

**COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE AUTHORITIES  
VILLAGE OF SAUK VILLAGE  
Tuesday, November 4, 2025  
Sauk Village Municipal Center  
21801 Torrence Avenue  
Sauk Village, Illinois 60411  
(708) 758-3330**

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**1. Mayor Marva called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.**

**Roll Call**

Present: Trustees Burns, Sapp, Sterling and Winston.

Absent: Trustees Jones and Johnson- with notice

**2. PRESENTATIONS**

**b) Interim Village Administrator Anthony Finch**

**i. Government Lease Agreement**

Interim Finance Director Finch stated that an agreement with First Government Leasing was approved by the board to finance five police vehicles. This new agreement is for five vehicles with payments to start in 2027 rather than 2026. We originally were to receive 2 – 2025 models and 3-2026 models. This agreement includes all 5- 2026 models. The first payment is not due until October 1<sup>st</sup>. Money that was found within the police department budget that was not drawn down will be used for this purpose as well the funds in the tow account which could provide a surplus for the 2027 payment. This is already in the budget. The vehicles are ready for pickup now. The mayor is seeking approval to sign the agreement and move forward with picking up the vehicles.

Trustee Winston asked for the difference in price between the 2025 and 2026 models. Response- Yes-200.00 each.

Trustee Burns asked about the budget. Response: This will not affect this budget.

Mayor Marva asked if we could agree to move forward now with the agreement by consensus and finalize it at the next board meeting. The resolution can be voted on then. Alternative is to hold on and approve both in two weeks. The possible impact of waiting until the next board meeting, which is November 25, 2025, was discussed. The vehicles have to be detailed/ equipped before they can be used. There is no meeting on November 11, 2025. A special meeting may be called. Mayor Marva stated that if consensus is approved now, keep in mind the next time this is requested.

Chief Sanders stated it is not dire, but it is more about the optics.

Trustee Burns stated the holiday season is coming. Could this cause a delay. Chief Sanders stated there is a potential delay getting the lights installed. It is a first come first served basis especially with the 2026 vehicles coming out. We are down to 4 vehicles now. The current funding process for this gets the payments off the taxpayers.

Consensus- all trustees agreed to move forward with the lease agreement. The resolution will be approved at the next board meeting.

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Committee of the Whole Meeting

**a) Production Distribution Companies – Justin Downs, Bonita Estelle, Com Ed**

This presentation provides similar assistance as a company that presented a few weeks ago to provide lighting in the village. ComEd has quite a few incentives for street lighting right now. Com Ed incentivizes LED lighting which provides longevity. Justin Downs is the contractor highly recommended by Bonita Estelle.

Mr. Downs stated an energy audit is done by counting the streetlights to do the assessment to prepare a proposal to include the same street lighting or more lighting with less wattage. LED's have less wattage and produce the same amount of lighting. Through ComEd incentives you don't have to pay for replacement. The traditional lights will be obsolete soon.

Mr. Downs broke down the current kilowatt hours and the savings with LED lighting. The proposed cost is \$100,026.94 minus the ComEd rebate of \$23,019.20 leaving a balance of \$77,007.74 plus a bonus of 20% if the program is completed by the end of December.

(Mayor Marva stepped away for a few minutes.)

The village can make the payment and ComEd will send the rebate upon completion.

The lighting is guaranteed for 10 years. The current sodium bulbs diminish and yellow after time. LED lights never die but the power source (driver) may go out after 10 years. You replace the driver not the fixture. The driver costs approximately \$40-50.00.

Financing is available with First Government for monthly payments or do a one-time payment trying to keep the monthly payment close to the monthly savings.

Trustee Burn asked if the village being late with their audits be a problem to get financing.

Mayor Marva stated this finance company is already financing the police vehicles for Sauk Village.

Trustee Sterling inquired about the poles because a lot of wooden pole lights are broken or dim.

They do not touch the wood poles. Those belong to ComEd. All aluminum poles were counted.

Wood poles are typically in residential areas. Aluminum poles are usually in the main thoroughfares. Bonita said a list of where the wooden poles are located can be provided.

Mayor Marva asked the board to take this presentation into consideration. The last presenters have not followed up. Both can be brought back to a committee meeting.

Mayor Marva introduced Bonita to Trustee Dr. Winston who applied and won the grant for the Christmas lighting. Bonita congratulated Trustee Dr. Winston and thanked her for presenting the grant. Bonita works with 400 municipalities. The board will be invited to a celebration at the end of the year.

Bonita stated that other municipalities can provide references for Mr. Downs.

**ii. Resolution Authorizing Agreement with New Beginnings**

Interim Village Attorney Finch stated there was a presentation about a month ago where New Beginnings stated they could turn rehab homes owned by the village into a home for sale. Sauk Village would receive a profit from each property after New Beginnings and Sauk Village recovers their costs. The concept was started in 2019. This would also save \$5,000. in fees when turning the homes over to the landbank. The list in 2022 consisted of 23 homes owned by the village.

Trustee Burns stated there are a lot of economic development projects coming before the board with no Economic Development Director on board to monitor the progress and check the numbers. People bring projects to the village, and no one knows what is going on and everything goes haywire. The board does not have the expertise to oversee these projects. Who will the board ask questions to? Who will be responsible for all of the developments? A previous presentation from an economic development consultant also included the ability for them to apply for grants. That company needs to be re-examined

before we move forward with these companies. Trustee Sapp stated we have attorneys to review the contract, and we should move forward or we stay stagnant.

Trustee Dr. Winston asked who would be monitoring step-to-step for the six-month process? What are the repercussions if this is not done within the time frame. What staff members would be included?

What are the deliverables? What are we obligated to do? The profits increased from 25% to 30%.

Mr. Finch stated Code Enforcement will be involved in making sure permits are secured and the properties are safe just as with any investor. They are the owners until the property sells. All risks are on them with regards to fire or other issues. The profit increased from 20 to 25%, which is reasonable. Most homes that municipalities give away get no return.

The time frame to turn the property over was one year or they buy it back themselves or give it back to the village regardless of what condition it is in.

Trustee Sterling reiterated we are still saying we don't have someone to give quarterly or monthly updates.

Trustee Dr. Winston asked if the Code Director will require an increase in pay for the added responsibility? Response- No, this is part of their job to inspect all properties.

One to five houses can be worked on at one time.

There was no agreement included with the resolution. Mayor Marva asked to postpone this until the agreement is included with the resolution. That will allow the company to come back and present again. A very good attorney has to be involved in this.

Trustee Dr. Winston recalled they said they would include information for the residents to become homeowners.

Village Clerk Williams stated the economic development consultant was Dave Lockman. He presented on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **c) Mayor Marva Campbell-Pruitt**

#### **i. Consultant's Proposal/ Agreement**

Mayor Marva stated the credentials for the HR Consultant and the PR Consultant were shared in executive session last week. The proposals and agreements were not available at that time. The concern regarding the Public Relations Consultant pay coming in higher was discussed during budget reviews. These positions are in the budget. The two people coming before the board tonight did go through the interview process. The HR person lowballed his pay and Mayor Marva countered with a fairer amount. Mayor Marva asked the board for their agreement to move forward with these positions rather than wait three or four weeks to get this much needed assistance.

Trustee Winston stated it does not stipulate that both consultants must work within the building.

Mayor Marva stated there is a resolution for the HR Consultant that they must work onsite during working hours. We do not have the equipment for PR to work in the building.

Trustee Winston referred to #3 on the HR agreement where it stipulates they must bring their own equipment. Mayor Marva stated there is already a laptop, computer and phone here for HR.

Mayor Marva asked if she may enter the village into an agreement with Mr. Richmond Briscoe.

Trustee Burns stated that the board has not met Mr. Briscoe. Mayor Marva stated this is the first time this part has even been done by the board. The consultants and contracts do not always come before the board. Not since 2017. This is being transparent. We have been talking about consultants since the job openings were posted in May. Mayor Marva asked if she can sign with the HR Consultant now that the resume and agreement are in place. Trustee Burns stated a point should be made that all consultants must come before the board.

Trustees Burns, Sapp, Sterling and Winston agreed. Trustees Jones and Johnson were absent.

Mayor Marva said it does not need to be brought back before the board.

Village Clerk Williams pointed out for clarification that the board has given Mayor Marva authority to move on with signing Mr. Richmond Briscoe as HR Representative and this action will also appear on the next board meeting agenda for final approval.

Mayor Marva stated the village would be well served by using this company. The PR resume was provided in executive session, and the proposal is presented today. The consultant is not related to any resident with the same name.

The village has very sore presence in the Southland community. Mayor Marva has asked Administrative Staff to refrain from comments and rebuttals. Most have been accommodating. A calm individual is needed in this process and knows how to diffuse the situation.

This is an at-will position. We can always back out and pick someone else.

Trustee Winston stated the terms for termination need to be incorporated such as stipulating a 30-day notice and the length of the term. The annual salary was discussed.

Trustee Burns stated both HR and PR need to be onsite.

Mayor Marva stated they will be here to some extent during the 4-5 days / 20 hours weekly. They may not need to be here 100% of the time. They could also be representing us outside of the shared office we may provide.

Trustee Burns stated some office hours are needed.

Mayor Marva said they will show what they have done.

Trustee Winston asked who the weekly planning calls for updates will be provided to according to #3.

Mayor Marva clarified that the PR consultant is not assigned only to her. She will work with the Clerk on the website and digital content and with the Trustees. Everyone will get updates.

Trustee Sapp stated most negative press comes from within. How will she answer that?

Mayor Marva stated there will be a meeting with PR that includes training and protocols. What we say and how we say it impacts the optics. PR is here for everyone. We have never had a PR/Marketing person before. We have an opportunity to design what this can do for us.

Trustee Burns stated all committees will want great presentation and will want to be able to utilize the PR person as well. Mayor Marva said she is here to work with everyone to meet all needs for communicating with the residents.

Trustee Winston stated both agreements should have a termination clause and information on renewals. Renewals may come with price increases.

HR has that clause. That clause needs to be added to the PR agreement.  
Moved forward with the next agenda item at this point.

## ii. Zoning Board of Appeals & Review Request – Tangible Dreams

Mayor Marva said Tangible Dreams presented previously. Recently information was placed in everyone's boxes. She also contacted the mayor last week. There is not a full seated Zoning Board to review the application for zoning. We need to multitask to get things done. There has been no response from the former chairperson. A plea has been made to the residents to join the Zoning Board. Someone has agreed to the appointment.

Trustee Burns stated this is similar to a BNB. A committee should be formed to meet with this person to see what type of home this is. Is it a recovery home? What are the requirements? Do we have these types of homes in Sauk Village.

Mayor Marva said there are BNB's, recovery homes, senior homes, youth homes, etc. in Sauk Village. This area is not zoned for a recovery home. The Zoning Board notifies the households in the area.

Trustee Burns stated we need to know their backgrounds- if they have records.

Mayor Marva said we could probably get oversight of the applicant's initial situation, but it is transient. Residents are short term. There is no ordinance on the books to monitor BNB's and recovery homes.

Trustee Dr. Winston stated she did not answer the question about where the people will be coming from. These people may have been incarcerated and struggling with recovery. One of the same people has to be there throughout the day and night. She has stated the recovery home is similar to a single family home with six residents. Mayor Marva stated she will tell her we do not have laws to govern this, and she can be referred to the Zoning Board. This will be a long process.

Trustee Sapp stated she six residents with one case manager is not enough. Trustee Burns stated the ordinance needs to be specific.

Mayor Marva stated she will create an ad hoc committee just for this purpose. The committee will be named Specialized Housing (including BNB) and appointed Trustees Burns and Sapp and Winston as a stand in. Residents will be included on the committee.

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Debra Turner questioned the memo that was sent out with the water bill. It stated to pay only \$62.70. Will additional amounts be added on later?

Mayor Marva stated that all residents will pay the minimum until the issue has been resolved. Adjustments will be added on later.

Francine Anderson stated she appreciated Trustee Burns' comments today. It is very rare that she agrees with her solutions. (Mayor Marva said to please not add names.)

Maybe we should stop until we have someone to oversee our economic development. There has been at least six different presentations. It is not clear which ones are still on the table, current or otherwise. Tangible Dreams was presented today and put off. Francine said congratulations to Trustees (Mayor Marva cut Francine off) Francine continued to thank Trustees Johnson and Sterling on the wonderful Halloween party for the kids and their families. To the mayor- "their  
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positions are trustees – if you don't want me to call them trustees then... Since you are elected officials of this community this community has a right to be heard and say your name. We are the people that elected you. This is shameful that no one can call your name when giving you honor and accolades. I would expect you to do that when last week you were condescending”.

Mayor Marva stated her time was up. Her time was not up. Mayor Marva turned off the microphone at the base and then took the microphone off of the podium and stood there while Francine continued to talk.) she said she was raising her voice to give accolades who were doing good things for the people of this town. People have a right to say what they want to say. Thank you – I will take this to the Attorney General. You already have two or three lawsuits from citizens not being able to have their say for their three minutes which is legally our three minutes. You cannot stop what we say or don't say in those three minutes. Francine thanked those that are doing a good job. (Chief Sanders was asked to approach the podium during this time.)

David Fields said Sauk Village has become a dumping ground for all types of businesses. Have you asked yourself why is everyone bringing their business here? Why is the halfway house being entertained? They are talking about this right across the street from Wagoner School. You are opening up a door to something you don't want to open up. All of these red flags, questions being asked- red flags. David stated the mayor should do her own research about these places and know they are 100% legit before putting it on the agenda. This is a waste of time. Trustees keep asking questions. Something is not right. Mayor – you are PR for the village. As long as you do the right thing you do not need a consultant. The right things follow you. That's more money the taxpayers are paying. We don't need a PR person. One of the trustees said a few weeks ago that we are spending money that we don't even have. Very, very true. It's not longevity with these businesses. They are looking at getting in and getting out. They are not trying to say.

Mayor Marva stated “you don't know how many times I have told people that contact me that this village is not a dumping ground. We don't need another gas station, truckers, truck parking and the like. I say that least once a week.”. Mayor Marva stated she brought Tangible Dreams back because theirs came with something others did not. They came with a Zoning Board application. The trustees, clerk and herself received the Zoning Board application. You can't say she is a dictator on one hand and then when she brings something back, something with teeth- you need to focus on that.

Katana Jones stated she has not attended the meetings as she used to. The meetings are long and drawn out with petty arguments. It is disrespectful to the residents to have to sit up and listen to things that should be discussed interoffice. We came to hear and see if the trustees are doing their utmost for us. Not listening to back and forth. That's childish. Everyone is a part of a team. If you don't know how to play and work well, you should not have ran. She is sick of it. The preacher has prayed over you and now you need to do the work. You are not acting professional. Please become the team you are supposed to be. If one walks out you don't have to follow. Today was very nice.

David Smith said what just happened is very disappointing. It is against the law to restrict public comments. David read that comments made at public meetings cannot be restricted even if they are a personal attack.(From the Illinois Supreme Court).

What the mayor just did to Francine Anderson (Mayor Marva told him not to name names) is unacceptable. Mayor Marva continued to cut him off and he said he will also file a suit. She said she don't care and stated his time was up. (It was not up) David said she was wasting his time. David said at the end of the day he does not personally agree with the mayor's actions or words and stated she is being a dictator. The mayor changed the public comment section because she does not want people to get in their feelings. Grow up. Politics is a \_\_\_\_\_ game. Sometimes people say things you don't agree with – get over it. Everyone needs to get over themselves. Who are any of them that feel they cannot be criticized. Who is the mayor to say that they can't make compliments for a Halloween event for the kids because trustees went out of their way to do something for the kids that the mayor personally tried to cancel. It's completely- calling the Moose Lodge to try to cancel, telling people not to donate for something for our kids. Completely disrespectful. If you are really a team, when one walks out all should walk out. That's a team. There is no division Last week the mayor disrespected the clerk and half of the board. The mayor violated Robert's Rules of Order by not allowing Point of Information. Follow the rules.

Mayor Marva said she was sent a text message with so many untruths that are being stated tonight. Mayor Marva stated she had not been to the Moose Lodge even though she is a member and she has not done any of that. Mayor Marva stated she believed we are a team- she knows there is a way to end a meeting. The way to end a meeting is not for one trustee to walk off and two or three trustees follow. There is a process. What happened last week was most unfortunate.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Finch asked to go into executive session. Mayor Marva stated that no one mentioned executive session to her so we moved on.

### **5. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE TRUSTEES AND MAYOR**

Mayor Marva read a statement she had prepared. Mayor Marva stated that last week someone said that all of the directors were here as it used to be. Not only were the directors here, they had reports to give. Fortunately, they turned in their reports at the required time last Friday. Trustees were able to read the reports. Residents were not able to hear the well-prepared reports. That was a disservice to staff who had work all day in the village, some did not even go home, waiting to share – some were giving a report for the first time. They were eager to let people know what they are doing for this village. They did not get an opportunity to share their report. Mayor Marva stated that regardless of what is going on she hoped that we would not do anything to cause us to lose a quorum. If you can remember with the last administration, even if she did not agree with it then, if trustees walked out of a meeting and or did not attend a meeting, they called a special meeting to discuss things that were on that meeting's agenda. Mayor Burgess stopped paying them their \$125.00 stipend. Mayor Marva stated she did not agree with it then. If we can't finish conducting the business of the village, without any reason, or state executive privilege.

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It is unfortunate that our meetings last so long. People, we have a lot to do. We are making major strides which require discussion, communication and agreement. In order to have an agreement you have to have discussion and communication. When we make decisions, they should be informed decisions. If that means she is being a dictator because the trustees are informed and knowledgeable, so be it.

To the residents- it is wonderful to see you here- to see you interested in what is going on in our village but when we come here on Tuesday night, we come to take care of the business of the village not to entertain anyone for however long ten they want to leave. You have that right. We are not supposed to just jump up and leave but you can. You can leave. Our agendas are long. Our agendas have been vast. It's not because we are just trying to find something to talk about.

If we keep you here, we keep ourselves here. We have to take care of business- whether that is to postpone until another time, defer to a committee for further explanation or just say no – we don't want that at all. That's what we were elected to do. Take care of the business of the village, if you get tired and weary Mayor Marva invited you to go on home and as you get into bed to say a prayer for that we won't be here much longer. Our primary responsibility is taking care of the business of this village. I don't want to hear anybody talk about how long these agendas are. If we start cutting people from the agenda who want to be on the agenda, we are criticized. We can't win with some of you. Damned if we do and damned if we don't.

On the back table is a save the date for things that she can think of that will carry us through this fiscal year. Veteran's Day coming up next week. She would love to see everyone here. You can represent a loved one that served. Please share some loving thoughts about them.

Trustee Dr. Winston thanked everyone for coming out and thanked God for keeping us. The Illinois Secretary of State Mobile DMV is having a mobile DMV this Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 8am – 2pm in Markham located at 3039B W. 159<sup>th</sup> Street.

The Com Ed grant was approved so we could bring positive collaboration to the village.

Trustee Dr. Winston completed another ComEd grant yesterday for \$25,000.00 to help teach our residents about energy efficiency and savings. It is a six-month grant. Trustee Dr. Winston wrote the grant and the budget for the money that is being distributed if we won the grant. A package will be provided to the clerk to make copies regarding SNAP work changes. New information – both in English and Spanish and a SNAP work rules- request for exemption. If you meet the criteria you can fill it out and submit it to a Human Service worker you may be exempt from having to work 20 hours a week for benefits. Trustee Dr. Winston reached out to Jumping Jam to provide a free wristband and snack combo for our honor roll students in our school district.

A couple of weeks ago she spoke about a communications plan. Residents who sign up can receive one phone call to their phones. This information will be brought to another committee meeting for discussion. Be safe. It is getting darker earlier

Trustee Sterling stated to be safe. It is getting darker earlier. Check your cars. People are watching.

Trustee Sapp stated she is working on getting food, turkeys and shoes for the holidays. The tentative date is November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the McConathy Public library. A flyer will be coming out

soon. Trustee Sapp stated she chose the library because you can't just walk in there and start recording. It's open to the public. Trustee Sapp will be working with a Crete trustee.

Trustee Burns thanked Trustees Sapp and Winston for working with her on the ordinance for housing type businesses. Trustee Burns acknowledged the trustees working in so many areas in the village. Mayor Marva stated that if the residents cannot state names we should not either.

Trustee Burns stated we should be able to acknowledge people doing good in the community.

We are doing good work together. Residents and colleagues working together are welcome.

Trustee Sapp stated people do need second chances, but it should be monitored.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Marva adjourned the meeting by common consent at 9:35 p.m. after the motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Sapp and seconded by Trustee Burns.