



Village of Winnetka

Village Council Study Session

July 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Village Hall
510 Green Bay Road

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Comments**
- 3. Discussion**
 - a. Post Office Plaza - Village President Update
 - b. IMEA Power Supply Contract Review - Next Steps
 - c. Village Council Terms of Office Discussion
- 4. Closed Session**
- 5. Adjournment**

NOTICE

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The Village of Winnetka, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that all persons with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, contact the Village ADA Coordinator, 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, 847-716-3543; T.D.D. 847-501-6041.



Agenda Item Executive Summary

TITLE: Post Office Plaza - Village President Update

PRESENTER: Robert M. Bahan

AGENDA DATE: July 9, 2024

CONSENT: No

ITEM TYPE: Presentation

ITEM HISTORY:

May 10, 2022 Study Session - Village President Rintz presented a concept plan for a new public gathering space at the current location of the US Post Office in the West Elm business district.

March 12, 2024 Study Session - Council discussed the future development of the Post Office Plaza and discussed various options for architecture firms to assist with the design. Council consensus was to continue considering various architectural firms with regional or national reputation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Village President Rintz will provide an update on the Post Office Plaza redevelopment project.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Council will review and discuss the future plans for the Post Office Plaza.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



Agenda Item Executive Summary

TITLE: IMEA Power Supply Contract Review - Next Steps

PRESENTER: Nicholas Narhi

AGENDA DATE: July 9, 2024

CONSENT: No

ITEM TYPE: Presentation

ITEM HISTORY:

May 14, 2024 Study Session - Representatives from IMEA presented the new Power Sales Contract and Capacity Purchase Agreement for the period from October 1, 2035 to May 31, 2055 for initial consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council will discuss the next steps for consideration of the proposed Power Sales Contract and Capacity Purchase Agreement for the period from October 1, 2035 to May 31, 2055.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Council will review and discuss some next steps for consideration of the IMEA power supply contracts.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



Agenda Item Executive Summary

TITLE: Village Council Terms of Office Discussion

PRESENTER: Robert M. Bahan

AGENDA DATE: July 9, 2024

CONSENT: No

ITEM TYPE: Reports

ITEM HISTORY:

None.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council will review and discuss terms of office for the Village elected officials. To facilitate the discussion, the Village Attorney has prepared a memo which answers questions regarding the process to change the length of the terms of office for the Village elected officials.

In addition, the Northwest Municipal Conference recently surveyed member communities regarding the term of office for Trustee and Village President, and if the community had term limits. A staff memo summarizing the survey results is attached.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Council will review and discuss terms of office.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Legal Memorandum - Terms of Office
2. Staff Memo - Terms of Office Survey

Memorandum

Date: July 3, 2024

To: Rob Bahan, Village Manager

From: Village Attorney

Re: Referendum on Terms of Office

As requested, this memorandum answers various specific questions regarding a possible referendum on whether to change the length of the terms for Village of Winnetka elected officials.

- If the Village wants to go from two-year Council member terms to four-year terms, is that a change in governance that can only be officially accomplished through a binding referendum?

Yes. Municipal governments have the power, subject to referendum approval, to adopt, alter, or repeal a form of government provided by law or to provide for their officers, their manner of selection, and terms of office. ILL.CONST. art. VII, §6(f), 7.

- Could the Village put the question on terms of office on the ballot, but make it an advisory referendum rather than a binding referendum?

Yes. "Referendum" is simply the generic term used to describe any question placed on the ballot for voter consideration. If the referendum could result in mandatory government action (e.g., bond issuance, annexation, tax increase, etc.), it is a "binding referendum." If the referendum is merely a public opinion poll, the results of which are not binding on the government, it is an "advisory referendum."

- If the Village Council wants to initiate the referendum, what is the deadline to place a binding referendum on the ballot for the November 2024 election?

Pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/28-2(c), "resolutions or ordinances of governing boards of political subdivisions which initiate the submission of public questions pursuant to law must be adopted not less than 79 days before a regularly scheduled election to be eligible for submission on the ballot at such election." 10 ILCS 5/28-2(c).

Thus, to be included on the November 5, 2024 general election ballot, an ordinance or resolution calling for the referendum must be adopted on or before August 18, 2024 (Sunday). Typically, if a statutory deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the deadline is the next day (5 ILCS 70/1.11) which would be Monday, August 19, 2024. However, we recommend the Village treat the deadline as Friday August 16, 2024.

- What is the timing for the ballot for the April 2025 elections.

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An ordinance or resolution calling for the referendum must be adopted on or before January 12, 2025 (Sunday), however we recommend the Village treat the deadline as Friday January 10, 2025.

- Do the deadlines or the manner in which the Village would initiate the referendum change depending on whether the referendum is a binding referendum versus an advisory referendum?

Section 28-2 does not differentiate between a binding or advisory referendum. The deadline and manner remain the same.

- Does the Village Code limit the number of terms an individual can serve?

No. The Village Code does not contain a term limits provision.



**VILLAGE OF WINNETKA
STAFF MEMORANDUM**

TO: Rob Bahan, Village Manager

FROM: Kristin Kazenas, Assistant Village Manager

DATE: July 3, 2024

RE: Council Terms of Office and Term Limits Survey

Background

The Northwest Municipal Conference recently surveyed member communities regarding the term of office for Trustee and Village President, and if the community had term limits. The survey results are attached.

Term of Office

The majority of communities (26 of 28 area communities) have a 4-year term of office for both Trustee and Village President. Only Winnetka and Lake Forest have a 2-year term of office.

Term Limits

The responses to the term limit questions require additional analysis. Of the 28 communities who responded, 20 have no term limits for Trustee or Village President. Four communities (Lake Forest, Niles, Rolling Meadows, and Wilmette) have official term limits outlined in the Village Code. Five communities (Glencoe, Kenilworth, Lake Bluff, Northfield, and Winnetka) have unofficial term limits – not outlined in the Village Code, but by virtue of local caucus rules or historical practice.

The Winnetka Village Code is silent on term limits. However, the Winnetka Caucus, a non-partisan citizen group, nominates candidates for Trustee and Village President. The Winnetka Caucus by-laws contain a provision that there is a limit of 4 consecutive terms for both Trustee and Village President.

The following chart summarizes the various community term limits

Municipality	Term Limit	Village President/Mayor	Trustee/Alderman
Glencoe	Historical Practice	2 terms (8 years)	2 terms (8 years)
Kenilworth	Historical Practice	2 terms (8 years)	2 terms (8 years)
Lake Bluff	Historical Practice	2 terms (8 years)	2 terms (8 years)
Lake Forest	Village Code	2 terms (4 years)	3 terms (6 years)
Niles	Village Code	2 terms (8 years)	3 terms (12 years)
Northfield	Caucus	2 terms (8 years)	2 terms (8 years)
Rolling Meadows	Village Code	2 terms (8 years)	2 terms (8 years)
Wilmette	Village Code	2 terms (8 years)	2 terms (8 years)
Winnetka	Caucus	4 terms (8 years)	4 terms (8 years)

Survey Results

Municipality	1. What is the length of the term of office for Village Trustee?	2. What is the length of the term of office for Village President?	3. Does your community have term limits for elected officials?	4. If so, what are the limits?
Antioch	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Barrington	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Deerfield	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Elk Grove Village	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Glencoe	4 years.	4 years.	No.	There are no formal limits, however it has been historic practice that elected officials do not serve more than two terms in any Board position. It is possible to serve two terms as a Trustee and two terms as President.
Glenview	4 years	4 years	No	
Grayslake	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Hanover Park	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Highland Park	We have Councilmembers and	We have a Mayor and the term is four years,	No.	
Kenilworth	4 years.	4 years.	No.	No official term limits, but past practice is a limit of two terms. Note the two term limit exists regardless of the office (trustee or Village president) - an individual serves for a maximum of 8 years.
Lake Bluff	4 years	4 years	No	No official term limits, but past practice is a limit of two terms.
Lake Forest	2 years.	2 years.	Yes.	Mayor- two terms Alderman- three terms.
Lake Zurich	4 year term.	4 year term.	No.	
Lincolnshire	Village trustees are elected to office for four year terms.	Mayor is elected to office for a four year term.	No.	
Morton Grove	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Mount Prospect	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Niles	4 years.	4 years.	Yes.	2 four-year terms for Mayor and 3 four-year terms for Trustees.
Northbrook	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Northfield	4 years	4 years	No	No official term limits, but caucus bylaws note there is a limit of two terms.

Municipality	1. What is the length of the term of office for Village Trustee?	2. What is the length of the term of office for Village President?	3. Does your community have term limits for elected officials?	4. If so, what are the limits?
Palatine	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Park Ridge	7 Alderpersons, they serve 4-year terms. Aldermanic terms are staggered.	The Mayor serves a 4-year term.	No.	
Prospect Heights	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Rolling Meadows	4 years.	4 years.	Yes.	Cannot serve more than 2 consecutive 4-year terms.
Skokie	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Streamwood	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Wheeling	4 years.	4 years.	No.	
Wilmette	4 years.	4 years.	Yes.	Chapter 2, Articles II & III - limited to 2 terms. However, Village President and Trustee term limits are independently calculated - it is possible to serve 2 terms as trustee and then 2 terms as Village President.
Winnetka	2 years.	2 years.	No.	The Village Code (2.04.010) is silent on term limits. However, the Winnetka Caucus (a non-partisan) citizen group nominates candidates for Trustee and Village President. The Caucus has a rule with a term limit of 4 consecutive terms (8 years served) for both Trustee and Village President.