



Winfield School District 34
Minutes of Special Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, March 13, 2025 7:00 PM

Winfield Central Library, 0S150 Park St, Winfield, IL 60190

I. CALL TO ORDER 7:02pm

II. ROLL CALL

Board of Education Members in attendance: Heather Armstrong, Dave Hempe, Lynn Kammes, Dan Krasinski, Matt Tibble,
Absent: Alisa Wolfe, Manuel Figueroa

Also, Present: Matt Rich, Superintendent; Jason Manning, Attorney;

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Action(s): I move to approve the agenda as presented. (A roll call vote was taken). This motion, made by Matt Tibble and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**,
Manuel Figueroa: Absent,
Alisa Wolfe: Absent

V. PUBLIC COMMENT: We request members of the audience who wish to provide public commentary complete the Public Comment Request card and limit their comments or questions to three minutes. **Public comments submitted by digital form will be read by a board member or administrator during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Comments may be submitted to <https://tinyurl.com/winfield34boardcomment>.** Questions that Board members cannot answer in a timely fashion will be referred to the appropriate administrator who will respond within the week or as soon as time permits. Thank you.

Curt Barrett - As most residents and businesses know, for the last 3+ years, the Village of Winfield has been defending itself against an imprudent lawsuit by School Districts 34 and 94. The lawsuit claimed the Village illegally created Tax Increment Finance District (TIF) #2, to help finance private development and public improvements in Town Center.

On Tuesday, DuPage County Circuit Court Judge Chapman soundly rejected the two school districts' claims, granting the Village's motion for summary judgment. The Court sided with the Village and determined – without the need for a trial – that TIF 2 satisfies all legal requirements and can proceed. In sum, TIF 2 is legal.

While this is a just and welcomed outcome for Winfield residents, we regret the School Districts' lawsuit wasted more than three years and nearly \$2 million taxpayer dollars only to confirm the Village has been in the right all along. Throughout this time, the Village repeatedly pursued a reasonable settlement with the School Districts that would have ended the lawsuit. Time and again, the Village was rebuffed.

The school districts batting average before the Court is not good as evidenced by their previous dubious legal arguments. In June 2022, the Court dismissed the school districts' claim that state law prohibits the Village from establishing a new TIF with land parcels that were in a previously existing TIF.

In March 2024, D34 tried to block the Village from providing TIF assistance for Sweet Reserve Cafe and Bakery's build-out in their new Town Center space. D34 argued the Village should not be allowed to spend any TIF #2 funds until their lawsuit was resolved. The Court refused this absurd attempt by D34 to stop a small business.

Sadly, the lawsuit has only served to delay economic development and progress in Winfield Town Center. But most significant is the opportunity cost to Winfield citizens and businesses. Instead of wasting precious time and resources defending itself, the Village could have spent that staff time and money on many other worthwhile endeavors to make Winfield a better place to live and work.

We are relieved the Village can proceed with its economic development plans and construction of a needed Village Hall and Police Station, albeit with millions more in higher borrowing and construction costs than in 2021 thanks to the wasteful litigation delay.

Now the Village can steward the Winfield Reserve residential project that will bring 147 new units to Town Center, and also advance plans to redevelop the area around the former fire station. In total, the Town Center development will offer a net gain of eight new parcels to be added to the tax rolls. More residents living in Town Center will help attract restaurants with outdoor dining options and provide the support to create amenities such as a town square for our residents to enjoy and attend events.

Even though School District 34 and 94's legal arguments have now been thoroughly rejected, they do have the ability to appeal the Court's decision to the Illinois Appellate Court, which could drag out their lawsuit for another year. We sincerely hope both school districts will instead allow this matter to finally come to end and avoid subjecting our shared community to further delay, expense and conflict.

Dan Janowick - I am writing to share my disappointment with the release of a statement from the Village of Winfield regarding the lawsuit today. As a Village Trustee, I was not consulted or provided any opportunity to review the content of the statement. I want to share with the school board and school community, that myself and others, are much more interested in working together on the bright future of Winfield rather than trying to point fingers and land meaningless insults, even after the judge's ruling in the Village's favor. I remain committed to creating a revenue sharing agreement that provides opportunity to all taxing bodies and will continue my efforts to that goal. There is still a win-win opportunity for residents and taxing bodies alike and I ask that you don't consider the village's statement as a reflection of my approach or that of the board as a whole.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Approve Purchase of Projector and Screen for Winfield Central Gymnasium

Action(s): I move to approve the purchase of a projector and screen for Winfield Central Gymnasium from Camcor, inc. for \$5,830 as presented. (A roll call vote was taken). This motion, made by Matt Tibble and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**,
Manuel Figueroa: Absent,
Alisa Wolfe: Absent

VII. **ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – Reason 1.** *The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).* **Reason 12.** *Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS*

120/2(c)(11).

Action(s): I move to adjourn to a closed session. (A roll call vote was taken). This motion, made by Matt Tibble and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**,
Manuel Figueroa: Absent,
Alisa Wolfe: Absent

VIII. **ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION TO REGULAR SESSION**

Action(s): I move to adjourn from closed session to open session. A voice vote was taken at 8:55pm. This motion, made by Dave Hempe and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**,
Manuel Figueroa: Absent,
Alisa Wolfe: Absent

IX. **ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION**

A. None

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

Action(s): I move that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned. A voice vote was taken at 8:56pm. This motion, made by Dave Hempe and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.


Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**,
Manuel Figueroa: Absent,
Alisa Wolfe: Absent

Regular Board of Education Meetings:

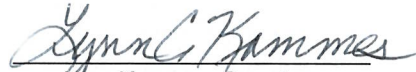
***Unless otherwise noted, all Board of Education Meetings are on Thursdays and begin at 7:00 PM. They are located in the Winfield Central School Cafeteria.**

Special Thursday, March 13, 2025

Approved:



Dan Krasinski, President
Board of Education



Lynn Kammes, Secretary
Board of Education