

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
February 11, 2025**

(Approved: March 4, 2025)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Rintz called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Village Manager Bahan called the roll of the Village Council. Present: Trustees Kirk Albinson, Rob Apatoff, Bob Dearborn, Kim Handler and Bridget Orsic. Absent: Trustee Tina Dalman. Also present: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Assistant Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Village Attorney Peter Friedman, Village Attorney Courtney Willits, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, Water & Electric Director Nick Narhi, Assistant Water & Electric Director Sam Carrasco, Strategic Development Manager Brian Keys, Sustainability Coordinator Elyse Steiner, and approximately 29 persons in the audience.

- 2) Public Comment

- a) Liz Kunkle commends Council for their service and for fulfilling a sustainability coordinator position.

- 3) Discussion.

- a) Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) Contract Renewal Discussion – Policy Direction

Water & Electric Director Nick Narhi states the Village has been working diligently on the matter of the IMEA contract extension since the spring of 2004; bringing in IMEA representatives to present to Council, participating in the future energy coalition forum, and hosting study sessions.

Staci Wilson, IMEA Director of Government Affairs, reviews the agency's partnership with Winnetka and its members, its mission to deliver reliable power at lower costs, investments in wind, solar, and battery storage to diversify power supply, member specialized services, and IMEA's initiative to address power demand growth.

Ms. Wilson advises Council on IMEA power supply resources, carbon-free resources located throughout the state of Illinois, power supply related costs, and IMEA's sustainability plan regarding the 2050 net-zero vision including goals, transparency, and the utilization of member governing body stakeholders.

Kevin Gaden, IMEA President & CEO, addresses Council regarding IMEA's net-zero blueprint including planning obligations to ensure power supply responsibilities, current and projected resource mix, meeting the needs of its members, replacement of wind farms, cost sustainability, transition to renewable technology and transition from thermal resources, and matters related to the Bee Hollow 150MW (megawatt) solar contract. Additionally, Mr. Gaden advises Council of key assumptions: importance of all members extending contracts to 2055, extension of the Big River contract to 2050, historic load

growth, reduction of emissions at Prairie State and retirement of Trimble County, US EPA compliance, the Energy Efficiency and Demand Response program, and purchase, or acquirement, of resources to meet member load obligations.

Council is advised of the need to purchase greater number of nameplate MWs as utilities transition their portfolios, capacity obligations imposed on utilities, value of accredited capacity, PJM accreditation for resources, and nameplate capacity, accredited capacity, and energy mix.

Troy Fodor, IMEA Vice President & General Counsel, confirms that IMEA is taking steps to transition and replace resources to reach net-zero production by 2050, replacement of power supply due to resource agreements near expiration, maintaining reliability and affordability, acquirement of power, 9-year timeline regarding 150MW resource acquisition project, and member-directed resources.

Mr. Fodor encourages Council to consider the contract renewal given the history of the IMEA and Village partnership, low-cost, reliability, commitment to a net-zero portfolio by 2050, value-added services tailored for municipal electric systems, and the benefit of the Village's representative, Water & Electric Director Nick Narhi, serving on the IMEA Board.

Public Comment

Laith Amin addresses Council regarding carbon capture and matters related to decarbonization.

Tom Barron urges Council to delay signing the IMEA agreement given future changes in technology, resources, and energy. Mr. Barron expresses concern regarding financial risks and loss of control of the costs and sources of energy.

Derrick Vanderforst addresses Council regarding rates for EV stations and community options for green energy.

King Poor urges Council to strongly consider its options with a rapidly changing market, cost fluctuations, and allowing energy options for residents.

Debbie Ross urges Council to consider various energy options before proceeding with the power sales contract.

Terry Cross advises Council to use caution pursuing the IMEA agreement and consider all options regarding sources of energy.

Ivy Sandel urges Council to move towards renewable energy.

Merideth White expresses concern regarding the IMEA agreement and urges Council to consider clean energy.

Melissa Myel addresses concerns related to global warming due to carbon emissions and urges Council to reconsider proceeding with the IMEA agreement.

Patrick Hanely urges Council to consider various other vendors before reaching a decision to extend the IMEA agreement.

Ted Wynnychenko urges Council to strongly consider the IMEA agreement before signing.

Brian Kurt addresses Council regarding financial concerns.

Bill Hayes addresses Council production of electricity in a sustainable low-cost way.

Craig Woody addresses Council regarding coal rate and IMEA power sales contract concerns.

Kip Rosen urges Council to continue considering options before signing the IMEA agreement.

Council discusses power needs, power systems utilized by various other communities that are not part of the IMEA, anticipated debt related to carbon neutral transition, utilization of alternate power agencies other than the IMEA, production and cost increases, the future of net-zero vision, replacements and additions of resources, and the benefits of ownership of IMEA resources.

President Rintz states that while proceeding with the IMEA agreement is still an option, Council should further consider and discuss various options after hearing from the Community.

- 4) Adjournment. Trustee Apatoff, seconded by Trustee Handler moved to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

/s/ Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk
Recording Secretary