

**VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GERALD C. TURRY BOARD ROOM
FEBRUARY 3, 2026**

Call to Order

Mayor Patel called the Committee of the Whole meeting of the Lincolnwood Board of Trustees to order at 6:03 P.M., Tuesday, February 3, 2026, in the Gerald C. Turry Village Board Room of the Municipal Complex at 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue, Village of Lincolnwood, County of Cook, and State of Illinois.

Upon roll call by Village Clerk Sokol Delisi, the following were:

PRESENT: Mayor Patel, Trustees Klatzco, Diaz Herrera, Sargon, Ikezoe-Halevi, Gussis

ABSENT: Trustee Martel

A quorum was present.

Also present: Village Attorney Steve Elrod, Village Manager Anne Marie Gaura, Assistant Village Manager Madeline Farrell, Finance Director Elizabeth Holleb, Public Works Director John Welch, Fire Chief Barry Liss, Deputy Police Chief Travis Raypole, Human Resources Manager Lamar Jones

Approval of Minutes

The January 20, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Trustee Sargon moved to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes. Trustee Klatzco seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call, the results were:

AYES: Trustees Klatzco, Diaz Herrera, Sargon, Ikezoe-Halevi, Gussis

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Martel

The motion passed.

Regular Business

1. Lift Assist Program

Presenter: Fire Chief Barry Liss

Background:

The Fire Department provided an operational review focused on the growing impact of non-emergency patient lift assist calls on emergency response capacity.

Key points:

- Department established in 1989; operates from one station with 8–9 personnel.
- Call volume has increased significantly over the past decade:
 - Total calls: +62%
 - EMS calls: +73%
 - Fire calls: +46%
- 2025 was the busiest year on record with 3,509 calls; January 2026 saw 327 calls, including 47 lift assists.
- Lift assists are non-emergency calls requiring 2–3 personnel, diverting resources from critical emergencies.
- Lift assists now account for ~12.5% of total calls; 2025 had 437 lift assist calls.
- Illinois House Bill 2336 allows municipalities to charge reasonable fees for non-emergency lift assists.

Current fee structure (adopted Dec 2025, effective Jan 2026):

- Community at large:
 - 1–2 calls: Free
 - 3–4: \$200 each
 - 5–6: \$300 each
 - 7+: \$400 each
- Care facilities:
 - First 6 calls: Free
 - Next 4: \$300 each
 - Next 4: \$600 each
 - 15+: \$900 each

Additional context:

- Ambulance services billed through third-party; residents of Lincolnwood pay no balance after insurance.
- Other fees include false alarms, hazardous material spills, fire alarm monitoring, and public education programs.

Chief's Recommendation:

- Amend fee structure for equity between community and care facilities:
 - Care facilities to mirror community tier:
 - First 6: Free
 - Next 4: \$200 each
 - Next 4: \$300 each
 - 15+: \$400 each

Board Discussion:

- Concerns Raised:
 - Distinction between independent living vs. assisted living/nursing care.
 - Independent living (e.g., Carrington's 3501 building) functions like an apartment with amenities but no medical services; assisted living and nursing care provide licensed medical support.

- Whether independent living should be treated as community at large rather than a care facility.
- High-frequency callers (e.g., 49 calls from one household in 2025) viewed as problematic; discussion on discouraging excessive use.
- Operational Notes:
 - No invoices have been issued since ordinance adoption; billing paused pending review.
 - Care facilities receive detailed monthly invoices (resident name and unit) for internal cost recovery.
- Public Input: Residents and facility management clarified service expectations and emergency call protocols.
- Additional Discussion Highlights:
 - Trustees emphasized avoiding unintended consequences—ensuring residents do not hesitate to call 911 due to cost concerns.
 - Clear message: Health and safety must take priority over fees; residents should never delay emergency calls to avoid charges.
 - Board acknowledged resource strain: lift assists (12% of calls) reduce capacity for critical emergencies; controls are needed to prevent abuse.
 - Consensus reached to suspend enforcement of the current ordinance and any billing until deliberations conclude and a revised structure is finalized.
 - Trustees requested improved communication with care facility management to inform residents that no charges will apply during this review period.
 - Future considerations:
 - Explore legal and practical options to differentiate independent living from licensed care facilities.
 - Assess feasibility of applying community-at-large fee structure to independent living for equity.
 - Ensure public notification remains broad and inclusive for all village residents.

Public Input:

The following individuals spoke in favor of the Lift Assist Ordinance:

1. S. Pearson - Resident of The Lincolnwood Place

The following individuals spoke against the Lift Assist Ordinance:

1. Brad Jacobsen – Executive Director of The Carrington at Lincolnwood
2. Genie Brown – Resident of The Carrington at Lincolnwood
3. Ronald Farkas – Resident of The Carrington at Lincolnwood
4. Phil Castrogiovanni – Resident of The Carrington at Lincolnwood
5. Marvin Ginsburg – Resident of The Carrington at Lincolnwood
6. Carolyn Gasnick – Resident of The Carrington at Lincolnwood
7. Suzanne Venema – Executive Director of The Lincolnwood Place
8. Maxene Barsack – Resident of The Lincolnwood Place
9. Davida Salamon - Resident of The Lincolnwood Place

10. Ray Gilbert - Resident of The Lincolnwood Place

Next Steps:

- Village Manager to hold ordinance enforcement in abeyance.
- Staff to work with Village Attorney on legal distinctions and prepare alternative billing models.
- Continued engagement with care facilities to clarify service levels and communication responsibilities.
- Board to revisit recommendations in upcoming meeting.

Adjournment

Trustee Sargon moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole at 7:44 P.M., seconded by Trustee Klatzco.

The meeting was adjourned by voice vote.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sokol Delisi', written over a horizontal line.

Sokol Delisi
Village Clerk