BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDY SESSION
October 20, 2026
6:00 PM
MAHOMET-SEYMOUR JUNIOR HIGH CAFETERIA
201 W. STATE ST.
MAHOMET, IL 61853

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Tompkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL:** Mohr called the roll, Trustee Colravy, Schriver, Harpst, Willard, Oliger and Metzger are present. Additionally, Jason Tompkins, Village President, Patrick Brown, Village Administrator, Joe Chamley, Village Attorney, Carole Tempel, Finance Director, Dave Smysor, Chief of Police and Dawn Mohr, Village Clerk are present.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment is presented.

5. **ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS:**

   A. **FINANCE:**

      1. Bill List: Tempel went over the bill list in brief. Tompkins asked if there were any questions or comments, none are presented, Tompkins called for a motion to move the bill list to the consent agenda. Metzger moved and Schriver seconded. Mohr called the roll, ALL VOTES YES 6-0. The bill list is moved to the consent agenda.

      2. Treasurer's Report: Tempel goes over the treasurers report, highlighting interest earned on all accounts, balances, MFT distributions, and states that the expenditure for the year is at 42.12%. Tempel side notes that next week the auditor will present the findings of the audit and adds that the tax levy resolution will be presented. Tempel moves on to say that the TIF reports are now complete. Tompkins asked if there were any questions or comments, Metzger asked if we had the final numbers from the music festival, Tempel responded that they did not. Metzger asked what was causing the delay, Tempel responded that they were waiting on the Lions Club to submit their payment and that it should be received by the end of the week. Metzger thanks Tempel. Tompkins asked if there were any additional questions or comments, none were presented. Tompkins called for a motion to move the treasurers report to the consent agenda, Harpst moved and

Metzger seconded. Mohr called the roll, ALL VOTES YES 6-0. The treasurers report is moved to the consent agenda.

6. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

A. Departmental Reports:

1. Parks & Recreation

7. CLEAN CLOUD ENERGY/DATA CENTER WRAP UP DISCUSSION : Tompkins thanked all those in attendance and stated that it was important for the board to place this subject on an agenda. Tompkins reads a statement about the data center and the Village of Mahomet's process when considering any development. THE FULL STATEMENT IS ATTACHED TO THE MINUTES. After the statement was read Trustee Colravy asked who signed the NDA's, Tompkins responded that Heckman, Shufflebarger and Brown signed the NDA's. Colravy expressed his concern about the NDA's being signed on his behalf and stated that it is inherently wrong. There were 8 members in the audience that addressed the Board. Laurie Scott, John Bambenek, Cameron Meerdink, Jan Allen, Gary Beaver, Lindsay Hall, Alejandra Hernandez and Deran Huss. Tompkins called each member up individually in the order they are listed on the sign in sheet.

Laurie Scott spoke first, continuing her statement from the October 13th Study Session. She cites a statement made in an email by Shufflebarger and states that it is inappropriate and not professional She asks several questions, that include whether the Village of Mahomet look into the track record of Clean Cloud Energy, speak to communities where they have projects, if they reviewed the cost to benefit ratio. She added questioning whether they considered the public impact, Lastly she stated that the slogan for the new comp plan 'Your Village, Your Plans is a hollow slogan'.

John Bambenek starts off with a positive, he stated that he has had very positive and friendly conversations with the mayor and thought hey might not agree on every level he indeed appreciates the good conversations. He moves onto lessons learned, voices the level of opposition to the data center and stated that it effects a broader community of people. He stated that he doesn't think data centers are a good thing, that there are deficiencies in state law, he continues stating that he believes NDA's are not a good practice and that he has contacted IML as this is an issue for everyone in the state is dealing with. He asks that going forward, NDA's go away, he expressed that FOIA laws regarding trade secret exemption needs to be changed and that he has asked the attorney general to review for a binding change.

Cameron Meerdink starts off by expressing her concerns that leadership did not know about something this big. She continued to say that it is important for leadershi to know that they are not experts, she believes that this sort of project is predatory and that developers come to small communities as they are deemed to be less qualified to push back on this scale of a project, that it is easily done. They offer big monetary incentives that are often seen as a 'good deal'. She stated that such a project has massive impacts to rural areas. She moves on to say that she has known some for over two decades and when conversing about the NDA's she was told that they were not illegal yet. She concluded that she does not have confidence in the leadership.

Jan Allen (Herriot) speaks next and she states that she has not lived in the Mahomet community for a very long time however, her family does own property here and that they all are vehemently opposed to a data center. She asks what qualifications any of the Trustees have to make decisions on something like a data center. Trustee Metzger replies that they all have "day jobs" he goes on to state that he personally knows about data centers as he worked for the U of I in the IT department. He goes on to say that nothing had been brought to the Board of Trustees, he moves on to say that each of them are experts on other things. He used the example of the travel center, that he and several other members traveled to see other

developments that company had, on their own time, to better educate themselves. He continued by saying that had they received the proposal each of them would do their due diligence and review what staff presents. Tompkins added that once a formal proposal comes together the trustees take the information, individually research and looks at the public input before making a decision. Allen asked how such a vote would occur, was it a large majority or 2/3's Tompkins responded 2/3 vote.

Gary Beaver expressed his concern over the violation of trust and believes that once a leader betrays, they will always betray. He asked how can we trust you?

Lindsay Hall addresses the Trustees and thanks them all for their service. She stated that it is not something that should be taken for granted. She continues to explain that she now serves on the Plan & Zoning Commission for the Village of Mahomet and she stated that the Village staff is incredible to work with and that she has learned a lot since joining the commission. She moves on to say that she was not aware that the NDA signed by staff covered officials, she expressed her concern and asked that moving forward we all learn from this experience, earn back the community's trust. She again thanks the Trustees and expresses her gratitude to anyone who serves.

Alejandra Hernandez expressed her dissatisfaction with the lack of knowledge that the Trustees had about the data center, she expressed her concern about broken procedures, how one could be ignorant to existence and expect public trust. She continues to express her dissatisfaction with the Village of Mahomet and the leadership stating that once trust is broken it cannot be repaired.

Deran Huss addresses the Trustees explaining that his property would be surrounded on the 3 sides by this data center. He stated that he has spoken with Mr. Bixler at CCE and that he was not satisfied with the comment that they were not obligated to communicate. He moves on to say that they are people too and should be involved in the decision, he asked that they think about the people who are directly affected by the data center.

Tompkins thanks everyone for coming out and voicing their opinion and concerns.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT:

A. **October Board Meeting Calendar:** Tompkins asked if there were any planned absences, to please contact the Clerk.

1. October 27, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting

9. NEW BUSINESS: Colravy expressed that in the last study session he asked for 3 items to be brough to the board, the first a resolution banning NDA's, second, a resolution implementing a moratorium on data centers, similar to the one that Champaign County has in place and lastly a letter of support to Chapin Rose' legislation to protect the aquifer. He continues to express his opinion on how the data center process was mishandled and that he didn't like being left in the dark, learning that an NDA was signed by staff and that it included the elected officials. He added that the trustees should not be 'blindsided and hung out to dry' Colravy continues to say that he feels as though the Village of Mahomet violated their own transparency policy. Most importantly, NDA's should not be signed on the behalf of others.
Trustee Schriver spoke up and stated that he too would support a ban on NDA's and would also support the letter of support to Chapin Rose' legislation to protect the aquifer.
Tompkins asked if there were any other comments. Laurie Scott addressed the Trustees stating that the mayors statement was beautifully crafted and asked that an active plan with deadlines to address all the issues with a monthly report.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Tompkins called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Willard moved and Oliger seconded. Mohr called the roll, AL VOTES YES 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM

Approved As Presented 10/27/26

Mahomet Data Center Statement

October 20, 2026 Study Session
Jason S. Tompkins, Mayor of the Village of Mahomet

Before we open tonight's discussion, I want to address the Clean Cloud Energy project and explain the Village's evaluation process. To be clear, the Village of Mahomet in no longer pursuing the Clean Cloud Energy project or any other data center projects, as announced in our October 5th statement.

In December 2025, Clean Cloud Energy was meeting with Champaign County officials and approached the Village about a potential development since it was near Mahomet. Development projects often begin with a property owner or developer contacting Village staff to discuss an idea. That was the case with Clean Cloud Energy.

Staff's responsibility is to investigate projects and help determine what they would involve. That can include reviewing the proposed use and location, identifying infrastructure needs and environmental concerns, discussing possible development terms, and explaining the Village's requirements to the developer. This preliminary work helps identify whether an idea has potential, what questions remain unanswered, and what would be required before it could move forward.

Staff does not approve a project through those discussions. If a developer chooses to proceed, it must submit the formal applications and supporting information required for the approvals it is requesting. Staff then reviews those materials and prepares information for consideration through the applicable public review and approval process, including public hearings where required.

For this specific project, as with many others, zoning requests would have gone before the Plan and Zoning Commission for a public hearing and review. The Commission consists of appointed Village residents who consider the application, staff's analysis, supporting information, and public testimony. For rezoning requests, that review includes the Village's 33-point findings-of-fact checklist, which incorporates consideration of the LaSalle factors. Residents would have had the opportunity to review the requested zoning changes, raise concerns, ask questions, and provide input.

The Commission would then have made a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. That recommendation informs the Board's consideration; it does not approve the requested zoning changes. The Board will review the matter, consider the Commission's findings and recommendation, and receive public input before making its decision.

Each step serves a purpose. Staff investigate and prepare the information, the Plan and Zoning Commission evaluates the applicable requests and makes a recommendation, and the Board of Trustees decides whether to grant the requested approvals. In this case, discussions ended before a formal application was submitted.

Signing NDAs is not a regular practice of the Village. Such agreements can serve a purpose during preliminary business discussions, but they do not override the Village's obligations under Illinois transparency laws. An NDA does not approve a project or eliminate the public review process.

This experience has also made clear that our Board and staff need to further study policies addressing nondisclosure agreements. That review should consider what information may appropriately be protected, who has authority to enter into these agreements, and how we communicate with the public while meeting our legal obligations. We should also consider adopting a policy that establishes clear expectations for their use.

Again, in this case, the NDA did not change our staff's responsibility to evaluate this opportunity or the standards they applied. Their job remained to gather information, examine potential impacts, and determine whether there was a path forward that could serve Mahomet's interests.

Preliminary staff discussions with a prospective developer can occur outside a public meeting, subject to the Village's legal obligations. Those discussions do not replace public review, public participation, or the approval process. I also recognize that residents wanted more information sooner, particularly given the potential scale and impact of this development. That concern deserves consideration as we learn from this experience, but also understanding the developer was early in their process as well.

The overwhelming public opposition, together with further talks with the developer, contributed significantly to the decision to end discussions. Residents raised substantial questions about what this development could mean for Mahomet and the message was received.

I appreciate everyone who took the time to share a perspective. I also want to be clear about my support for our Village staff. They performed the same responsibility we expect whenever a development opportunity comes to the Village: gathering information, asking questions, identifying concerns, and evaluating whether the idea merits further consideration. The decision to end these discussions on this project does not diminish the value of their work. I have confidence in their professionalism, their judgment, and their commitment to this community.

Village staff must be able to investigate opportunities and examine possible terms so that Village leadership can make informed decisions. Our focus remains on protecting the quality of life our residents value and pursuing development that aligns with our community's priorities. We should use this experience to strengthen how we evaluate significant projects and communicate with the people we serve.