depot St. He informed the board that the service in front of 507 Depot St was dug up and terminated. He added that they will be digging again to investigate why the curb has sunk in front of Just Animals and possibly replace the valve at Just Animals.

J. Frederick stated that the roof on the north pavilion at the park has been redone. He informed the board that they ended up having to re-sheet it due to the existing sheeting being rotten. He stated that he is thinking about painting the pavilions and picnic tables in the Spring.

Chief of Police:

L. Pastick reported to the board. He informed the squad car will be getting worked on 9/23 – 9/24 at Bob's advanced Auto. He also stated that we received \$1,093.37 in fines from the county.

Zoning:

T. Stiles informed the board that he gave out a few new solar permits and 1 roof permit. He stated that Sunrun failed inspection on Harmony. He said it is currently in use.

He also stated that he sent a letter to Grundy County Housing Authority recommending mold inspection. T. Stiles informed the board that GCHA has refused to do any mold testing. He added that he is looking to get some guidance from legal. Dearth suggested calling HUD and stated that the village is not in a position to do anything more.

Engineer:

J. Kowalewski asked about the progress on Water Treatment Plant Project and when it would go out to bid. T. Hejny stated that they met about 2 weeks ago to finalize some building specifics. J. Marques added that we are hopeful to have it out to bid before the end of the year.

J. Marques also stated that he is still waiting to find out about using TIF funds to offset some of the village's cost. J. Kowalewski asked if there is a time frame of when the 2nd phase planning will begin. J. Marques stated that he wants to get through this project first and then the 2nd phase. J. Kowalewski asked if that meant in 5-10 years, we would begin planning phase 2/replacing water mains. J. Marques stated that in 5-10 years the village will probably still be paying off loans for phase 1/WTP. J.

Kowalewski stated that as far as adding a surcharge to pay for phase 1, that we also need to start planning for the future. Many communities add surcharges years and years before projects to ensure that the projects can be implemented. D. Punke stated that some Mazon residents cannot afford to have a higher water bill. J. Kowalewski stated that he understands that money is tight for nearly everyone these days and cost is rising but the costs for the village are on rise as well. He stated that the crumbling water distribution system is not going to fix itself, it's only going to continue to degrade.

T. Hejny stated that the whole system has been neglected for decades and that is the reason the village is in the position that it is in. Prices will only increase. D. Punke stated that senior citizens are on fixed incomes and cannot afford to pay even \$20.00 more. J. Kowalewski stated that perhaps the village can set frozen rates for certain residents. He added he is unsure of how much for surcharge and what the options are but that planning needs to begin now. K. Houchin stated that not every senior citizen needs a freeze rate. He stated some senior citizens can afford an extra \$20.00. It could be tight for people of any age group depending on their personal situation. J. Kowalewski stated that maybe the village should put an advisory referendum on the next ballot. K. Webster asked what if they vote no. J. Kowalewski stated that he believes that a lot of residents will vote yes. He stated that everyone wants clean, clear water, and it has to be paid for somehow. The longer it is put off the more expensive it will be. C. Dearth stated that he has no stake in the discussion, but he would like to state that communities add surcharges for future improvements. He gave 2 examples. M. Murphy stated that the villages' water and sewer department is not funded by taxes. Water and sewer is a business and Mazon's water business is failing right now.

J. Marques stated that he would like to get the WTP out for bid and started and then come back to this issue.

Attorney:

Nothing at this time.

K. Webster made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 pm. D. punke seconded the motion. Roll was taken. J. Kowalewski-Yes, K. Houchin-Yes, P. Pastick-Yes, K. Webster-Yes, D. Punke-Yes, R. Tondini-Yes. Motion carried.