

**COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE AUTHORITIES
VILLAGE OF SAUK VILLAGE
Tuesday, October 21, 2025
Sauk Village Municipal Center
21801 Torrence Avenue
Sauk Village, Illinois 60411
(708) 758-3330**

1. Mayor Marva called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Trustees Jones, Johnson, Sapp, Sterling and Winston- Trustees Burns- remote

Absent: None

2. PRESENTATIONS

a) Los Gonzalezz Market- Ricardo Hurtado, (Ricardo spoke on behalf of Albino & Juan Carlos Gonzalezz- due to language barrier)

A presentation was made for a small full grocery store to be located in the 2707 Sauk Trail- the former McDonalds space. There will be canned goods, fresh produce, meat, dairy and a food bar focusing on tacos. The format will be similar to a bodega- grocery store/meat market with a food bar.

Trustee Sterling was concerned of the size of the store being adequate.

Response: they will start small and add on.

Trustee Johnson asked when the projected opening date was.

Response: As soon as the village gives permission for the permits and work can begin.

Trustee Burns asked if the work has already started.

Mayor Marva responded the village approached them after noticing work had begun and informed them that permits were needed before they could continue. Also, to correct and follow the guidelines of the village. They had already purchased the building, but the contractors are not on file. They were asked to come to this meeting to present their vision. For the last eight years or more businesses just opened with coming to the board. We have added that requirement back so we would know what's coming into the village. We can't say no - per se' - but we can make sure the permit process is followed. All food will be prepared on the premises.

There may or may not be a drive - thru. This is also properly zoned.

b) IFF - Laura Silverman (Vickie Lakes-Battle appeared for Ms. Silverman)

This is a follow-up to a presentation from a few weeks ago. IFF is not an acronym. The current pass-outs stated IFF is a unique kind of community development financial institution (CDFI) committed to advancing transformational outcomes in under - resourced communities across the Midwest; mostly non-profit organizations where there are food desserts and affordable housing. IFF is the 4th largest financial institution in the nation with more flexibility than a bank. Grants can be written that include grocery stores who want to operate in the building but do not want to own) and people who have never navigated a loan before, such as, day cares and schools. There is a new housing development going up in Park Forest they brought to the community.

October 21, 2025

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Rents will be affordable and low-level housing will be available. Loans for up to 95% of performance costs are available. Banks predominately fund these projects. IFF assists with project idealization to completion. There are many options available to help Sauk Village bring their ideas to fruition. Recent projects include high quality housing for affordable prices throughout the south suburbs such as the Park Forest development with 4 floors of housing. Mayor Marva attended a roundtable discussion in Park Forest and saw firsthand the concept of a building with housing and possibly a grocery store. IFF could be a potential partner to help bring all it all together to improve the community. Grocery stores must make sense. Is it in a food dessert area? Is there a loan opportunity due to a need.

Trustee Dr. Winston asked if IFF would meet with Sauk Village to address how exactly what we need to get this. Response: This is exactly what IFF does. Identify the needs, help with RFP's, and follow the plan of the direction the village is working on.

3) Chief Damm & Mayor Marva Campbell-Pruitt

a) New Hires

The Fire and Police Commission completed testing last week with firefighters and EMT's. They provided a list with five candidates who are all certified with the State Firefighters Marshall and have EMT licenses. The chair of the Police and Fire Commission has begun contacting those candidates to get them in for their background examination, followed by psych exam, polygraph and physical. Successful candidates will be brought to the board to be sworn in at a board meeting.

Trustee Dr. Winston asked how hiring these candidates will affect overtime.

Response: Working to significantly reduce overtime.

Mayor Marva commented on the successful Open House. Chief Damm credited the Firefighters on doing a great job even with two calls just before it started.

- i. Fire Fighters
- ii. EMT/ Paramedics

Mayor Marva stated all four positions are included in this year's budget. There was a process used for the Public Works Director and Finance Director that was discussed previously. The Public Works Director has already begun working. Further discussion will occur in executive session. Information on the candidates is available.

- iii. Public Works Director
- iv. Finance Director
- v. HR Consultant
- vi. PR Marketing

4) Interim Village Administrator Anthony Finch & Mayor Marva Campbell- Pruitt

a) Cook County Water Affordability Program

Mayor Marva stated this program will provide immediate relief for residents to pay their outstanding water bills. The water billing has not been completed yet.

Mr. Finch stated there is no dollar amount provided to individuals. A sample of the program was discussed. It was agreed that the village will waive 10% of the past due bills that could include fees and penalties. A report will be turned over to Cook County. Once the lump sum of money is provided to Sauk Village, the village agrees not to turn the water off at that property for six months. A resolution is needed between the Sauk Village and Cook County with that stipulation.

October 21, 2025

Committee of the Whole

Trustee Johnson referred to this program already being in place. Mr. Finch stated that is a different program- similar to what Bloom Township has. These funds are distributed to several different communities. Mayor Marva stated this has to be turned around quickly before funds run out.

Trustee Sapp if there is an application process. Sauk Village will provide a list with addresses and totals. They will send the money to be distributed among those homes.

Trustee Sterling asked about the process. Response: The village will send a copy of the presentation to the attorneys so they can make a resolution.

Trustee Dr. Winston stated it says the residents are automatically enrolled- no income requirement needed. Will we reach out to residents with limited access to technology. Response: Residents do not need to apply. The village will go through the bills and target high bills. The funds are distributed among other communities also.

Mayor Marva stated as seniors pay their bills, we can monitor their balances and include them in the list. A procedure will be developed. It was agreed that we will move forward with getting a resolution prepared for the board.

5) Interim Village Administrator Anthony Finch

a) Zero Outages

Mayor Marva talked about the need to separate from the server to prevent outages. The internet is out right now. Zero Outages will track when outages occur. There is a switch that can separate the Village Hall from the Police Department. For \$199. a month they will track if there is a glitch and monitor what needs to be done and get it done in the background to restore the internet.

The switch is already in-house. Once the switch is installed, we can sign the agreement to have them start monitoring.

Trustee Dr. Winston asked how public safety is impacted when the internet goes down. Mr. Finch stated prisoners cannot be monitored or live scanned when they are brought in. We lose all in-house processes which put us at risk. Officers cannot do reports.

Chief Saunders stated the IT constantly crashes because the system is not secure. Something is going on where CalCom cannot monitor the prisoners. We currently need an officer to watch prisoners. The equipment is old. It is critical to rectify the situation. We need to have CalCom monitor our prisoners rather than pull an officer in to do it and pay overtime.

Mayor Marva stated a resolution is needed for Zero Outages. The attorneys will be asked to prepare the resolution if we decide to move forward. Mr. stated additional charges include the need for IT to install the switch and the monitoring equipment. That is about an 8- hour day.

Concerns-

Trustee Dr. Winston asked why the equipment was here but not installed. Two months ago, the system crashed. An IT company was called in that stated that the system had been hacked. In the urgency, equipment was ordered. The installation process was stalled.

A separate IT company will be needed to do our IT services. Zero Outages will do the monitoring.

Trustee Sterling asked about other costs. There is a \$250.00 set up fee and \$199.00 a month fee- what other costs? We still don't have an IT provider. The RFP process was stopped by the board. There were two bids and the board would not approve the lowest bidder.

The majority the board voted not to move forward.

October 21, 2025

Committee of the Whole

Mr. Finch stated if there are any questions they should be asked now. Saying no to this proposal will put the Police Department at risk and subsequently the residents.

Trustee Johnson stated there should have been more than one company provided. The terms in the proposal does not fit what the village's needs. We need to see other proposals.

Mr. Finch stated the board approved \$64,000 to another company to do the exact same thing as this company is proposing to do for \$199.00 per month with only one company saying they would fix this. For over a year the police department and residents have been without internet. This will get fixed with this company.

Mayor Marva asked what the concerns were with this company. The police department had its own IT company at one time. This impacts the Municipal Center and the Police Department. We need a company to separate the village and police department from a particular router.

Mayor Marva asked if Trustee Johnson had a recommendation for another company.

Trustee Sterling stated there are a lot of red flags in the agreement. The company is under California jurisdiction. Arbitration and liability waivers strips personal data rights which are granted to Zero Outages. Possible exposure to village bank records.

Mayor Marva thanked Trustee Sterling for her recommendations and will make sure the attorneys review those concerns and change language as necessary. Pages 12-14 also require attention. Mayor Marva asked if the resolution can be prepared taking these recommendations into account in order to move forward with bringing this to the table next week for a vote.

6) Village Clerk Debbie Williams

a) Adoption of the Agenda Policy and Procedure

Mayor Marva referred to a letter passed out by the attorneys last week regarding the duties of the Clerk. Mayor Marva stated she prepared a description of the Clerk's duties from when she was the Clerk and placed it on the website. The Clerk shared that memo last week.

Mayor Marva stated we do not have Census data collection throughout the next four years.

Mayor Marva was a notary and was not certain if the current clerk is a notary. Some of the duties on that list are no longer applicable to the Clerk at this time.

Village Clerk Williams stated she did not ask for the adoption of agenda policy and procedures to be on the agenda. Village Clerk Williams asked for Village Clerk duties to be on the agenda and stated how she did all of those things when she was the Clerk previously. The current clerk- Village Clerk Williams- should still be able to do those things. Village Clerk Williams stated she will reapply to be a notary if she is given the funds to do so. That is the job of the Village Clerk. The letter from the attorney backs up what the Clerk has been saying. It specifically states that before the meeting the Clerk is solely responsible for preparing, coordinating and distributing the agenda and final meeting packet. As of two weeks ago, that duty was taken away from the Clerk and the Mayor is now doing the agendas without the Clerk even knowing anything about it. The Clerk did not know some of the information that was included in packets until the same time as the trustees. Looking at the memo from the attorney, it is clear that duty was taken away from the Clerk. The Mayor's memo refers to duties the Clerk did when she was the Clerk in the past.

The duties of the Clerk have been stripped and diminished and continue to be stripped. Village Clerk Williams stated she wants all of the duties of the Clerk not just some of them. If the Mayor insists on doing the packets- that's up to her. The former Mayor stripped responsibilities from her as well and she probably was not happy about it. Village Clerk Williams stated she is not happy about it either. If the Mayor wants to full responsibility of the packet, she should also post the agendas and make copies for the packets. VC Williams was never informed she would not be

October 21, 2025

Committee of the Whole

doing the agenda. The discussion of Village Clerk duties was not placed on the agenda. VC Clerk Williams asked to have that discussion on a future agenda. What exactly are the Clerk's duties and the mayor's duties? They have not been separated yet.

Mayor Marva countered stated there is no need to bring this back to the committee. The memo clearly states the duties of the Mayor and the Clerk. The mayor stated it does not take three days and nine emails to put the packet together. The mayor will take whatever the Clerk provides her and will put the packet together. The Clerk will make the copies and distribute it just as the memo states. If the Clerk will allow the Mayor and the Village Administrator to handle the actual agenda and then have the copies made and post the agenda. The mayor stated she will take what the Clerk and trustees ask for with back up and make a single copy for the Clerk.

Trustee Sapp asked who trustees should give their items to and when. Mayor Marva stated that has not changed. The deadline is still 10:00 am by Friday. If it is a presentation from someone else, the mayor wants the courtesy to share the information with her beforehand.

Trustee Sapp asked why the mayor is doing the agenda. Mayor Marva stated there are often 8-10 emails back and forth before the agenda is complete. The agenda is the mayor's responsibility.

Village Clerk Williams stated the process of the agenda is everyone provides the information to the mayor and the Clerk. The Clerk puts the packet together and gives the mayor and the administrator a rough draft for review. This is not an easy process, often there is paperwork not provided at the same time as the item is presented. Often the paperwork is presented on Saturday or Sunday. VC Williams stated she will acquiesce the agenda to the mayor because if she only has to speak to herself it will get done right. If the mayor does not get the paperwork necessary by 10 am Friday she can shoes to take it off the agenda. VC Williams stated she will continue to make the copies and post the agenda but will not prepare the packet because last week the Clerk was accused of leaving an ordinance out of the packet. The mayor made that packet and all copies were made at the same time. One of the trustees did not see it in her packet, but rather than admitting that she made a mistake she blamed it on the Clerk. (The mayor cut the Clerk off)

7) Trustee Michelle Sterling

a) Edits to Juneteenth Ordinance

Trustee Sterling presented a copy of edits to the Juneteenth Ordinance that was presented last week. This was a very lengthy discussion.

Suggested edits include changing the title, recognizing Juneteenth as a Municipal holiday rather than a National Holiday, making it a day off for staff, amending employee manuals and collective bargaining agreements. Collective bargaining is already being updated.

Conflicts- asking the Finance Director for the financial impact of the staff taking the day off. Mayor Marva stated that may be included in the Finance Policy and Procedures and included in next year's budget.

Severability- this is standard language.

Trustee Jones departed at 9:10 and returned at 9:13 pm.

Mayor Marva thanked everyone for their input. Mayor Marva stated she will send this information to the attorneys with the hopes of getting it back to vote on. VC Williams asked to recap. Mayor Marva stated she made notes.

October 21, 2025

Committee of the Whole

8) Trustee Tonyia Winston, PhD

a) SNAP Benefits

Trustee Dr. Winston spoke about the 21-day shutdown of the Federal Government. An email was sent last week regarding possible shutdown of SNAP benefits. A notice was left on the back table with verified food pantries. Respond Now comes into the Village on Tuesdays and their main branch will reopen on November 3rd for Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am - 3pm and Thursday from 1pm -3pm. This provides much needed resources for the residents. The State of Illinois does have funds to supply benefits for November and December.

Trustee Dr. Winston is in the process of spearheading a communication hub where the residents can communicate by zoom, in the Village Hall or the library. In our zip code we have 11,596 people who receive some form of assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services. The community communication plan will be presented next week to alert our residents of ongoing issues.

Mayor Marva stated she spoke to the Chicago Food Depository. They will get back to her. They said Illinois does not have the capacity to help all of Illinois. There are 200 million people requiring assistance. He will pull data from three of the Sauk Village pantries. That data will be lower because Sauk Village shares a zip code with three other communities.

Further discussion was held on creating the communications plan.

Trustee Burns' phone disconnected.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Field asked if the mayor was aware of an accident between a former Public Works employee and a Public Works employee in a Public Works vehicle. One employee got hurt. The passenger was sent to get a drug test instead of the driver per the direction of the Village Administrator.

Mayor Marve asked when this happened. Response- in the summer just before an employee got terminated.

The meetings are too long with too much back and forth. Less and less people are coming to the meetings. Things on the agenda come back because the trustee's votes are not being respected.

Mayor Marva stated she was aware of an incident but not aware of all he knows. She will investigate.

David Smith stated the Zero Outages contract is full of holes. Satellite technology is not something we should be relying on. It is completely unreliable in bad weather. The current fiber optics need IT services. When the Interim Village Administrator stated the IT service was voted down some other people should have been brought in. Several petty ordinances and resolutions have come back-to-back several times. The important stuff is shoved to the back. Why is our Interim Village Administrator choosing the IT service?

is selecting the IT service provider. The police are not called in when the mayor and the Clerk dispute. The dispute between the Clerk and the mayor was completely unacceptable. Why is it

October 21, 2025

Committee of the Whole

when the Clerk and the mayor go back and forth and they are loud and out of order the police are not called in? When specific trustees do that police are called in. Hypocrisy.

Just like taking the Clerk's duties away – it's hypocrisy? Like when the mayor did when the mayor was the Clerk. It doesn't look good. The PR/ Marketing position is ridiculous. Those five figures could have been used on something else. Cook County Affordability Program said we were approved in 2024 for the application based program under Mayor Burgess.

Valerie – new resident- stated her car was broken into. The tracking device traced the whereabouts of her belongings, including her work equipment, to the Sauk Village Water Department. Valerie notified the police and provided all of the necessary paperwork. The investigation did turn up some of her belongings. The worker stated he found it on the street. Why didn't he report it to the police? Where is transparency and accountability? The police officer said he trusted the word of his colleague.

Mayor Marva was distressed to hear of this and asked her to speak with the police chief.

New homeowner Stephanie Brown was concerned about concrete that was pulled up and never replaced. It's a trip hazard. The Public Works Director is no longer here. Stephanie has been getting astronomical water bills. She has a \$4,000.00 water bill and is very distressed. She pays her bills. Being told to pay \$63.60 and getting a \$4,000.00 water bill does not make sense.

Mayor Marva stated she is not the only one. As long as she pays the \$63.60 she will not get fees or shut off. They are working on the problem. There is a new Public Works Director. She was told to give Village Administrator Finch her number.

Cathy Boettcher spoke about the resident who asked about how we will pay our bills when we are paying overtime?. This falls on the trustees for not approving the line of credit. It is going to get worse because tax bills are not even out yet. Put the blame where it lies.

Cathy would like to see a town hall meeting before doing business with IFF. They help us with finances if we give them the property? Cathy would love a meat market here. What will the incentive be for people who are getting their bills paid to pay their bills for the next 6 months? There needs to be something in place to make sure they pay their bills.

Mayor Marva stated regarding the resident's statement about overtime and the water main break. We had contractors working on the new system when the old system went down in the same area. The new system was going up Monday. It did not make sense to pay people to repair a system that was going to be torn down on Monday.

IFF will finance us to help us get what we want and need They don't want anything from us. They are not a butcher shop but rather will trim meat. After some residents get their bill in order hopefully it will be an incentive to keep it up to date.

Francine Anderson asked when was Mr. Finch changed from the Interim Village Administrator to the Village Administrator? Talking about changing the internet in the police department- there has always been a backup for anything powered in the police department. They have been outages but they do have ways of backing up their systems. Part of the problem comes from having 4 different internet companies. We need to look at those IT providers if we are getting hacked. Maybe they did not get paid. Francine asked why the mayor and the Village Clerk are

October 21, 2025

Committee of the Whole

having problems. The same thing the Village Clerk is asking of you is the same thing you asked from the previous mayor. Is this micromanaging or what? Francine stated she has been here 40 years, and the Clerk has been responsible for the packet. The duties of both are specified in the state statute. Go back to doing what you are supposed to do. During Trustee's Sterling comments about Juneteenth, why did you have to do every single item instead of letting her go through the whole thing and then chop it up? It took up 48 minutes. It's 10:20 now. For the two new residents, please explain to them that two of our systems are broken. It's been broken for a while, and it will take more than talking to them to get it done. The other part of fixing it for someone having a \$4,000. bill, you should be more intentional. Francine asked to include Holy Praise food pantry to the list.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION- None

Mayor Marva stated she would rather not go into executive session at 10:30 to discuss new personnel because she was anticipating an hour or hour and a half in executive session. A trustee asked for particular information previously. All information regarding the previous IT companies and the new hires will be at the beginning of the agenda.

11. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE TRUSTEES AND MAYOR- None

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Marva adjourned the meeting by common consent at 10:25 p.m. after the motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Johnson and seconded by Trustee Jones.