

Village of Chauncey Council

February 12, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Frank Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: The pledge was observed by all in attendance.

ROLL CALL: Taken by Frank Campbell

Seat 1 – Connaught Cullen, Present

Seat 2 – Natasha Taylor, Present

Seat 3 – Karla Dellinger, Present

Seat 4 – Joe Jenne, Jr, Present

Seat 5 – Amanda Moore, Present

Seat 6 – Dylan Skees, Present

Mayor – Frank Campbell, Present

Village Administrator – Present

Village Solicitor – Present

Fiscal Officer – Present

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS FROM FISCAL OFFICER:

Kevin Simons apologized for the financial reports as the UAN system had some issues but they have been repaired for the most part.

In regards to HB96 he has enlisted Matrix J, a local company to do a review of the village computers to see what needs completed for compliance. All village laptops need to be in the office on February 17 by 10 am for evaluation. This evaluation is a 200-point check list and all points should be met to be in compliance. After the evaluation, each issue will be addressed and as long as progress in continuously made each reporting period there should be no issues. Matrix J will also be consulted when purchasing new computers in the future to ensure compliance.

The auditors have reached out to initiate the audit process. Kevin is gathering the necessary documents for the them.

ORCA is billed for maintenance of the park and are due to send their annual payment in March or April.

Kevin and Karla Dellinger will set up a meeting with the Finance & Personnel committee to discuss permanent appropriations and the budget. The appropriations will be presented for passage at the March meeting.

Karla Dellinger made a motion to accept the financial report; seconded by Joe Jenne, Jr. All were in favor of the motion.

Connaught Cullen asked about the work done at the Texas-Eastern Building by Athens Tool Rental. Her concern was the large bill sent to the village. The village administrator reported water/sewer lines had been installed along with restroom updates; two new garage doors installed, repairs to the footers. He also stated there was an emergency electrical repair on Christmas day at the sewer plant and truck battery repairs during a snow event. Connaught also asked who had approved the repairs and if the fiscal officer had been consulted prior for budgeting purposes. Chris Russell explained part of the repairs had been budgeted for prior but not the full extent of work done. He stated Mayor Campbell requested Chris Russell Jr to have the additional work added to the scope of the project. Kevin Simons stated there would be enough in the budget to cover the additional cost.

Karla Dellinger made a motion to approve the bills; seconded by Joe Jenne, Jr. All were in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There was contention over a sentence in the January 15 minutes. It referred to a council member approaching a local business about the use of the parking lot beside village hall. Joe Jenne clarified he was the council member but he wanted to clarify the situation. He stated the incident occurred within a 24-hour time frame of a large structure fire. He expressed that although there was a discussion with the business owner, he felt it was misrepresented. He did not feel the comment was made; a couple council members confirmed the statement had been made and it should remain in the minutes. Joe requested the clarification to be added to the January minutes, but Karla Dellinger pointed out the January minutes reflect the January meeting and his comments at this meeting would need to be shown in the February minutes. Karla also pointed out a couple errors to the January minutes; reference to the fiscal officer being late and also under the committee report the chairs of the committees were incorrect. Corrections would be to the Transportation and Utilities Committee, Joe Jenne, Jr chair instead of Dylan Skees and to the Parks and Recreation Committee; Amanda Moore being the chair instead of Connaught Cullen. A motion to approve the January 15, 2026 meeting minutes with the corrections mentioned was brought forth by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Connaught Cullen. All were in favor of the motion.

Joe Jenne suggested the meeting to be recorded in the future. Storage of the files would need to be researched as they would need to be available for public records requests. Mayor Campbell suggested looking into an app that would take notes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jessie Powers of ORCA presented information for the Visitor's Hub at the Bailey's Trailhead. She wanted to speak of ownership of the building that will house the Hub. She explained the entrance will not be in the park but will be further up the road. The building came about as part of the 2022 Revitalization Grant ORCA applied for in the amount of \$3 million. The site was eligible as it would rest on an old mine site; the grant was to re-utilize such sites. The building would be a welcome center to the Bailey's Trails; the largest bike trail east of the Mississippi. Design of the building is almost complete. However, the completion date is yet to be determined. She supplied paperwork for the AMLER grant, scope of work papers, and the documents showing village council support of the project. Jessie explained to council that the project makes the village more attractive to investors.

The documents state that ORCA would own the property, insure it and maintain it. The non-profit portion of ORCA would then lease the business section to recoup some of these costs. ORCA would work with the village to develop criteria for the tenant and then use public solicitation of attract tenants who fall within the guidelines.

Mayor Campbell asked about SOPEC and the EV chargers brought up in the December meeting. It is suggested they be installed in the parking lot area closest to the trail. The request is for four spaces. It is possible these charging stations may be relocated to the Visitor's Hub. Frank Campbell stated he would like the option to withdraw if they aren't maintained correctly. Revenues generated would go to SOPEC. The resolution presented at the December meeting will be discussed at the next Parks & Recreation and Planning & Development committee meetings.

Jessie added that DLZ was working on a program to sell personalized bricks for sponsorship on components of the park.

ORCA has special authority over the trailhead and charge entities having events on the trails such as the Gravel Challenge. They share these fees with the Village; in 2025 those funds totaled \$500.

Frank Campbell asked about the trees that need cut on the hub property before the end of March. ORCA needs to mark a perimeter so that Chris Russell can cut the trees. The trees and debris will be cleaned up by a separate entity in the building process. Solicitor Robe interjected the sewer/water plans are being finalized by DLZ.

Karla Dellinger asked Jessie about the type of business that might be in the hub; referring to Hocking Hills with their local business/crafters/artists as an example. Would it be that type or a large singular business utilizing the amenities of the kitchen, dining, restrooms and outdoor areas? She did not express support for a place with alcoholic beverages. Jessie explained that in a survey of people who use the trails (bikers) completed by a grad student; the most requested item was beer. So, this would be a featured product of the business in order to generate the most revenue. Joe Jenne expressed he felt that the park has not been planned for resident benefit but for outsiders who visit for a short period of time.

Mayor Campbell asked who would get the money made by the hub. Karla asked when the ownership question would need to have its final answer.

Jessie Powers explained with overhead costs, upkeep and insurance she was not sure how much profit would be realized. She encouraged council to go over the paperwork she supplied and to contact her with additional questions or concerns. She expressed ORCA would love to work through the issues council brought forth. She also said that time is running out as the work needs to be completed in order to receive the grant funding that was awarded.

Mayor Campbell would like to maintain a calendar of all meetings council should be attending and also who would be the representative. He asked council members to keep track moving forward and to inform him of any upcoming meetings.

Discussion on the open position was presented. Chris Russell expressed several details needed to be worked through before it could be advertised. Karla Dellinger asked if it would be a full or part time position. Chris had brought up a couple advantages of two part time employees. One would be that if he had to leave town for some reason, the other employees would not be working alone. The mayor has worries advertising for part time would limit the selection pool. Chris brought up that council would need to set up a pay range to include in the job posting. Karla Dellinger suggested a pay range of \$15-\$18 per hour but it could be discussed further in a Finance/Personnel committee meeting. Chris stated there were too many details to work out and wanted to get them worked out prior to posting. He says it isn't his busy season and he would prefer to study for the sewer operator test he is planning to take. He wanted to focus on that task before hiring someone he would need to take time to train properly. Karla stated she would work on the posting for final approval and felt posting the position, allowing time to accept resumes, sorting through the resumes, interviewing candidates and then deciding who to hire would give Chris enough time for the test. The job will be posted against Chris Russell's recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS:

Joe Jenne and Dylan Skees presented council with a rough schematic of the parking lot beside village hall. The fire department requests to have 10 spaces designated for their use. The schematic wasn't enough for council to make a decision and the matter was tabled until a Planning and Development committee meeting could be held.

Mayor Campbell had a request of a solid plan for the park to be drawn up and then presented to Jessie Powers and ORCA. He also feels having a member of council or himself on the ORCA board presents a conflict of interest and puts him in a position to make decisions without council approval. Karla Dellinger and Connaught presented that would not be the case and having representation at ORCA meetings would be in the village's best interest. They stated that any decision that would require a vote could be presented to council prior to the vote. This discussion was tabled.

The village clerk reminded council of the upcoming trainings for newly elected officials and the deadline for registering was quickly approaching. Natasha Taylor, Amanda Moore and Karla Dellinger were tentatively

scheduled. They would need to decide about an overnight stay and check their calendars for conflicts. Roxanna also reported Payment Services Network had canceled the contract with the village and would issue a refund to any invoices for 2026.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 2026-01 A Resolution to Adopt Rules of Council. 2st Reading. A motion to waive 3rd reading of this resolution was made by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Amanda Moore. A roll call vote was taken:

Connaught Cullen – Yes	Dylan Skees- Yes
Natasha Taylor – Yes	Karla Dellinger – Yes
Joe Jenne, Jr – Yes	Amanda Moore – Yes

A motion to suspend the rules and pass this resolution as an emergency was made by Connaught Cullen; seconded by Karla Dellinger. Roll call vote as follows:

Connaught Cullen – Yes	Dylan Skees- Yes
Natasha Taylor – Yes	Karla Dellinger – Yes
Joe Jenne, Jr – Yes	Amanda Moore – Yes

Karla Dellinger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-01; seconded by Dylan Skees. All were in favor of the motion.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Solicitor Robe will brief Frank Campbell on options for the ORCA issues. Jim Edwards would like to connect to the sewer lines for ORCA’s visitor’s hub. He will pay for this sewer line extension for his use. A fifty-foot easement would contain Mr. Edward’s sewer lines although there is need for caution as the AEP power lines are also within the easement. Mayor Campbell will present these ideas at the next Planning and Development committee meeting.

Robe mentioned Jill Davidson, Athens County Auditor, is working to arrange in person training for the Sunshine Laws in April. He suggested this would be an option for those on council who would not be able to attend the training held by the Ohio Municipal League.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Chris Russell reported Phase 2 of the sewer project should be complete by Monday. The following Monday the bore under the railroad tracks will begin necessitating one lane traffic on Main Street during the process.

He reported Jane Redfern of the Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District is looking for volunteers and dump sites for the “Sweep the Rivers” campaign. Joe Jenne suggested Coal Run for potential clean up.

Paving in the lower end of town will begin this spring. Storm project 2.2 is up for final review with the USDA and may be out to bid soon.

Notice of Violation response letter was sent to the EPA. These inspections occur every three years. A pump will need to be replaced but Chris hopes to get a reconditioned one in the old style that should last 20 years. The new submersible ones only have a lifespan of 5-10 years. Sludge removal is in the works and will cost \$20K.

Mayor Campbell encouraged council to take a tour of the plants and should arrange this with Chris. The question arose about the situation of several members of council together but not being a meeting. Solicitor Robe

reported if it was just for fact finding and not solving issues or making a decision this could happen without being a meeting. Frank Campbell will send out an email to council to schedule a tour.

Karla Dellinger asked what the status was for a master meter at the mobile home park. She also asked if the village did any of the work there as she had complaints of the yards left in a terrible state. Chris said the master meter is up in the air at the moment and the work in the mobile home park was done by Athens Tool Rental. Any complaints should be directed to the contractor or the mobile home park owners. He stated the park owners have contracted to move the meters out to the new line running along the road, they are working in sections and will start up again this spring.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Campbell reiterated the NOV response letter for the EPA had been sent to the appropriate person. He, Travis (sewer operator) and Chris are working on sludge disposal plans. He encouraged council to meet with him as he felt he had neglected communication with them while learning duties of being the mayor.

COUNCIL'S REPORT:

Connaught Cullen requested permission from council to apply for the Northwest Ordinance History Grant to use oral history to create a book of the village. Noah Hawk would collect the information and Jill Sanders, a Nelsonville author, would help fashion the stories into a cohesive book. They would use photos from the library to help tell the tale. Joe Jenne made a motion to approve the application and allow Connaught to apply for the grant; seconded by Karla Dellinger. All were in favor of the motion. Completion date of the publication would be 2027. The mayor asked if the village would own the rights to the book and collect funds from the sale. He hoped to sell it at the Visitor's Hub when it is opened.

Dylan Skees spoke of the possibility of recording the meetings and how much storage would cost for the recordings. He reported 1-2G storage would not be too expensive but further research would be necessary for appropriate recording equipment. He would bring this information to the next meeting.

He has also been looking at the zoning regulations but he and the mayor would take time to check things more closely. Mayor Campbell said he would like to refine zoning laws for improved property rights and the village may need to back off some of the restrictions in place.

Joe Jenne had nothing to report.

Amanda Moore reported she had been working on Party in the Park and Rockin Reggie would come for four hours at a cost of \$200. Additional planning is needed before advertising.

Natasha Taylor had nothing to report.

Karla Dellinger would like to see something in place to help residents who experience fires in their homes. She suggested clothing, money for hotel rooms, food and other necessary items. Joe Jenne said that he would speak with Harold at the fire department about ways to get this in place. The mayor stated the fire department had raffles to pay for the Easter egg hunt, Christmas celebration and movie night and perhaps the village could work in tandem to raise funds.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Parks and Recreation: Amanda Moore (Chair),

Plans for Party in the Park are in the works. Mayor Campbell suggested the committee to reach out to the fire department for assistance. Amanda also stated the next meeting for her committee was to be held February 20 at 5 pm in Village Hall.

Finance and Personnel: Karla Dellinger (Chair),

Karla is working on the open position advertising and will schedule a meeting with Kevin to discuss permanent appropriations and budget.

Transportation and Utilities: Joe Jenne, Jr (Chair), None

Planning and Development: Natasha Taylor (Chair),

Her committee would like to reach out to prior council members who were on this committee for advice and information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *No executive session was held*

RESIDENT COMMENTS:

Fauna: Asked about the funds from Troy Balderson’s office and how they would be spent. Chris reported the monies would be used to replace the electrical system at the sewer plant. She also suggested an Excel spreadsheet be kept to track grant monies received and paid out. The village clerk told her that DLZ has a person who does this to ensure proper appropriation and payment. Fauna expressed gratitude to Chris Russell and reported that many residents have a fear of losing him. “He is very valuable to us.”

Barb: Expressed she liked the book idea. She also asked for an estimated time frame for the storm project. Chris stated the project will go to bid mid-March and move forward from there. The first area to be impacted will be the main trunk; Converse Street to Main Street and then branch out to the side streets. Barb thanked Chris and the mayor for the snow removal and was happy to see the community working together after the storm.

Selena: Just here to learn.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Next meeting will be held on March 12, 2026 at 6:00 pm on 22 Birge Drive.

Motion to adjourn was made by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Dylan Skees. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

RECORDED BY





Karla Dellinger, President of Council

Roxanna Chiki, Village Clerk