

**Village of Higginsport
Village Council Meeting
August 11, 2025**

The Council of the Village of Higginsport met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on Monday, August 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with all members present except Mayor, Lester Bear.

Also, present were: Fire Chief Rob Starrett, Police Chief Shawn Elliott, Eddie Crawford, Carrie Aspinall, David J Osborne, Peggy Wood, Tricia Wood, Linda Fester and Dean Miracle.

Council President, Mark Fester called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old/New Business

Mr. Null inquired the status of the sewer hook-up at the campground out of town. Mr. Miracle reported that he and the mayor had spoken to the Board of Health and they were to follow-up with the property owners regarding the matter.

Police Department Report

Chief Elliott requested Council address the signage at the park requiring shoes and shirts be worn. A discussion ensued regarding the rules, signage, and the need for an ordinance. Mr. Null expressed he would research possible sample ordinances from other jurisdictions that address the issue.

Chief Elliott reported on the following:

- Continuing to prepare department records for disposal
- Mobile Data Terminal fees have increased from \$1,200.00 annually to \$3,000.00 annually.

Ms. Wills inquired as to the status of the property clean-up in the village. Chief Elliott reported that it was currently at a standstill. Some property owners have been cited however nothing had been done. Mr. Miracle expressed since there are no consequences the property owners do not comply. He expressed he would compile and bring a list to the next council meeting of the properties that needed to be addressed.

Chief Elliott expressed that he had previously provided Council with a proposed ordinance regarding golf carts, four-wheelers and UTV's and the village solicitor had also prepared a revised ordinance regarding the same. He requested Council review both proposed ordinances to finalize the ordinance to be voted upon.

Fire Department Report

Chief Starrett reported he had met with the insurance adjuster to look at the fire department/municipal building roof but had not yet heard back from them.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Mrs. Dufau reported that the village was not awarded the CDBG grant monies for the sewer plant project and that Mr. Kurtis Strickland would be pursuing other possible grant monies to

fund the project. He had provided a resolution for Council's approval to authorize Mayor Bear to sign the necessary grant application documents.

Resolution 25-17

Motion by: Mr. Fester

Seconded by: Mr. Adams

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

WHEREAS, the State Capital Improvement Program provides financial assistance to political subdivisions for capital improvements to public infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Higginsport is planning to complete the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Project, and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure improvement herein above described is considered to be a priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC programs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village of Higginsport:

Section 1: The Mayor is hereby authorized to apply to the OPWC for funds as described above.

Section 2: The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Adams, Yes; Mr. Fester, Yes; Mr. Null, Yes; Mr. Smith, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes

Mrs. Dufau presented the 2026 Acceptance of Amounts and Rates for approval.

Resolution 25-18

Motion by: Ms. Wills

Seconded by: Mr. Null

To approve the 2026 Acceptance of Amounts and Rates as provided by the Brown County Auditor.

Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Adams, Yes; Mr. Fester, Yes; Mr. Null, Yes; Mr. Smith, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes

Mrs. Dufau reported that due to the sewer plant project being delayed, Mr. Greg Wilson had submitted an invoice for a portion of his work he had completed so far and would like payment for. A brief discussion ensued regarding the project funding and approval of Mr. Wilson's invoice.

Motion by: Mr. Fester, seconded by: Mr. Adams, to approve payment of Mr. Greg Wilson's progress invoice for the sewer plant project. Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Adams, Yes; Mr. Fester, Yes; Mr. Null, Yes; Mr. Smith, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes

Motion by: Mr. Smith, seconded by: Mr. Adams to approve and pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously

Motion by: Mr. Smith, seconded by: Ms. Wills to approve the regular meeting minutes from July 14, 2025. Motion passed unanimously

Additional Business

Mr. Null inquired as to when the finalized golf cart ordinance would be available. Solicitor Osborne expressed that he would need to merge his version and Chief Elliott's version.

Mr. Miracle expressed appreciation to Mr. Null for the work he had done to the school bell to display it.

Mr. Fester expressed appreciation to everyone that helped and attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the ballfield renovation project.

Motion by: Mr. Smith, seconded by: Mr. Adams to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Lester Bear, Mayor

Sheila G. Dufau, Fiscal Officer

Kathy Adams, Council Member

Matt Adams, Council Member

Linda Wills, Council Member

Scott Null, Council Member

Mark Fester, Council Member

Drew Smith, Council Member