



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
COUNTY OF LAKE,
TOWN OF FREMONT

The Fremont Township Board of Trustees met at 22385 W. Illinois Route 60, Mundelein IL 60060 July 13, 2026, to conduct a Regular Meeting.

<u>Diana O’Kelly</u>	Supervisor
<u>Charmaine Kaufman</u>	Town Clerk
<u>Alicia Dodd</u>	Highway Commissioner
<u>Joe Herchenbach</u>	Assessor
<u>Jeri Atleson</u>	Town Trustee
<u>Christine Seidner</u>	Town Trustee
<u>Connie Shanahan</u>	Town Trustee
<u>Keith Voss</u>	Town Trustee

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE

Supervisor O’Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Trustee Seidner, Trustee Shanahan, Trustee Atleson, Trustee Voss, Supervisor O’Kelly

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Assessor Herchenbach, Commissioner Dodd, Clerk Kaufman

OTHERS PRESENT

11 members of the public.

Caden Marshall, ASL Interpreter.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Trustee Shanahan moved, and Trustee Voss seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2026, Regular Meeting.

All in favor, motion carried.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- Replacement of Shade Structure at Behm Park**

Trustee Shanahan moved, and Trustee Voss seconded the motion to approve the purchase of new shade structures for Behm Park in the amount of \$7920.00

All in favor, motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF BILLS

- Trustee Seidner moved, and Trustee Atleson seconded the motion to audit and approve for payment of:

Road and Bridge Fund in the amount of **\$6,338.21**

Permanent Road Fund in the amount of **\$63,589.62**

General Town Fund in the amount **\$120,457.38**

General Assistance Fund in the amount of **\$10,426.60**

And Food Pantry Fund in the amount of **\$5,730.10**

ROLL CALL:

Trustee Seidner, Trustee Shanahan, Trustee Atleson, Trustee Voss, Supervisor O’Kelly

All in favor, motion carried.

7. PARKS REPORT

Parks Manager Herb Riedel submitted the following report:

- Parks Department experienced a breakdown of the 2010 John Deere 2520. The Parks crew was unable to repair it, and the machine was sent to the dealer for repair. The total cost for the repair was \$3,240, which was less than expected.
- On June 11th a strong storm damaged a shade structure at Behm Park. On July 7th, Parks noticed additional damage to wind sails. These sails are almost 10 years old. A quote was added to this month’s board meeting to replace these sails.
- Parks Department had another successful Recycling Event. Thanks to the Highway Department for their help and cooperation with the event. Thanks to all the highway and parks employees that worked on a Saturday to help.
- Parks Department finished the first round of mosquito dunks for the 2026 season. A total of 544 catch basins were treated, up from 437 last year. Staff plan to add a (30) day booster to appropriate catch basins during the month of September.

8. COMMUNITY GARDEN REPORT

None.

9. ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS

Assessor

Assessor Herchenbach submitted the following report:

- Our Book of Values is set to close and be submitted to the county on July 15th. At that point they will start the vetting process and prepare for publication and the mailing of assessment notices.
- Our office continues to help residents maintain their exemption status, particularly by assisting with SCAFHE (Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption) and DVSHE (standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities) filings.

Clerk

Clerk Kaufman submitted the following report:

- 4 FOIA requests were received and granted in June.
- Clerk Kaufman attended multiple continuing education programs through TOI in the form of live webinars and other online programs.
- Clerk Kaufman is scheduled to attend the MCLC Election training later in July.

Highway Commissioner

- Commissioner Dodd stated an asphalt patching bid will take place later in July.

Supervisor

Supervisor O’Kelly submitted the following report:

- Our Food pantry continues to be a vital resource for local families and individuals. Throughout the year we serve approximately 1,000 people in our community.
- The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) closed for the season on July 10th. This year, our staff helped 198 people apply for assistance. LIHEAP will reopen in the fall.
- We’ve started distributing school supplies to low-income families. We work closely with school social workers to help ensure we don’t miss any children needing assistance.

- Since January, our staff has helped 24 residents apply for the Illinois Benefit Access Program and helped 18 residents obtain their discounted license plate stickers.
- We're currently helping eligible residents sign up for Farmers Market coupons through the Illinois Department on Aging. We also provide fresh produce from our community garden.
- Santa Maria Rummage Sale has generously provided vouchers for our low-income residents, allowing them to select items they need at no cost. We are grateful for this continued partnership.
- Our diaper bank continues to provide essential supplies for both adults and children. This year alone, we have provided diaper assistance 108 times.
- Every one of these programs represents a person or family who needed a little help. Each program represents the many different needs we see in our community.

Trustees

Trustee Voss stated they had a great time at the recycling event.

10. GA/EA/FOOD PANTRY REPORT

June

- 3 GA
- 0 EA
- 88 Food pantry assistance
- 5 LIHEAP applications
- 5 Benefit Access applications
- 0 Farmers Market Coupons
- 3 NiCor Sharing
- 1 RTA Pass
- 1 IDHS/SNAP Medicaid
- 19 Diaper Bank
- 3 License plate stickers

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Jim Howath lives in Saddlebrook and is concerned about the data center. Jim stated it will have a negative impact on Saddlebrook.
- Paul Cochran has attended many local area board meetings. He is concerned about the data center noise, power supply impacts, and that AI will take away jobs. He encourages someone to stand up for the people.
- Jodi Bernstein moved to Saddlebrook 3 months ago. Jodi stated her golden years are being taken away by the data center. She has been blindsided by Grayslake and Fremont Township.
- Francine Irvin moved to Saddlebrook 2 months ago. Francine is concerned about the data center and its impact on business, crops, wildlife and the heat island effect. Francine asked if Fremont Township would consider taking a stance in opposition of the data center.
- John and Claudia Glennn, John spoke. They are concerned about the T5 data center and its impact on the water and electric supply. John doesn't understand why Fremont Township isn't involved in the T5 Data Center decisions. John voiced deep concerns and would like Fremont Township to take a stance against the data center so they feel represented.
- John Glenn has real estate concerns regarding the data centers noise, water usage and electricity usage. His Saddlebrook landlords have said nothing regarding the data center. John feels it's important for the Fremont Township Board to take a stance against the data center.
- No further individuals spoke. Public Comment was closed.
- Supervisor O'Kelly read the following statement:

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to speak tonight regarding the proposed T5 data center in Grayslake.

We understand the concerns that have been raised about the potential impacts of this project.

Like many other taxing bodies, Fremont Township has no jurisdiction over this project. We have no authority to approve, deny, or regulate any development.

However, Fremont Township has a unique role when it comes to development projects. If this project moves forward, the Fremont Township Assessor's Office will be responsible for assessing these parcels. Our responsibility is to ensure that the assessment process remains separate from any position taken by the Township Board and is based solely on the property and the law.

Fremont Township does not take official positions for or against any development projects. This is not a position specific to the proposed data center. It is a consistent practice intended to protect the integrity and independence of the assessment process.

Thank you for your comments.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

13. ADJOURN

- Trustee Shanahan moved, and Trustee Voss seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Charmaine Kaufman, Fremont Township Clerk

Approved: August 10, 2026