

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the
Village of Jerome Board

CALL TO ORDER: The President and the Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at the Jerome Civic Center, 2901 Leonard Street, Jerome, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by President Lopez, followed by Roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The following were present:
Mike Lopez, Village President
Katrina Christofilakos, Trustee of Public Property
Kathy DeHart, Trustee Public Health
Leigh Irons, Trustee of Public Safety
Ralph Irons, Trustee of Water Department
Dale Lael, Trustee of Building & Zoning
Phil Raftis, Trustee of Public Works

Also Present:
Jason Brokaw, Attorney, Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, PC
Lisa Cave, Village Clerk
Emily Snow, Village Treasurer
Steve Roth, Executive Assistant

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the January 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the January 2, 2025, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the January 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes as presented by:
Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS: President Lopez asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 25-17 dated January 16, 2025, totaling \$149,895.38. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount that \$14,612.89 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$97,899.46 will be paid from the 1% Fund and \$37,383.03 will be paid from the Water Account. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 25-17 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 25-17 totaling \$97,899.46 as presented
by: Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: President Lopez opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:38 pm.

Shawn Stillman, resident on Iles, stated he is seeing trailers parked on the roadways overnight. Trustee Leigh Irons stated she would ask the Police Department to investigate.

President Lopez closed the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:41 pm.

President Lopez stated he was approached by Security Bank, Jason Betz asking what they could do to help the Village. President Lopez and the Treasurer will meet with Jason and see if Security Bank offers a better rate than INB. Treasurer Snow was asked to review the expiration of the CDs currently at INB. Anything that would change would require Board action.

February 6, 2025, at 5:45 pm is the Public Hearing for the Jerome TIF District here at the Jerome Civic Center. President Lopez also stated that the Jerome website has had 5,000 views with 37 hits. The alerts are working to keep residents informed of any emergencies within the Village.

President Lopez also reminded Trustees to turn in any items they want for the Bulletin. Deadline is January 24, 2025. President Lopez would like to see the Bulletin out by the middle of February.

REPORTS:

Trustee DeHart stated she noticed the resident on Reed has a large dumpster, which means the area will be cleaned up. Jerome Methodist Church has scheduled their Easter Egg Hunt for April 13, 2025, on Palm Sunday.

Trustee Raftis stated the Public Works repaired 3 main breaks since the last meeting. Public Works recommended doing more of a lengthy repair on the main on Iles before the road work is completed.

Trustee Christofilakos had nothing to report.

Trustee Lael stated Mega Slots will be moving by Osaka. Trustee Lael asked about Maxamillions. Clerk Cave stated they have a sign on the door that the business is closed. They did not renew their liquor and gaming licenses. Trustee Lael commended Ruth, Village Secretary, for the great job with the contractor registrations. Trustee Lael stated he did not attend the January 9, 2025, SATs meeting.

Trustee Leigh Irons stated the Chief is investigating poles with solar flashing radar for Iles Ave.

Trustee Ralph Irons stated Trustee Raftis covered his report, and that Public Works did an excellent job repairing the many leaks in the Village.

Treasurer Snow had nothing to report.

Clerk Cave had nothing to report.

Attorney Brokaw had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: President Lopez stated that Trustee DeHart and Trustee Christofilakos have yet to meet with Attorney Brokaw to discuss the animal ordinance, the discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: President Lopez opened discussion of the January y26, 2025 Yoga event in the Jerome Civic Center. Trustee Lael stated that he saw it on Facebook and wanted more details. Trustee Christafilakos stated Courtney offered to run it in an attempt to identify more volunteers for the Village. Trustee Lael stated that any funds raised cannot be handled by residents. Trustee Christofilakos stated that Treasurer Snow has all fundraising monies. Trustee Lael stated he has nothing against having events but there are rules if the event is organized by the Village. Trustee Christafilakos stated she is trying to raise awareness and community involvement and will bring any ideas to the Board for approval.

Motion to Approve January 26, 2025, Yoga event in the Jerome Civic Center by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christafilakos
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez reminded the Trustees to Contact Treasurer Snow regarding the Initial Budget Meetings in February of 2025.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Trustee Leigh Irons to go into Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee or legal counsel of the public body (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1)); minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act for purposes of approval by the Body (5ILCS 120/2(c)(21); Trustee Ralph Irons seconded the motion.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:07 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:47 pm.

President Lopez opened discussion and approval of Public Works Compensation and asked that it be tabled until the next meeting.

President Lopez opened discussion and approval of the Posting for Public Works Position.

Motion to Approve a Posting for Public Works Position with a pay between \$19.00 to \$24.00 per hour Full time by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, President Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 7:50 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Cave, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: February 6, 2025

Village Clerk

Date