

Village of Chauncey Council

January 15, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Frank Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:31 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 – Absent *arrived later

Village Solicitor – Present

Fiscal Officer – Present

Karla Dellinger made a motion to excuse Village Administrator, Chris Russell from the meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe Jenne, Jr. All were in favor of the motion.

Chris Russell arrived at 5:40.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS FROM FISCAL OFFICER:

Sara Peden of DLZ sent Kevin paperwork for OPWC funding to complete Storm Water Project 2.2; this included a request for village match of \$140,000. The balance of the funding would be a zero percent (interest free) loan. This would be paid through sewer funds. The loan would be for a 30-year term.

Bobby Fuller from DLZ was in attendance and reported the remaining funds of approximately \$700,000 had also been located and applied for at this time.

Cybersecurity update: Village cybersecurity is covered by our insurance but will be reviewed for current compliancy. The Mayors Partnership for Progress is willing to help if it is found our current structure requires additional updating.

Mayor Campbell requested Kevin look into Microsoft Government Office Suite for village business and to aid in cybersecurity. The cost of this suite would be \$8-\$25 a month per user. The village currently uses Google at no cost.

Kevin reported the 2025 Financials were complete and a draft of the 2026 permanent budget will be presented at the February meeting.

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

Connaught Cullen expressed that the reports were difficult to read as they are sent in a mix of portrait and landscape formats. Kevin told her that he was at the mercy of the UAN software but would contact the company to see if there is a way to keep the same format throughout.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the December 11, 2025 meeting minutes was brought forth by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Connaught Cullen. All were in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Campbell presented changes to the Rules of Council to be considered:

1. Regular meetings will be held the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Quaker Building at 22 Birge Dr.
2. Rule #5 – Village Clerk will take minutes for the fiscal officer but in her absence the fiscal officer will take them, the solicitor, and finally a member of council.
3. Rule #6 – Language needs to reflect changes to Rule #5.
4. Rule #11 – Mayor to have veto power on legislation
5. Rule #19 – Update the council members on the committees
6. Rule #23 – The Pledge of Allegiance be moved to first order of business at meetings.

After discussion council agreed in favor of the changes of 1, 2, and 3 as listed above.

Solicitor Robe spoke to request #4 to change Rule 11 to give the mayor veto power. Mayor Campbell feels he and future mayors should have veto power over council decisions since the mayor only has a vote in the instance of a tie vote of council. He feels this would be a backup to ensure policies and ordinances are done correctly and a sort of check and balance. Robe stated that a decision such as this would need to go before the voters of the village. The earliest this could be voted on would be 2027 and if passed would not be in place until 2030. He stated there is plenty of time to think about it. He advised council to table this discussion. Mayor Campbell agreed the proposal needed work and hoped this would encourage collaboration of council members. Karla Dellinger requested council to review the email she had sent prior to the meeting containing her research on this matter. She also agreed such a change would require parameters for the mayor and include language that such a veto could be overturned by council. The mayor suggested council revisit this matter in March.

The village clerk pointed out that request #5 on the list is not necessary as Rule 19 only states the names of the committees required of the village. She expressed the members on each committee may be changed by the mayor and usually takes place annually. Council agreed and Frank took this time to announce committee assignments. Upon presentation Karla Dellinger pointed out that Connaught Cullen had only been assigned to one committee while Joe Jenne, Jr had been assigned to three. She said that everyone should be on two. Council and Mayor agreed and the committees were changed to reflect the request. Committee assignments are as follows:

- A. **Parks and Recreation:** Amanda Moore (Chair), Natasha Taylor, Connaught Cullen
- B. **Finance and Personnel:** Karla Dellinger (Chair), Connaught Cullen, Dylan Skees
- C. **Transportation and Utilities:** Joe Jenne, Jr (Chair), Dylan Skees and Karla Dellinger
- D. **Planning and Development:** Natasha Taylor (Chair), Joe Jenne, Jr and Amanda Moore

Connaught Cullen spoke on request to change the meeting order to have the Pledge of Allegiance as the first order of business. She stated roll call should be before the Pledge in order to acknowledge a quorum is in attendance. All council were in agreement with this suggestion and no change was made.

Joe Jenne, Jr made the motion to accept changes 1, 2, and 3 to the Rules of Council; seconded by Connaught Cullen. All were in favor.

Mayor Campbell also requested a discussion of the appointment of Evelyn Nagy to the Planning Commission at the December meeting. She was nominated by Interim Mayor Tammy Hawk at the December meeting and approved by majority vote of council. Mayor Campbell questioned the legality of the appointment. It was decided this would require further investigation and proposed council to revisit at a later date.

President of Council Nominations: Mayor Campbell requested nominations for President of Council. Karla Dellinger was nominated by Joe Jenne, Jr and Dylan Skees was nominated by Connaught Cullen. Each were willing to fill the position if approved. Natasha Taylor called for a vote for Karla Dellinger; seconded by Amanda Moore. The vote was taken by raise of hands with Karla Dellinger voted in by vote of 4-2. Karla Dellinger accepted the position.

OLD BUSINESS:

Village Clerk, Roxanna Chiki spoke to council of Payment Services Network (PSN) a payment system approved in early 2024. One advantage touted by PSN was the existence of an Autopay feature for customers. Upon signing the contract, the village was told Autopay was not yet ready but would be soon. Upon being hired in Sept 2024, Roxanna was instructed to follow up and did so several times all with the result "it was in the works". In early 2025 village council decided to change to a different payment service company, Nextbillpay. This company did have the features the village wanted for customer convenience. PSN was notified of this change and responded the village did not follow proper protocol to stop services and explained the proper procedure. They reported there was a 90-day notice period. The village responded with a letter stating services would be end as of November 5, 2025. The clerk stated she had contacted all customers but one calling PSN to pay the bill. She had difficulty reaching that customer but had finally made contact in December and explained that he would no longer be able to make payment via PSN and gave the customer the number for Nextbillpay. As of this meeting, the village was still receiving invoices from PSN. She requested Mayor Campbell to make a call to see if that would carry more clout than her calls. The Mayor and Roxanna set up a day to call. If this did not work then the mayor would involve the solicitor to sever the contract.

Mayor Campbell asked the Village Administrator if the issues from Phase 1 Sewer Project had been corrected. Bobby Fuller of DLZ stated that he had asked Mendon to re-pour concrete in the problem areas.

The issue of a berm on Birge Drive from Phase 2 came up, Chris Russell explained the berm was not in the Phase 2 bid and therefore, Fields Excavating would not be returning to do this work. He stated the village would do the berm.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 2026-01 A Resolution to Adopting Rules of Council. 1st Reading. A motion to adopt changes to the Rules of Council regarding meeting times and the taking of minutes (1, 2, and 3 under new business) was made by Joe Jenne, Jr; seconded by Connaught Cullen. All were in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION 2026-02 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Prepare and Submit an Application to Participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program(s) and to Execute Contracts as Required. Karla Dellinger introduced the resolution; seconded by Natasha Taylor. All were in favor of the motion.

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

Connaught Cullen – Yes
Natasha Taylor – Yes
Joe Jenne, Jr – Yes

Dylan Skees- Yes
Karla Dellinger – Yes
Amanda Moore – Yes

Karla Dellinger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-02; seconded by Joe Jenne, Jr. All were in favor of the motion.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Solicitor Robe addressed the issue that arose at the new parking lot beside village hall. There is controversy over the use; is it a public lot open to anyone or reserved for village business and fire department parking. This arose when a local art gallery held an event and attendees used the parking lot. A council member approached them stating the lot was for fire department and village hall use only. Solicitor Robe expressed unless legislation was passed to specify use requirements the lot is a public lot for public use. Mayor Campbell suggested council designate and post the required handicap space and possibly specify spots for fire department use along the side of village hall. All other spaces would be for public use after business hours. Solicitor Robe stated these guidelines would be outlined in legislation along with oversight of the lot and penalties for misuse. Karla Dellinger asked who would monitor the lot? Who would ask someone to move if necessary? Solicitor Robe repeated procedure, wording and consequence would need to be addressed in legislation. He said the mayor would most likely be the person to approach anyone using the lot outside of the guidelines. However, that would need to be specified in the language of the ordinance.

Joe Jenne, Jr expressed that he feels the lot was made for the fire department and therefore they should use it as discussed but also to be able to have space for a large truck. Karla questioned the need for a large heavy vehicle in the lot. Discussion was tabled until committees have a chance to discuss and propose legislation.

Jonathan reminded council they would need to have training of the Sunshine Laws. This is mandatory for all council members, but it only has to be taken once during their term. He recommended that all take the training. He will send a link for online training. He also said members could assign a proxy to take the training. Joe Jenne, Jr said he completed the training online.

Robe brought up a new bill that has been introduced into state law. It pertained to the public speaking portion of meetings and would require space on the agenda for public comment. He will monitor this and report updates to council.

He is working on easements for storm water projects with DLZ.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Chris Russell reported Phase 2 of the sewer project is almost complete. The village is required to bore under the railroad tracks and the permitting process is taking much longer than anticipated. This is the last section to install before the project is complete. The estimated time for the bore is mid-February.

Storm Phase 2.2 is being finalized. Bobby Fuller of DLZ interjected the village and residents should be proud of the \$14-\$15 million the village has received in funding over the past few years. He gave praise for the continued effort in pursuit of funding future projects and is looking forward to working with us. The Storm drawings are in review and after approval the bid process will begin.

Mayor Campbell asked about the visitor's center and what progress has been made. Bobby Fuller reported the drawings were almost complete and a booster pump station would need to be installed for water and sewer. The station would serve the visitor's center, 10-12 customers and the park restrooms. Ownership of the building is still in question and is being reviewed by Mayor Campbell and council. ORCA applied for and received most of the funding but may request the village apply for additional monies for the center.

The village was awarded \$600,000 from Congressman Troy Balderson for Waste Water Treatment Plant electrical upgrades. An additional \$150,000 is necessary for the project to be complete. Chris and DLZ will be finalizing funding and plans.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Campbell, "Thanks to all who have helped me get up to date on things. I am very grateful. I would like to empower council to drive for success. Everyone I have had conversations with are excited for the future of Chauncey."

He states email is still an issue in regards to storage. He purchased additional storage and will get receipts to the fiscal officer for reimbursement.

COUNCIL'S REPORT:

Connaught Cullen reported that she forwarded to the mayor information on grant money for leadership workshops and strategic planning if anyone is interested. She attended the ORCA meeting that day and says there have been some communication issues within the organization. The mayor stated he would attend the meetings in the future.

She also reported ORCA would like to pave sidewalk to the bike rental and possibly past the parking lot and Depot Trail for better accessibility. There is some confusion as to the actual plans. The mayor stated the village would like to use some park space for a dog park, sledding hill, splash pad and community garden. Many of the suggested areas would be in conflict with ORCA plans and need to be revisited. He suggests council look over the ORCA map for discussion at the next meeting.

Dylan Skees has completed the signatory paperwork at Hocking Valley Bank. He stated he is looking forward to working with everyone.

Joe Jenne, Jr said he is looking forward to this year also. He again stated he would like to see enough space set aside in the parking lot beside village hall for the fire department to work on a truck if necessary. He suggested at least 8 spaces or more. He expressed his opinion of prior council displacing a family and tearing down a home for the lot and wants to see it to be for good use. Connaught Cullen interjected her displeasure at this portrayal of what occurred and stated the owner of the property made the decision for the sale; nor did he inform the family in a timely manner and therefore was responsible for the family relocation. Joe acknowledged the low lines over the lot would need to be taken into consideration along with the sidewalks in designating a space for such a truck and also possibly extending the lot toward the fire department. It was pointed out that all would need to be in agreement over these changes.

Joe brought forth the need for a trailer to be able to haul village equipment and it would need to be large enough for the excavator. The mayor asked Chris Russell to get prices. Chris stated he would consult the fiscal officer before going further. He has used his own trailer and truck in the past to save the village money on equipment that would not be used frequently. Karla Dellinger revisited her request to have meetings sent out on the Ampstun notification system. She had Roxanna call the company to see if there would be an extra

charge and discovered this service was unlimited for village business. After council discussion it was decided Roxanna would send out notifications for meetings, both regular and committee, at the same time they are posted at village locations.

Karla asked Chris about a stop sign that needs to be replaced on the corner of May and Monroe streets. Chris had already ordered several and will replace it when they are delivered. He stated the last one was stolen. Karla requested that intersection to be made into a three-way stop. She also asked about the status of the stop sign and a stop strip at the end of Mill Street. These will be installed when the signs are in.

Amanda Moore had nothing to report.

Natasha Taylor expressed she is excited for the upcoming year.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Parks and Recreation: Amanda Moore (Chair), None

Finance and Personnel: Karla Dellinger (Chair), None

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

Planning and Development: Natasha Taylor (Chair), None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *No executive session was held*

RESIDENT COMMENTS:

John: I am the clerk of the Quakers and we are happy to have you meet here.

Selena: I own the Art Space. I have a sheet of events for you. These events are free. Our programs are generally held after village business hours and our attendees are happy to have space to park. We will be respectful of the fire department need for parking.

Barb: I would like an update on the kayak launch that was discussed at the last meeting. Connaught Cullens suggested Barb to contact Boone Troyer who proposed the launch in January. Mayor Campbell said he would like the launch to be more handicap accessible. Barb also would like to see a river walk and likes the idea of a community garden in the park.

Evelyn: I feel council had good solutions to the parking situation. I also encourage council to pursue the Nature Works grant opportunity that will be opening up for applicants.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date will be Thursday February 12, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the regular meeting location at 22 Birge Dr.

Motion to adjourn was made by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Natasha Taylor. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

RECORDED BY





Karla Dellinger, President of Council

Roxanna Chiki, Village Clerk