

Village Council Meeting Minutes

Date: [08/11/2026] Location: Village Council Chambers Presiding: [Brian Welbraum] Members Present: Kelly, Pillars, Speakman, Cornett, Jerry, Stewart, and others as reflected in the attendance record.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Council discussed whether to formally read the previous meeting minutes or make them available online for review. Council agreed that the minutes could be viewed online rather than read aloud.

3. Public Issues

An update was provided regarding the property and insurance claim involving Ron and Kathy Hoffman. The insurance adjuster advised that, at that time, no claim had been made alleging Village liability, including for mold remediation. Council was advised that invoices and other documentation presented to Council would be forwarded to the insurance company as appropriate.

The insurance company also requested clarification regarding property ownership. It was confirmed that Ron and Kathy Hoffman are the property owners.

4. Police Department Report

The Police Chief presented the monthly police activity and financial information.

- Officers reported their respective hours and ticket activity.
- Approximately 74 tickets were issued, representing approximately \$38,000 in assessed fines.
- Approximately \$22,000 had been collected, with outstanding amounts remaining.
- The department reported approximately 161 calls for service and 150 traffic stops.
- An incident involving several vehicles being broken into was discussed.

Investigative efforts included reviewing camera footage and checking surrounding residences.

License Plate Reader Cameras

The Chief presented a proposal for four license plate reader cameras to monitor traffic entering and leaving the Village. A proposal received from a local provider totaled approximately \$10,165 for four cameras. A comparison was made to Flock cameras, which would cost substantially more over a five-year period.

Council discussed the potential benefits of Village-owned cameras and requested additional consideration before making a purchase.

Body Cameras

The Police Department reported that its existing body cameras are obsolete. The department has been offered six replacement cameras, with a proposed cloud-storage contract of approximately \$3,794 for 24 months.

The department also discussed future in-car camera replacements that could use existing vehicle computers and reduce installation costs.

Excess Equipment and Ammunition

The Chief reported that excess ammunition and related equipment had been appraised. Initial offers totaled approximately \$1,243 for items that could be used toward future department purchases. Additional appraisals are pending.

Task Force Operations

The Chief reported on task force activity, including several subjects of interest and prisoner transports. Approximately \$15,000 in federal reimbursement was being processed.

The Chief explained that task force participation could result in reimbursement to the Village for officer hours worked on qualifying operations.

Council also discussed establishing the appropriate bank account for receipt of task force and federal funds.

Website and Email

Council discussed moving the Village website and email services from Network Solutions to GoDaddy. The transition is expected to be largely transparent to the public, with additional website customization available.

Grant Opportunities

The Chief reported that the Village had applied for approximately \$750,000 in grant funding associated with federal immigration-related transportation and enforcement activities. Potential eligible expenses discussed included vehicles, personnel, cameras, transportation, and training. The Chief stated that the grant would be structured over a five-year period with reimbursement provisions.

Police Vehicle Funding

The Chief explained that approximately \$115,000 in anticipated funds would be used for police department equipment and vehicles. The proposed priorities included paying off Chad's existing vehicle, purchasing a vehicle for Bruce, and eventually purchasing an additional vehicle.

The Chief stated a preference for avoiding vehicle loans and purchasing vehicles with available funds.

Ordinances and Revised Code

Council discussed the distinction between Village ordinances and state Revised Code provisions, including traffic violations and local property-related ordinances. The Chief explained that Village ordinances remain useful for matters such as long grass, abandoned vehicles, and property maintenance, while state statutes apply to numerous traffic and criminal matters.

The Chief also discussed the Village's current traffic fine structure and noted that fines had previously been higher than surrounding jurisdictions. Fines were subsequently reduced after consultation with neighboring jurisdictions.

5. Website/Minutes Correction

Council noted that the posted minutes contained an incorrect price concerning a mower. The Clerk agreed to correct the amount on the website.

6. Tree Removal

Two estimates were presented for removal of a dead/damaged hackberry tree:

- Wayne's Tree Service: approximately \$3,000.
- Buck's Tree Care: approximately \$2,630.

Council discussed references, insurance, licensing, reviews, and whether the estimates included removal of debris.

Council favored obtaining additional clarification regarding cleanup and hauling before finalizing the work.

7. Water Department Report

The Water Department reported that a previously discussed concrete pipe for the pump station was no longer available. A new price will be obtained for the required work.

Mag Meters

Council discussed three available mag meters priced at approximately \$4,000 each, or \$12,000 total, compared with approximately \$12,000 each for new units.

The meters measure water production from the Village wells and provide information required for EPA reporting. Council expressed interest in purchasing the three available units but wanted to confirm the condition, warranty, and consequences if the existing meters fail before the purchase is completed.

The purchase was therefore held pending additional information and confirmation of available funds.

Street/Chip Seal

A proposal of approximately \$13,940 was discussed for chip sealing a portion of the roadway from the Village limits along South Main Street. Council discussed whether sufficient street funds were available and whether the work should be completed during the current cycle.

State Route 41 Drainage

Council discussed a drainage and roadway safety issue along State Route 41 near Woodlawn. The existing area has deteriorated significantly.

Council discussed contacting the appropriate state transportation representative to determine whether the State could install a guardrail or otherwise address the hazard.

8. EPA Sanitary Survey

The Water Department reported that an EPA sanitary survey was scheduled for Monday, August 17, at 9:00 a.m.

The Village's emergency contingency plan must be updated. Council members and other designated contacts will be asked to provide their names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses for inclusion in the plan.

The plan will identify contacts and mutual-aid resources to be used in the event of an emergency affecting the water system.

Council also discussed the possibility of establishing contingency reserves within the water and sewer funds for major repairs, maintenance, and other emergencies.

9. Employee Call-Out Pay

Council discussed compensation for employees called out after regular hours.

It was proposed that employees receive a two-hour minimum for a call-out, after which additional time would be paid at the applicable hourly rate. Council indicated support for the two-hour minimum.

10. Water/Sewer Accounts and Finances

The Clerk/Treasurer reported significant financial concerns regarding the water fund.

The water fund currently had approximately \$4,000 available, which was insufficient to cover anticipated payroll and other expenses for the remainder of the year.

The 2026 budget projected substantially higher water revenue than had actually been received. Approximately \$110,000 had been received year-to-date, compared with an annual budget estimate of approximately \$208,000.

Council discussed delinquent water and sewer accounts, including several accounts with substantial outstanding balances.

The Clerk/Treasurer explained that certain transfers between funds require appropriate resolutions and approval through the County Auditor before funds can be moved.

Council discussed the need to review the Village's budget, actual revenues, expenditures, and fund allocations to determine the appropriate corrective action.

11. Water Connection Surveys

Council discussed outstanding residential water connection surveys required for EPA reporting. The Village needs to identify properties that have not returned the surveys and follow up with those residents, potentially through door-to-door contact.

The reporting deadline was discussed as approximately September 25.

12. Tax Search/County Revenue

Council discussed the status of the County tax search and anticipated receipt of tax-related funds. The Clerk/Treasurer will continue monitoring receipts and determining whether any funds should be allocated to the appropriate water or sewer accounts.

13. Old Business

Website and Council Email

Council discussed establishing council email accounts and providing members with the necessary login information. The Clerk will distribute the appropriate information and website access details.

Spectrum Installation

Council discussed the incomplete Spectrum installation involving cameras and network equipment at the Village building. Spectrum had installed part of the system but had not completed the remaining work.

The Village has been billed, but payment is being withheld pending completion of the installation.

The matter will be followed up with Spectrum.

Police Department Requests

Council discussed future personnel and compensation requests related to the Police Department. Any applicable personnel matters requiring executive session will be addressed separately.

14. New Business

Community Policing

A representative reported attending a meeting with Pike Township trustees concerning community policing. Pike Township will consider the information and respond regarding potential interest.

Economic Development

Council discussed contacting the County Deputy Director of Development regarding possible economic-development opportunities for the Village.

Potential topics included development of vacant property, abandoned properties, housing, and business development.

Council expressed differing views regarding the type and scale of development that would be appropriate for the Village. The representative will contact the County and invite the appropriate development representative to speak with Council.

Property Development/Data Centers

Council briefly discussed county restrictions concerning data centers and the potential impact of economic development on the Village. No action was taken.

Village Property

Council discussed the condition and potential development of certain properties, including an older property that had previously been considered historically significant.

Propane/Gas Tank

Council discussed an unused gas tank that is nearly empty. The Village will determine whether the tank belongs to the Village and, if so, whether it should be sold, scrapped, or otherwise disposed of.

Shelter House

Council was advised that two contractors were expected to inspect the shelter house and provide information regarding correcting the structure's uneven condition.

15. Executive Session

A motion was made to enter executive session.

The motion passed with the following votes recorded:

Kelly — Yes

Pillars — Yes

Speakman — Yes

Cornett — Yes

Jerry — Yes

Stewart — Yes

Council entered executive session.

16. Adjournment

Following completion of the executive session and any required action, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Cora Godfrey Village Clerk

Note: These minutes are a condensed summary of the meeting discussion and are intended to be reviewed and approved by Council. Exact motions, seconding, vote counts, names, dates, and dollar amounts should be verified against the official meeting record before