

**Committee of the Whole Meeting
November 11, 2025**

1 - Order

President Weatherston called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. at the Caledonia Village Hall.

2 – Roll Call

PRESENT: 5 – President Weatherston, Trustee Lambrecht, Trustee Martin, Trustee Pierce, and Trustee McManus

EXCUSED: 2 – Trustee Stillman and Trustee Wishau

STAFF: Village Administrator Todd Willis, Village Attorney Elaine Ekes, Finance Director Wayne Krueger, Human Resources Manager Amanda Ardis, Public Works Director Anthony Bunkelman, Village Engineer Ryan Schmidt, Development Director Peter Wagner, Planner Natalia Nery de Farias, Police Chief Christopher Botsch, Fire Chief Walter Leininger, Deputy Clerk Brittany Kickland, and Village Clerk Jennifer Bass

3 – Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Pierce to approve the October 28, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting, seconded by Trustee Martin. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Corrected vote on Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes from 7-0 to 6-0

4 – Public Comment

The following people appeared to speak before the Committee:
None

5 – Committee Updates

- A. Plan Commission – Nancy Pierce
- B. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee – Holly McManus and Michael Lambrecht
- C. Caledonia Utility District Commission – Lee Wishau
- D. Visit Racine County – Fran Martin
- E. Other Committees – Tom Weatherston

6 – New Business

A. Discussion on “Committee Updates” Section of the Committee of the Whole Agenda – Intent and Content

Committee members discussed the purpose of the “Committee Updates” section of the agenda and staff answered their questions.

B. Policy on Public Comment Section on Meeting Agendas

Staff summarized the ordinances governing agendas and which Village bodies require a public comment section and which do not.

C. Discussion on Dark Skies Ordinances

Motion by Trustee Martin to direct staff to review the Mt. Pleasant, WI “dark skies” ordinance and draft a similar ordinance to present to the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Trustee Pierce.

Trustee Martin withdrew the motion, Trustee Pierce agreed.

Motion by Trustee Martin to direct staff to present the Mt. Pleasant, WI “dark skies” ordinance(s) and provide an analysis, seconded by Trustee McManus.

Motion carried 4-1. President Weatherston voted nay.

D. Suggested items to be placed on a future meeting agenda (*with no action*)

1. Discussion on and review of Ordinance Sec. 2-3-11(b) Agenda Preparation

7 – Continuing Business

- A. **Comprehensive Plan Stakeholder Exercise** – Committee of the Whole members will participate in a word-cloud exercise and a structured discussion of the Village’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) serving as a key step in assessing current conditions and identify community priorities.

Word Cloud Exercise

Total responses: 18

Participants: 4

Prompt: In one word, how would you describe the Village of Caledonia?

Instruction: Please contribute three one-word or short-expression responses. After you type your first word, additional boxes will appear. Enter one response per box until all three are filled, then click Submit to send them all at once.

Response	Count
Beautiful countryside	1
Charming	1
Environmental	1
Excellent public safety	1
Green space	1
I 94 commercial corridor	1
Kmart	1
Low taxes	1
Mixed living environments	1
Nationally recognizequest	1
Needs more business	1
Open space	1
Pssive recreation	1

Rueal	1
Rural	1
Rural and urban	1
Transportation challenges	1
Unique open areas	1
Total	18

SWOT Exercise

Strengths

- Rural area with easy access to MKE and Chicago
- Public safety services
- Friendly people
- Conservation subdivisions
- Nature centers / outdoor recreation
- Engaged citizens
- Department of Public Works
- Civic / nonprofit organizations
- I-94 commercial corridor
- Good / distinct identity
- Quality of staff in Village
- Restaurants
- Third spaces (Milaeger's)
- Caledonia Conservancy (26 miles of trails)
- Trails
- Parks
- Farming
- Civic pride

Weaknesses

- Lack of East / West connectivity
- Lack of retail / businesses
- Perceived high cost of water / sewer
- Limited public transportation
- Only one grocery store
- Lack of access to Lake Michigan
- Focus on West side of the Village (forget East / urban side)

Opportunities

- Transportation routes (commuter rail expansion)
- Increase number of restaurants
- Expand outdoor recreation opportunities
- Investment in parks
- Recreation on river and lakeshore (increase access)
- Larger homes on larger lots
- Consolidation of public services

Threats

- Continued increase in water / sewer costs
- Development pressure from neighboring communities
- Net new construction (regulation)
- Firefighting funding regulation (state level)
- Inadequate state shared revenue
- Aging infrastructure

B. Discussion on a policy for non-disclosure agreements

Staff summarized the information presented in the agenda packet and provided and legal opinion on adopting such a policy.

8 – Adjournment

President Weatherston adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Bass

Village Clerk

DRAFT