

**Village of Higginsport  
Village Council Meeting  
January 12, 2026**

**1. Meeting Information**

Village of: Higginsport

Meeting Type: Regular

Date: 1/12/26

Time: 6:00PM

Location: Municipal Building

Minutes taken by: LesLee Hasenstab

**2. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:58PM by Mayor Lester Bear.

**3. Attendance/Roll Call**

Members Present:

1. Lester Bear
2. Scott Null
3. Mark Fester
4. Kathy Adams
5. Matt Adams
6. Linda Fester
7. Patrick Elliott

A quorum was present.

Other Attendees:

1. Chief Shawn Elliott
2. Fire Chief Rob Starett
3. Eddie Crawford
4. Scott Wilburn
5. Drew Smith
6. Peggy Wood
7. Sandy Bear
8. LesLee Hasenstab
9. Pastor Banks (Rob)

**4. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **5. Approval of Previous Minutes**

Mark Fester made a motion to approve the minutes of last month's meeting.

Scott Null seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion carried

## **6. Public Comment**

Public comment was opened.

The following individuals addressed the Council:

- Name: Scott Wilburn

Topic: Introduced Pastor Banks from a local Georgetown Church who spoke to the council about using the Community building to host activities and other community related events. In addition, Mr. Wilburn also requested property access and permission to cut in a roadway to a property he had surveyed. The street committee will review his request and follow-up.

- Name: Peggy Wood

Topic: Spoke to council and other attendees reminding them of the America 250 booth in July asking for volunteers.

- Name: Rob Starett

Topic: Fiscal Officer Position Consideration

Public comment was closed.

## **7. Motions / Actions**

Item Title: Pay Bills

Mark Fester made a motion to approve the payment of bills.

Kathy Adams seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion carried

Item Title: Snow Plowing & Salt Services

Mark Fester made a motion to approve the contract proposal.

Scott Null seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion carried

Item Title: Council President

Mayor Lester Bear made a motion to appoint Mark Fester as Council President.

Patrick Elliott seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion Carried

Item Title: Ohio Revised Code

Patrick Elliott made a motion to adopt the Ohio Revised Codes.  
Mark Fester seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion Carried

Item Title: Village Ordinances

Scott Null made a motion to adopt the Village Ordinances.  
Patrick Elliott seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion Carried

Item Title: Ohio Basic Code

Mayor Lester Bear made a motion to adopt the Ohio basic codes.  
Scott Null seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried

## **8. Reports**

### **Mayor Report**

Mayor Lester Bear announced committees and members.

Records Committee: Lester Bear, Kathy Adams, Tricia Wood

Street Committee: Scott Null, Mark Fester, Matt Adams

Grants Committee: Mark Fester, Linda Fester, Kathy Adams

Finance Committee: Kathy Adams, Linda Fester, Scott Null

Police/Fire Committee: Mark Fester, Linda Fester, Matt Adams

Building Committee: Scott Null, Matt Adams, Patrick Elliott

Parks & Recreation Committee: Mark Fester, Scott Null, Patrick Elliott

Sewer Committee: Patrick Elliott, Matt Adams, Scott Null

Mayor Lester Bear provided the council with a new contract from Greg Wilson for the Wastewater Treatment services to review. Sewer committee will meet to discuss and follow-up.

Council will discuss the Fiscal Officer Position and follow-up with a decision.

Additionally, Mayor Lester Bear informed the council that he was contacted by Ohio Plan Risk Management to schedule a meeting to conduct a risk management review of village facilities asking Rob Starrett to be available regarding the fire department.

### **Police Report**

Chief Elliott inquired about the status of the Golf Cart Ordinance.

The council is waiting on the solicitor to review and advise before proceeding. A motion was not made.

Chief Elliott addressed the council about adding electric scooters to the golf cart ordinance. Council unanimously agreed against adding it to the ordinance and instead following the Ohio Revised Code per the laws and regulations regarding electric scooters.

Chief Elliott is working with the council to set up a meet and greet with Sargeant Mountjoy, the new police officer in town.

The council was informed that the Police Department received a donation check in the amount of one thousand dollars from the Eagles. There was a discrepancy on the check which Chief Elliott has been in contact with them and a new check will be issued.

Additionally, Chief Elliott would like to meet with the Police Committee to discuss upgrades for the cruisers computers, wi-fi systems, and a work laptop.

## **Fire Report**

Chief Starrett provided the council with an annual report of runs & calls. He talked briefly about new auto crash notifications.

He informed council that there is one new volunteer fire-fighter who is currently taking classes.

The heater in the building is fixed. They encountered an issue with one of the overhead doors. That has been resolved.

He briefly discussed an addendum being made to a contract about structure fires and how funds would be dispersed between fire and squad.

Additionally, he asked council if they wanted to have the village clean up days again and gave tentative dates on when that might take place.

## **9. Other Business**

Mark Fester discussed the capacity grant and IT training, and setup is still underway and will be completed soon.

The river front project is coming along ahead of schedule pending flood season/weather. Electric and water is run and ready to go. Stage is looking good, pouring foundation for restrooms soon. Overlook will start in the Spring after flood season.

Scott Null asked the council to consider renewing their Chamber of Commerce subscription as he feels they have been very resourceful.

He discussed the Car Show/event that was proposed to council in a previous meeting. Council decided to postpone the event until the new ballfield park opens possibly in the Fall.

He also inquired about the status of several properties in town. Sewer/Building committee will meet to discuss further.

The house that burned on the end of town was also mentioned. As of now there has been no update from probate/village solicitor. Chief Starrett advised that it could also be filed with the Board of Health and condemned.

Kathy Adams inquired about an email received from Mr. Lajoy. The email will be sent to Street committee for further discussion.

Linda Fester announced that the Brown Co. Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their annual meeting January 15<sup>th</sup> at The Venue in Mt. Orab. She expressed the importance of someone for the village attending and representing the village. It was decided that she and Patrick Elliott will attend.

She also advised the council on a new grant opportunity, the T-Mobile Hometown Grant. She said we would be eligible, and she would like council members to email her with ideas of what the grant funds could be used for so that she can apply for it.

## **10. Adjournment**

Mayor Lester Beair made a motion to adjourn.

Matt Adams seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18PM.

## **11. Signature**

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**Lester Beair, Mayor**

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**Sheila G. Dufau, Fiscal Officer**

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**Kathy Adams, Council**

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**Matt Adams, Council**

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**Linda Fester, Council**

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**Mark Fester, Council**

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**Scott Null, Council**

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**Patrick Elliott, Council**