



VOT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes

VILLAGE OF TILTON

4/13/2026 5:30 PM

1001 TILTON RD, TILTON IL 61833

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Trustee George called meeting to order at 5:30pm

2. ROLL CALL

Attendance

Present:

Members: Lori Fields - Village Clerk, Courtney George - Board Trustee, Tiffany Jones-McClellan - Village Administrator, Vanessa Sims - Board Trustee, Cassidy Warrick - Treasurer

Absent:

Members: Virgil Sheets - Board Trustee, Billy Wear - Village Mayor

3. VOT FYE2027 BUDGET DRAFT

The committee began reviewing the fiscal year 2027 budget draft with extensive discussion about departmental expenses and revenue tracking. The clerk explained how different funding sources are managed, noting that while fundraising money from various departments like the fire department goes into the general fund, they maintain separate tracking for accountability. Police have a separate PNT (seizure) fund checking account, while other departments' special revenue is tracked through specific line items in the general fund.

Trustee George raised concerns about the fire department's spending, noting they had spent \$180,000 so far this year, with an additional \$163,000 from Home Rule funds not included in their regular budget. The treasurer clarified that Home Rule expenditures are tracked separately but still need to be accounted for in the overall financial picture.

The discussion turned to employee budgeting, with clarification that fire department pay is based on \$15 per call and varies depending on actual emergency responses. The committee reviewed salary projections showing budgeted positions including two new police officers, though concerns were raised about whether both positions would actually be filled.

Significant attention was given to police department expenses, with Trustee George questioning overtime policies and scheduling practices. The committee learned that when officers call in sick, they are typically replaced with either full-time staff working overtime or part-time officers. Discussion centered on whether this level of coverage was necessary, particularly during daytime hours when administrative staff are present and county/state backup is available.

The committee reviewed historical spending data showing police salaries increased from approximately \$296,000 in fiscal year 2021 to a projected \$767,000 for the current year - an increase of about \$470,000. This dramatic increase was attributed to hiring additional officers and wage

increases. By comparison, public works salaries increased more modestly from about \$273,000 to \$522,000 over the same period, with much of that increase offset by hiring a sewer superintendent instead of contracting those services.

Committee members expressed concern that employee salaries now represent 41% of the total budget. Trustee Sims suggested the possibility of skipping annual raises to reduce this percentage, though acknowledged this would primarily affect non-police employees since the police department accounts for most of the salary budget growth.

The discussion revealed tensions about police department management and scheduling decisions. Committee members questioned whether having two officers on each shift was necessary and suggested that activity logs should be requested to better understand patrol patterns and call volumes. They noted that part-time officers often have other full-time jobs, making consistent coverage challenging.

Fuel and vehicle usage tracking was discussed, with the committee noting that police vehicles used 772 gallons of gas in March. They requested mileage tracking to better understand vehicle utilization, noting that while police vehicles should theoretically be on the road 24/7, the actual gas usage seemed relatively modest compared to expectations.

The committee also touched on fire department operations, discussing concerns about response protocols and the new fire chief's requests for additional equipment. Some members questioned whether responses were appropriately sized for the type of emergency, citing an example of eight firefighters and two trucks responding to a camper fire.

Throughout the discussion, there were references to communication challenges between the committee and department heads, with suggestions that major personnel decisions should come through the finance committee before reaching board meetings to allow for proper budget review.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business discussed.

5. AUDIENCE

No audience present.

6. ADJOURN

Motion:

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:30PM

Motion moved by Courtney George and motion seconded by Vanessa Sims. 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, MOTION PASSED

LORI FIELDS-CLERK



5-21-2026
APPROVED