



**September, 2025**

## Events

- September 20** – Story Time @  
10 AM @ Flewellin Library
- September 20** – Community Game  
Night @ 6PM @ 104 W  
Comanche Ave, Shabbona
- September 21** – Pickup Volleyball @  
6 PM @ Purdy Park
- September 22** – Yarn Twisters @  
11 AM @ Flewellin Library
- September 22** – BST Queen of Hearts  
@ 7 PM @ R&R Pub
- September 24** – Euchre @ 11 AM – 2  
PM @ Flewellin Library
- September 26** – Light Supper & Game  
Night @ 5:30 PM @ Shabbona  
Community Church
- September 27** – Story Time @  
10 AM @ Flewellin Library
- September 27** – Pig Roast Fundraiser  
@ 5 PM – 8 PM @ Lee  
Volunteer Fire Barn, Lee
- September 29** – Yarn Twisters @  
11 AM @ Flewellin Library
- September 29** – BST Queen of Hearts  
@ 7 PM @ R&R Pub
- October 1** – Pulled Pork Fundraiser  
@ 4 PM – 6 PM @ Shabbona  
Community Church
- October 5** – Pickup Volleyball @  
6 PM @ Purdy Park

## Shabbona Community Church Scholarship Board Fundraiser – Drive Thru

**SLOW SMOKED BBQ FUNDRAISER**



**October 1, 2025 - 4-6pm**

**104 E. Navaho**

**Tickets \$15 each**

Slow Smoked Pulled Pork Sandwich, with sauce on the side, 6 oz. Cowboy  
Beans, Apple Sauce, Coleslaw and Cookie

**Advance tickets preferred by September 24<sup>th</sup>**

Tickets can be purchased from the church office, 815-824-2359 or see  
Gail Loes or Josh Merchant  
Limited at door sales

## The Indian Chief Shabbona

(This is part 2 of a history of Chief Shabbona, taken out of the Shabbona Centennial Book printed in 1972 to celebrate the Village of Shabbona's 100th anniversary)

All went well until the Winnebagoes “took up the hatchet against the whites” in 1827. Shabbona, visiting nearly every village among the Pottawatomies, tried to persuade them not to take part in the war; with Sauganash (Billy Caldwell), he visited the Winnebagoes at Big Foot's village (Lake Geneva), trying to “pacify” them, also. With Saguanash remaining outside of the village, Shabbona talked with Big Foot, this heated talk resulting in Shabbona being taken prisoner – released the next day, only after it was decided that evening, it would be unsafe to retain him. Shabbona's meeting did, however, result in the Winnebagoes remaining at home, and Chicago was again safe.

(Continued on page 6)

# Shabbona Express

## The Village is Dead Broke

By Kallan Welsh

(This article reflects my views as an individual and does not necessarily represent the views of the Village nor the Village Board)

Allow me to present to you the most recent Village of Shabbona's "Summary of Fund In Bank":

VILLAGE OF SHABBONA  
FY26 SUMMARY OF FUND IN BANK  
As of JULY 31, 2025

	Beginning Fund Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Fund Balance
General - Combined Account	281,083.11	131,539.76	(100,199.21)	\$312,423.66
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	160,918.87	6,418.85	-	\$167,337.72
<b>TOTAL IN BANK</b>				<b>\$479,761.38</b>

The Motor Fuel Tax Fund can, by state mandate, only be used for certain transportation-specific purposes, so for all intents and purposes, the General Fund is what the Village has to work with in terms of "Working Capital".

The General Combined Account is broken down into several Funds for accounting purposes, summarized below:

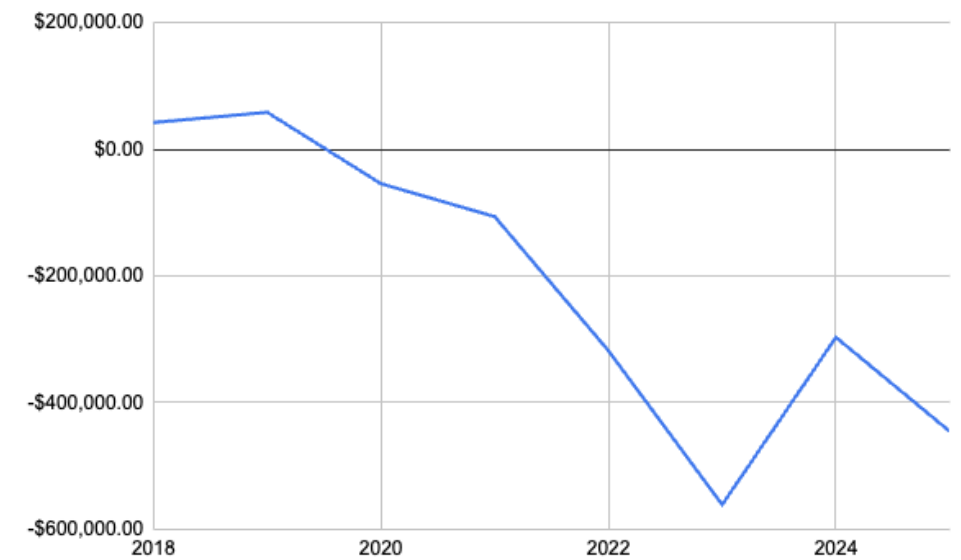
Fund	Description	Beginning Cash	Revenues	Expenses	Other Sources	Ending Cash
01	GENERAL FUND	\$311,936.46	\$295,461.80	\$166,368.18	\$217.76	\$441,247.84
02	ROAD & BRIDGES	\$0.61	\$7,794.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,795.55
30	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$60,710.27	\$11,964.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$72,674.85
40	DEBT REDUCTION	\$110,296.09	\$22,672.59	\$0.00	(\$48.20)	\$132,920.48
42	FACADE FUND	\$8,705.71	\$1,377.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,082.91
44	GRANTS	(\$16,148.26)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$16,148.26)
51	WATER FUND	(\$445,285.49)	\$30,985.33	\$30,303.07	(\$31,177.10)	(\$475,780.33)
52	SEWER FUND	\$130,911.07	\$31,004.19	\$20,240.69	\$2,613.27	\$144,287.84
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$161,126.46</b>	<b>\$401,260.63</b>	<b>\$216,911.94</b>	<b>(\$28,394.27)</b>	<b>\$317,080.88</b>

How is it the case that the total amount of money in our General Combined account, \$312,424, is LESS than the amount of money in the "General Fund" (used for general corporate purposes of the Village) alone? Because our Water Fund is *substantially* negative, to the tune of nearly half a million dollars (\$475,780 to be precise). What happened?

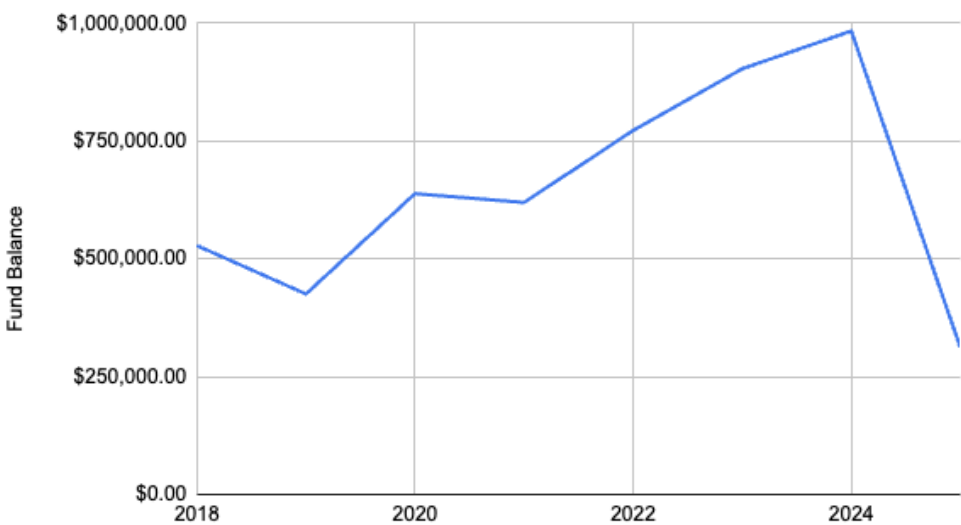
(Continued on the next page)

# Shabbona Express

Well, a number of projects were undertaken the past few years, including last year. Despite healthy water system revenues, the expenses charged to the Water Fund came in far over expectation - The Shabbona Road Water Main project alone exceeded budget by \$341,425 or roughly 60%. Here's what our Water Fund has looked like over the past number of years:



As you can see, it's deeply in negative territory and trending worse. Meanwhile, the General Fund hasn't been doing much better:



(Continued on the next page)

# Shabbona Express

## The Village is Dead Broke

(Continued from the previous page)

As you can see, the General Fund was trending up as tax revenue tended to exceed expenses. The Village embarked on a massive Downtown Streetscape Project (among other things) which cost the Fund the majority of its cash.

I want to be clear about how big of a drop this was; at the close of the last fiscal year, the Fund contained \$983,480. Risk-free interest rates topped 5.3% last year, which means the Village of Shabbona *could have* plopped that money into a risk-free Savings or Money Market account for an easy \$52,124.44 in revenue. Shabbona's property tax levy (excluding the Library which has its own taxing district) is \$119,453; in other words, the Village *could have cut property taxes by upwards of 44% instead of embarking on more projects.*

Unfortunately, the deed is done, and the Village is dead broke - we don't have the money for more big projects. In fact, with the Water Fund deeply in the red, the Village will ultimately be forced to raise more revenue by increasing Water rates.

While I'm not against projects per se, in the future, before embarking on them, we must be very careful to ensure the Village and its residents get a positive return on investment, which is a bit more difficult a standard to meet than "sounds good to me" (seemingly the previous standard over the past number of years).

All I can say is that we are in a tough position, and we will have to make tough choices. I'll do my best as a Trustee to make sure the Village is a *lot* more careful with taxpayer money than it has been.

(All financial information is publically accessible, typically found inside agenda packets, which can be found at: <https://www.shabbona-il.com/meetings/recent>)



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# Shabbona Express

## Village News

By Joshua Snyder

(This article reflects my views as an individual and does not necessarily represent the views of the Village nor the Village Board)

The Village of Shabbona's regular board meeting took place on August 21. Here is a summary:

- 506 W Cherokee Ave requested a zoning variance for a smaller setback requirement and 501 W Comanche Ave has a zoning variance request to be re-zoned mixed use. The zoning board hearing was on September 3 and both variances will be discussed/approved/denied at the September regular board meeting on September 18.
- The Village President mentioned that there are two vacant seats on the Zoning Board and suggested that anyone interested in being on the board should contact the Village.
- Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours were determined to be the same as last year, which is October 31 between 4:30 pm and 7 pm.
- A Compeer Financial in conjunction with the DeKalb County Community Foundation awarded a Compeer Financial Rural Vitality Grant to the Village of Shabbona in the amount of \$12,500.
- An amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Shabbona Fire Protection District and the Village of Shabbona was proposed and approved by the Village of Shabbona. It was mentioned that the fire barn did not experience any water infiltration during the recent heavy storm.
- The proposed project to connect the Village of Waterman, Village of Shabbona, and Prairie Band Potawatomie Nation into the Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District's (KWRD) waste treatment plant was also discussed and ultimately the Village of Shabbona decided against joining in on the project. Some notable information from the discussions include:
  - The sewer operator noted that in his opinion, Shabbona's existing lagoon system is in very good condition. Noting that aeration upgrades and sludge removal were performed recently.
  - The sewer operator noted that the Village's system is nowhere close to its maximum capacity and while the Village was issued a violation for algae levels, it has been remedied and no new violations have occurred.
  - The engineering costs being asked from the Village was \$70,000 with an unknown final construction cost. The Village of Shabbona's construction cost was estimated to be around \$1,200,000.
  - KWRD mentioned that tying in at a future date may be possible at an unknown cost. Engineering would have to be done either way.

This is only an unofficial summary. Official minutes and an official recording of the meetings summarized can be found at <https://www.shabbona-il.com/meetings/recent>. The official minutes are typically posted after they get approved (typically at the next regular board meeting or committee meeting).

# Shabbona Express

## The Indian Chief Shabbona

(Continued from page 1)

For several years preceeding 1832, the Indians of northern Illinois had been comparatively quiet (indicated by outward signs) – but discontent prevailed among the Sauks and Foxes who felt the whites were gradually becoming the aggressors, thus experiencing losses of their valuable hunting grounds.

Subsequently, an attempt to involve the Pottawatomies and Ottawas in a war with the “pale faces”, was finally made by Black Hawk and the Prophet in 1812. These two chiefs met the Pottawatomies and Ottawas in council at Indiantown in February of that year, stressing the “necessity of cooperation” ... The majority joined Shabbona, however, in opposing the union, the council thus disbursing without accomplishing its purpose.

Black Partridge and Snachwine, the peace chiefs, were now dead, and Shabbona stood next in power among the Pottawattomie chiefs; Shabbona, for some time, had become thoroughly convinced it was useless for the Indians to battle against the whites.

Black Hawk, unable to convince the tribes to join, returned to his watch tower at the mouth of the Rock river, still determined on war. Crossing the Mississippi into Iowa, he remained there until April, 1832, when he re-crossed into Illinois again, moving up the Rock river valley with his warriors, until he was within twenty-five miles from Dixon ferry; then traveling east, he arrived at a grove of timber, later known as Stillman's Run.

It was here the last war dance occurred. Without results, Black Hawk made one final attempt to dissuade Shabbona, since with his consent, practically the entire Pottawattomie tribe would join in warfare. All are familiar with the exchange of words at this council – The Hawk debating, said, “If we unite our forces we will have an army like the trees of the forest and will drive the palefaces before us like autumn leaves before an angry wind.” And, Shabbona's “rebuttal” – “The army of the palefaces will be like the leaves on the trees and will sweep you into the ocean beyond the setting sun.”

And so the familiar story goes – how Shabbona stole away from the council in the night, sending his son and nephew to warn the settlers along the Fox River and at Holderman's Grove. As far east as the DuPage river, instructing them to take refuge at the fort at Ottawa. The old Chief himself warned a large number of settlers of Bureau and Indian Creek – his appearance on that 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, literally – “riding his pony to death” – comparable to Paul Revere's ride ... Shabbona rode for forty-eight straight hours, replacing his dead pony with one borrowed from a settler. Nearly all heeded the warnings – however, in the Indian Creek settlement, some who did not, were massacred, with two girls taken prisoners.

The Indians were eventually defeated by General Dodge near the Wisconsin River on July 21, 1832, and by General Atkinson, at the Bad Axe River, August 1-2, with surrender of Black Hawk on August 27.

Subsequently, with the removal of the Indians to reservations west of the Mississippi river, the terror of Indian massacre in Illinois ended, and a host of pioneers soon poured into this rich prairie state.

In regard to the reservation that Shabbona and his people owned for a time – a treaty was made at Prairie Du Chien, in 1829 in which the Pottawattomie Indians ceded their land in northern Illinois to the United States. Two sections were reserved as a home for Shabbona and his family. The tract of land included one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of excellent land in a good location. (Paw Paw Grove area). Again in a treaty made at Tippecanoe in October, 1832, these lands were reserved, and in 1833 it was provided that Shabbona might sell his land if desired. For some reason however, this was



retracted in 1834. Thus, Shabbona's land remained a regular reservation to be used by him until the government saw fit to seize it.

Shabbona, in 1837, was notified by the Indian Agent by terms of the late treaty, "all members of his band, with the exception of those of his own family, must remove to their new reservation in Western Missouri". This was hard for Shabbona to accept. He loved his grove, the graves of his dead; he loved his people and they loved him. Therefore, he decided to accompany them to see that they were well located.

Between 1835 and 1849 Shabbona did not make the grove his permanent home, making frequent visits with friends, but always returning to Illinois and his reservation. It was around 1834 that Shabbona sold part of his land to the Gates brothers, being unaware that the right to dispose of his reservation had been taken away from him. The Gates brothers, soon sold the land to settlers, who bought small patches, mainly for the wood, since many lived on the prairie and the wood was of much value to them. It is said that during Shabbona's absence from the grove the surrounding settlers would cut the best timber for use at their homes. During the absence of Shabbona in 1849 the commissioners of the general office decided that Shabbona had forfeited his right to his land "by removing away from them", and that it should be sold. This left the men who had purchased the land from the Gates brothers in somewhat of a predicament; all of Shabbona's reservation was to be sold for one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. As it had been improved, in some cases it was worth many times this amount. Two citizens from Shabbona Grove, William Marks and Reuben Allen, were selected to bid in the land. One hundred and fifty determined men accompanied them for "moral" support. Consequently, the men from Shabbona Grove purchased the land for one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre.

Upon Shabbona's return from an extended visit in the west, he planned to collect the remainder of the payments due from the Gates brothers, in addition to the rent due him from his own land. Finding it in the possession of strangers, left him quite perplexed. It is even said the new owner of the land, upon which Shabbona and his band encamped, cursed the poor old man for having cut a few lodge poles, (on what he thought to be his own property) – and peremptorily ordered him and his family to leave the Grove. (Which they did, and, it is said that Shabbona never visited it again) ... ‘

Tracy Scott, an old pioneer of this section, related the following incident of Shabbona which occurred at that time: He (Scott) was returning from Aurora, coming through Big Rock timber where he saw the Indians encamped. Noticing Shabbona was quite downcast, Scott inquired as to why he had left and what his plans were. Shabbona replied, "I have always been a friend to the whites, had tried to treat them well, that his wife (first wife) and some of his children were buried in the Grove; I have lived there, and want to die there, and have lost all" ... He then told that because his band had burned a few sticks of wood, "big white man call me damn Indian! Shabbona never damn white man!" And pointing upwards, while tears ran down his old cheeks, he continued. "No big white man – no damn Indian up there – ALL 'like – all 'like!" (Shabbona about age 75 at this time) ...

After this incident, Shabbona had no home until 1857, when a few friends, realizing his destitute situation, purchased for him a small tract of 20 acres of timberland on the Illinois River (Norman Township), Grundy Co., Ill. Although a house was built for him, the old Chief and part of his family lived mostly in wigwams, using the house for storage and a barn. Shabbona died at his wigwam, July 17, 1859, aged about 84 years, and was buried in Evergreen Cemetary, Morris, Ill., the lot donated by the cemetary associatoin. His second wife, Pokanoka, lies buried in the same lot. She died November 30, 1864 while crossing Mazon Creek with a grandchild; the wagon upset and both drowned. Also buried in the lot are a daughter, Mary, his granddaughters, Mary Okonto and Metwetch, also his nieces, Chicksaw and Soco. All off Shabbona's people who remained moved out west after Pokanoka's death. Shabbona's first wife is buried in the Grove.

(Part three of this article taken out of the Shabbona Centennial Book will be continued in the next edition)

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