

**Village of Higginsport  
Village Council Meeting  
September 8, 2025**

The Council of the Village of Higginsport met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on Monday, September 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with all members present except Fiscal Officer, Sheila Dufau.

Also, present were: Fire Chief Rob Starrett, Police Chief Shawn Elliott, Carrie Aspinall, Eddie Crawford, Peggy Wood, Tricia Wood, Linda Fester, Sandy Bear, Leslee Hasenstab, Ben Miller, Austin Baurichter and Dean Miracle.

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

**Police Department Report**

Chief Elliott reported on the following:

- Two arrests and juvenile issues have been taken care of.
- Delay in the sale of confiscated firearms

**Fire Department Report**

Chief Starrett reported on the following:

- Tire clean-up days to be held in Georgetown and Ripley. Limit of ten (10) tires per person.
- Insurance company has denied the insurance claim for the fire department/municipal building roof.

**Public Participation**

Mr., Ben Miller and his daughter addressed Council regarding the possibility of having a “Fall Festival” in the village. Mr. Fester expressed concern of not having enough help or enough time getting vendors and setting up for the event. After a brief discussion, it was general consensus of Council to try having a festival in the Spring.

Two residents expressed their concerns about barking dogs non-stop at the Wager’s residence in the village. Chief Elliott advised utilizing the nuisance law to file a compliant with the police chief sometime after the meeting.

Ms. Tricia Wood requested a reduction of sewer charges due to it not being in use since the fire loss of her home. She expressed that she had a large water bill due to watering the grass.

Ms. Wood also provided information regarding the veteran’s booth at the Brown County Fair. If interested in helping it would be held Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Carrie Aspinall addressed Council regarding tires in the village as well as the need for a stop sign for the alley behind her residence.

### Old/New Business

Mayor Bear reported on the following:

- Christian Church will be donating for the Christmas gift giving
- Grant funds are available for cleaning up abandoned properties

Chief Elliott to follow-up on status of Betsy Brown's property. Mrs. Adams presented information on the abandoned Charles Rice property attained from the county office. Mr. Austin Baurichter volunteered to assist with any property information issues.

Mr. Fester reported that the ground has been broke for the river project and work is being done on permit issues. Progress can be expected by December 2025.

Mr. Fester reported work is being done on the capacity grant for infrastructure.

Mr. Null reported that an individual is interested in placing vending machines in the village. He will recommend they attend a future council meeting to discuss it further with Council.

Mr. Null inquired about village log-in access to the Chamber of Commerce website.

Mr. Null inquired as to the status of the sewer plant grant. Mayor Bear confirmed that work was still being completed for funding the project.

Chief Elliott read the first reading of the proposed golf cart ordinance.

Mayor Bear requested an executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

**Motion by: Mr. Null, seconded by: Mr. Fester to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Adams, Yes; Mr. Fester, Yes; Mr. Null, Yes; Mr. Smith, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes**

**Motion by: Mr. Fester, seconded by: Mr. Null to return to regular session. Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Adams, Yes; Mr. Fester, Yes; Mr. Null, Yes; Mr. Smith, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes**

**Motion by: Mr. Null, seconded by: Mr. Fester to approve and pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously**

**Motion by: Mr. Null, seconded by: Mr. Fester to approve the regular meeting minutes from August 11, 2025. Motion passed unanimously**

### Resolution 25-19

**Motion by: Mr. Fester**

**Seconded by: Mr. Smith**

To approve hiring a part-time police officer.

**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 adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

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**Lester Bear, Mayor**

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**Sheila G. Dufau, Fiscal Officer**

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**Kathy Adams, Council Member**

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**Matt Adams, Council Member**

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**Linda Wills, Council Member**

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**Scott Null, Council Member**

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**Mark Fester, Council Member**

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**Drew Smith, Council Member**