

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, March 6, 2025, at the Jerome Civic Center, 2901 Leonard Street, Jerome, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 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  
Dale Lael, Trustee of Building & Zoning  
Phil Raftis, Trustee of Public Works

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

Absent:  
Lisa Cave, Village Clerk  
Leigh Irons, Trustee of Public Safety  
Ralph Irons, Trustee of Water Department

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the February 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the February 20, 2025, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the February 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes as presented by:  
Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Lael

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; except Trustee Christofilakos voted present  
**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the February 6, 2025, Executive Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the February 6, 2025, executive minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the February 6, 2025, Executive Meeting Minutes as presented by: Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Lael  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; except Trustee Christofilakos voted present  
**MOTION PASSES.**

**APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS:** President Lopez asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 25-20 dated March 6, 2025, totaling \$33,606.45. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount that \$5,883.88 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$11,100.00 will be paid out of the 1% Fund and \$16,622.57 will be paid from the Water Account. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 25-20 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 25-20 totaling \$33,606.45 as presented  
by: Trustee Lael and 2nd by Trustee DeHart

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; including President Lopez

**MOTION PASSES.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** President Lopez opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Fran Williams on Reed stated that there are kids playing on the rocks in the playground.

Shawn Stillman on Iles asked when they were going to start back on Iles? Trustee Raftis stated we are on their schedule but no definite date. Heather has asked him to ask about allowing chickens in the Village.

Courtney Wick, running for a Trustee position, introduced herself and produced a proposal for a festival of trees for the Village, held over two weekends, with no costs to the Village but there are sponsorship forms for businesses. Courtney's goal is to hold events and fundraisers for the Village Library and other events for residents. Shawn Stillman stated he has a 20 ft projection screen for movies in the park. President Lopez is excited to get residents more involved. A list of possible dates for events will be discussed and approved at the next meeting.

President Lopez read a email the Village received on March 6, 2025 at 8:49 am as follows:

*Hello President Lopez and all board members. Just a quick question. With grocery prices as they are, what are our chances of an adjustment to our ordinances regarding chickens? I would like to propose that the village change the ordinance to allow 6 or fewer laying hens per household, no roosters, in an enclosed pen behind the residence of the owner. I doubt more than a half dozen villagers would participate, but it might produce enough eggs to save several surrounding neighbors some grocery costs. I am allergic to eggs but I feel like this could be a relief to some residents and chickens are pretty easy to maintain. My dad is a lifelong poultry hobbyist and would probably be happy to come do a little talk regarding care and feeding. Thanks for your consideration. Heather Piepenburg 1310 W Iles Ave, Springfield, IL 62704*

President Lopez closed the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:55 pm.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Trustee Raftis 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 DeHart seconded the motion.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:55 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:56 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS:** President Lopez stated that the Animal Ordinance is tabled until the next meeting.

President Lopez stated the discussion and approval of hiring Police Officers is tabled until the next meeting.

President Lopez stated that discussion and approval Jerome Library and Civic Center Events for 2025 is tabled until the next meeting.

President Lopez opened up discussion and approval of the Hiring of Office Assistant/Water Clerk.

Motion to Approve Hiring of Amy Dodd as Office Assistant/Water Clerk at \$20.00 per hour plus benefits no more than 30 hours per week by Trustee DeHart and 2nd by Trustee Lael  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez opened up discussion and approval of Public Works Compensation.

Motion to Approve Matt Turner salary increase to \$23.00 per hour retroactive to March 1, 2025 by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Lael  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** President Lopez opened discussion of the Purchase and Down Payment on a Kenworth T480 Dump Truck. A \$5,000.00 down payment is due and the remaining balance would be due at the time of pickup. Steve recommended taking \$125,000.00 out of the 1% fund and \$125,000.00 out of the reserve fund and purchasing it outright. Central Illinois Truck Center is the Vendor.

Motion to Approve the Purchase and Down Payment on a Kenworth T480 Dump Truck not to exceed \$255,000.00 by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez opened discussion of the Purchase of a 2025 Stihl Zero Turn Mower totaling \$12,299.00. Dave stated the Village mower has 2500 hours and it was leaking oil last year.

Motion to Approve the Purchase of a 2025 Stihl Zero Turn Mower by Trustee Christofilakos and 2nd by Trustee Lael  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez tabled the Hiring of Public Works Laborer until the next meeting.

President Lopez opened discussion and approval of Appointment of Interim Police Chief and Posting on Indeed for permanent Police Chief starting at \$74,000.00 depending on experience.

Motion to Approve the Dillon Branham as Interim Police Chief at a stipend of \$1,000.00 per month until a new Chief is hired effective March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and the posting of the Indeed ad for Police Chief by Trustee Lael and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; except Trustee Raftis voted present, President Lopez voted AYE  
**MOTION PASSES.**

**REPORTS:**

Trustee DeHart stated she has reached out to a tree company regarding the tree complaint, she has not heard back from Animal Control, she would like fire pits added to the agenda for the next meeting on permanent fire pit applications. Trustee DeHart also has other events that she would like to add to the event calendars.

Trustee Raftis had nothing to report.

Trustee Christofilakos had nothing to report.

Trustee Lael stated the Village needs to send a letter to Republic on fly dumping. They are using larger trucks that are not allowed on our streets, and they are dumping the garbage, and their trucks are missing throwing the garbage into the trucks and the garbage is blowing all over the streets. Trustee Lael has not heard anything about the Shop n Save property. There are more issues of residents parking in their yards. It makes the Village look terrible. Attorney Brokaw stated that he will look into strengthening the ordinance.

Trustee Leigh Irons was absent.

Trustee Ralph Irons was absent.

Treasurer Snow had nothing to report.

President Lopez stated Clerk Cave needs all items for the Bulletin sent to her as soon as possible.

Attorney Brokaw had nothing to report.

Trustee Christofilakos would like to get the approval Jerome Library and Civic Center Events for 2025 tonight so she can start advertising.

Motion to Approve the Jerome Library and Civic Center Events for 2025 by Trustee Christofilakos and 2nd by Trustee Lael  
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 7:58 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos.

**PREPARED BY:** Lisa Cave, Clerk

**DATE APPROVED:** March 20, 2025

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Village Clerk

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Date