

**Village of Higginsport
Village Council Meeting
March 9, 2026**

The Council of the Village of Higginsport met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. with all members present except for Matt Adams and Partick Elliott.

Also, present: Police Chief Shawn Elliott, Chief Rob Starrett, David Osborn, Dean Miracle, Donna Miracle, Sandy Bear, Kelly Foss, Frank Fussnecker, Paula Hauke, Edie Osborn, Duane Germann, Tina Germann, Peggy Wood, Trica Wood, Leslee Hasenstab, Eddie Crawford.

Mayor Lester Bear called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

Tom Fussnecker introduced himself and announced that he is running for Brown County Commissioner and would appreciate support from Council.

Kelly Faas on behalf of the Office of Congressman Taylor congratulated Council on the cleaning up of the grass lots and the riverbank. She reminded Council that the last day to register for voting is April 6th and election day is May 5th. She invited everyone to Meet the Candidates Night on March 18th at 5:30 pm at the Southern Hills Technical Center in Georgetown.

Peggy Wood updated Council to wait on building a float for the America 250 celebration due to street construction in Georgetown, possibly parade will be cancelled.

New Business

Resolution 26-02

Motion by: Mr. Fester Seconded by: Mr. Null

WHEREAS, the village's fiscal officer has submitted her resignation, and

WHEREAS, the hiring committee has interviewed interested candidates for the village fiscal officer position and has made a recommendation to Village Council for their approval,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Council approve hiring Robin Wallace as village fiscal officer, effective March 9, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Ms. Wallace's compensation be set a \$1,000 salary per month and said compensation be paid from the General Fund, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Council approved Mrs. Wallace, being added as a signatory on all village bank accounts.

Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Adams, absent; Mr. Elliott, absent; Mrs. Fester, Yes; Mr. Fester, Yes; Mr. Null, Yes.

Resolution 26-03

Motion by: Scott Null

Seconded by: Mark Fester

WHEREAS, the Village Council desires to provide training for the new village fiscal officer,

THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, that the Village Council approve hiring Shelia Dufau to train the new village fiscal officer at a rate of \$60.00 per hour.

Vote: Mrs. Adams, yes; Mr. Adams, Absent; Mr. Elliott, Absent; Mrs. Fester, Yes; Mr. Fester, Yes; Mr. Null, Yes.

Police Department Report:

Chief Elliott reported on the following:

- Provided an update regarding the requirements for the insurance program and presented multiple certifications of 2026 classes completed.

- Officer Mountjoy has resigned.

- The Police cruiser, truck and equipment are in good condition.

- Requested information regarding village ordinances to notify residents of Environmental issues.

- Offered his personal equipment to help residents remove junk from their property to dispose of in dumpsters being provided in the coming months.

Fire Department Report

Chief Starrett reported on the following:

- Fire Contract with Lewis Township has been signed.

- Provide information regarding the upcoming change in commercial building permits.

- Possibly adding a new structure at no cost to the Village.

- Provided information regarding the Ohio Plan for emergency vehicles policy.

- Fire Department will be participating in an annual course offered by Ripley Fire Department.

- Chief Elliott can run annual background checks and driving records on firefighters, but motor vehicle inspections must be completed by the OSP.

- Updated Council regarding BCRW water lines at the ballpark and the dirt pile will need to be removed. Once a larger map is obtained, he will present it to Council.

Clean up dates are scheduled for Thursday – Saturday April 16-18. There will be two locations, one at the park and the other in Feesburg.

Requested donations of plastic eggs for the annual easter egg hunt to be held on Saturday, April 4th at 2:00 pm at the church/park.

Additional Business

Mr. Fester gave update on the sewer project and paperwork has been submitted. Greg Wilson to be contracted to complete the work. Rates are increasing.

Mayor Bear asked Mr. Null to wait 30 days regarding the sewer contract with Greg Wilson, raising the rate from \$45 to \$55.

Motion by: Mr. Fester

Seconded by: Mr. Null

Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Adams, Absent; Mr. Elliott, absent; Mrs. Fester, Yes; Mr. Fester, Yes; Mr. Null, Yes.

Mr. Null requested that an inquiry be made into how the \$625 in the K9 fund can be reappropriated to the police fund.

Ms. Fester gave update on attending the Chamber of Commerce meeting on February 19th. She invited the Council to attend the next meeting on March 19th at the Pepsi Plant in Ripley.

Mrs. Fester is working on obtaining information regarding the grant for the website.gov

Council asked Sandy Bear to lead the adopt a pot of flowers this year.

Resolution 26-001 – ordinance regarding golf carts in the village. The Ordinance can be adopted 30 days from the third reading. Must check with former Village Fiscal Officer regarding dates of the three readings.

Mr. Miracle to provide information to Solicitor David Osborn to prepare a contract with Brown County for Council to sign regarding building and commercial permits.

Mayor Bear gave report regarding tree company will be removing some of the trees in town. The wood will be left on the property for the homeowners' use.

Mr. Fester recommended that after 30 days if there is any wood left on the properties that it becomes available to anyone.

Motion by: Mr. Null, seconded by: Mr. Fester to pay the bills.

Motion by: Mr. Fester, seconded by: Mr. Null to approve the February minutes.

Mayor Bear reminded the council members to schedule their group meetings.

Motion by: Mr. Fester, seconded by: Mr. Null to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Lester Bear, Mayor

Mark Fester, Vice Mayor

Kathy Adams, Council

Not Present
Matt Adams, Council

Linda Fester, Council

Scott Null, Council

Not Present
Patrick Elliott, Council

Robin R. Wallace, Fiscal Officer