

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 20, 2025, at the Jerome Civic Center, 2901 Leonard Street, Jerome, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by President Pro Tem DeHart, followed by Roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The following were present:
Mike Lopez, Village President (arrived 6:58 pm)
Kathy DeHart, Trustee Public Health
Leigh Irons, Trustee of Public Safety
Dale Lael, Trustee of Building & Zoning
Phil Raftis, Trustee of Public Works

Also Present:
Jason Brokaw, Attorney, Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, PC (arrived 6:50 pm)
Lisa Cave, Village Clerk
Emily Snow, Village Treasurer
Steve Roth, Executive Assistant

Absent:
Katrina Christofilakos, Trustee of Public Property
Ralph Irons, Trustee of Water Department

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: President Pro Tem DeHart asked whether the Board had reviewed the March 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Pro Tem DeHart asked the March 6, 2025, minutes would stand approved as presented.

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

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS: President Pro Tem DeHart asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 25-21 dated March 20, 2025, totaling \$35,537.91. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount that \$29,799.35 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$154.25 will be paid out of the 1% Fund and \$5,584.31 will be paid from the Water Account. President Pro Tem DeHart asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 25-21 as presented. Treasurer Snow stated there is a credit of \$16.88 to Wex which brings the total to \$35,521.03.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 25-21 totaling \$35,521.03 as presented by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Raftis
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: President Pro Tem DeHart opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:37 pm.

Shawn Stillman on Iles stated that the vicious dog signage is no longer on the fence. Trustee Leigh Irons asked if anyone has seen the dogs? Shawn stated he has not. Trustee DeHart stated she will look into it and report back. Shawn also stated that the vehicle located in the Hunan's parking lot should be towed. Trustee Leigh Irons stated that it is on commercial property and the owner of Hunan can call and have that vehicle towed. A notice needs placed on the vehicle stating they have 7 days to remove from the property. Shawn stated that there was some homeless by Barrell Head near the cooler and something is behind the dumpster, he continued that he has seen homeless by the vacant building near Antonios. Trustee Leigh Irons stated that the vacant building is City property.

Trustee DeHart stated that there some homeless by Hardees. Trustee DeHart made contact with the businesses of the strip mall on Wabash and asked them to clean up the debris that was behind the building.

Frank Lesko, Sangamon County Recorder, introduced himself and stated on the next ballot residents can elect to combine the Sangamon County Recorder and the Sangamon County Clerks offices. This will save the County up to \$250,000 per year, noone's job is in jeopardy and it is a way to downsize government. He asks for a yes vote on the next ballot.

President Pro Tem DeHart closed the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:49 pm.

REPORTS:

Trustee DeHart stated she has had a busy week. Trustee DeHart made contact with the businesses of the Wabash Square strip mall on Wabash and asked them to clean up the debris that was behind the building. Trustee DeHart stated that Wing Stop had a fire exit issue that was resolved. 1100 Iles has a rat problem and Trustee DeHart is working with the owner/resident to resolve. 3000 Park has rubbish in the rear of the apartments. Reminder Easter Egg Hunt is April 13, 2025 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, we are in need of candy and volunteers.

Trustee Raftis had nothing to report.

Trustee Christofilakos was absent.

Trustee Lael stated he is waiting on the attorney to get back with him.

Trustee Leigh Irons had nothing to report.

Trustee Ralph Irons was absent.

Treasurer Snow had nothing to report.

Clerk Cave stated the bulletin is done and has been sent for review.

Attorney Brokaw had nothing to report.

President Lopez stated that Senator Doris Turner has asked when the State would release the \$400,000.00 to the Village. President Lopez stated that the Public Works will stagger their shifts on April 1, 2025, Election Day to ensure there is someone onsite from beginning to the end of the Election hours.

NEW BUSINESS: President Pro Tem DeHart opened discussion and approval of Fire Pit Applications and Terms. Trustee DeHart asked to table this until the next meeting.

President Pro Tem DeHart opened up discussion of allowing Chickens in the Village. Trustee Lael stated it is not that easy, there needs to be a change in the zoning, the zoning board would need to convene, hold a public hearing, then the Board would vote. Attorney Brokaw stated that it is not something that can be done quickly, there are a lot of variables that would need to be considered, lot size, coops, fenced in area, how many one resident can have on their lot, how many permits would you allow, no commercial activity, then a schedule of inspections, it could be yearly, every 3 years, etc. The quickest turn around would be at least 90 days if we had all that in place. Trustee DeHart asked to table this until the next meeting.

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 Leigh Irons seconded the motion.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:13 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:02 pm.

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

President Lopez opened discussion and approval of hiring Police Officers.

Motion to Approve Hiring of Joe Kink and Mark Huston conditional offer for \$30.00 per hour, part time police officers upon background and satisfactory certification by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Lael
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez opened up discussion and approval of Hiring of Public Works Laborer.

Motion to Approve Stefan Wade and Gavin Price as Public Works Laborer pending background @ \$21.00 per hour by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee DeHart
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED: President Lopez opened discussion and approval of Appointment of Police Chief. President Lopez stated to table this until the next meeting.

President Lopez opened up discussion and approval of Ordinance 25-22 Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property Owned by the Village. President Lopez stated this is in reference to the zero-turn mower.

Motion to Approve Ordinance 25-22 Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property Owned by the Village by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez opened discussion and approval of the Emergency Water Main Break Repairs to Wabash/Fillmore Break. The Village has not received a bill from the City of Springfield.

Motion to Approve the Emergency Water Main Break Repair at Wabash/Fillmore by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez opened discussion and approval of the Emergency Water Main Break Repairs at 1730 Vernon.

Motion to Approve the Emergency Water Main Break Repair at 1730 Vernon by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez opened discussion and approval of the Emergency Street Repairs to Wabash/Fillmore due to the break by PH Broughton.

Motion to Approve the Emergency Street Repair at Wabash/Fillmore from PH Broughton by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez opened discussion and approval of Updating/Replacing Police Body and Vehicle Cameras. Trustee Leigh Irons stated that the body cameras and car cameras are outdated. The contract would be for 5 body cameras and 2 vehicle cameras totaling \$24,568.00. These would be an AXON brand by Fleet 3 with the capability to redact the camera footage. Costs per year is \$6,719.62.

Motion to Approve the Updating and Replacement of Police Body and Vehicle Cameras to Fleet 3 for a total of \$24,568.00 by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Lael
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez opened discussion and approval of the Purchase of Weatherproof Outdoor Benches for Park and Gazebo areas. President Lopez stated that they are \$379.00 each with \$50.00 shipping charges. Trustee Christofilakos would like to purchase 3.

Motion to Approve the Purchase of 3 Weatherproof Outdoor Benches for the Park and Gazebo areas at @\$379.00 each and \$50.00 shipping by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart
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 8:19 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Cave, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: April 3, 2025

Village Clerk

Date