

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, April 3, 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
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
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 Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the March 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the March 20, 2025, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the March 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes as presented by:
Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

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

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

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS: President Lopez asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 25-22 dated March 20, 2025, totaling \$35,073.37. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount that \$9,686.39 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$95.96 will be paid out of the 1% Fund and \$25,291.02 will be paid from the Water Account. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 25-22 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 25-22 totaling \$35,073.37 as presented
by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart
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.

Courtney Wick, newly elected Trustee addressed the Board introducing herself and stated she has lived in the Village most of her life. Courtney stated she works full time for the State of Illinois and is a writer for the Illinois Times.

President Lopez wanted to thank everyone for their support in the election and the decisions the Board makes are hard and this Board will continue to keep the Village informed, no drama and will continue to ensure financial stability. President Lopez stated the May 1, 2025, meeting we will be swearing in Trustees and himself and will have treats and drinks. President Lopez asked that the Board members dress accordingly as he would like a picture of the Board for the website. At the May 1, 2025, meeting, the Board will reappoint the Clerk, Treasurer and Executive Assistant.

President Lopez closed the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:42 pm.

REPORTS:

Trustee DeHart stated the tree in front of the library has been removed. Trustee DeHart has been inspecting fire pits and out of 6, 5 of them are permanent. Trustee DeHart is working on a schedule, inspection schedule, requirements and any other ideas to update the fire pit permits. Trustee DeHart asked if the Village can put on the website that the area in front of your property are the residents responsibility to ensure the drains are not plugged up, especially with gumballs. Residents need to clean the debris in front of their homes to make sure water can flow. Trustee DeHart is trying to locate the gentleman who cleaned all of Chatham Road of the debris to thank him for his dedication to the Village. Trustee DeHart has received some new complaints, the Bates Ave easement area, Attorney Brokaw stated he will meet with her to discuss. Trustee DeHart stated Mr. Patel cleaned up all the trash around the Marathon gas station. 2 dead trees on Iles and she is working on sight obstructions at intersections and will be sending out letters to residents soon. 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 stated residents need to keep their gutters cleaned in front of their property.

Trustee Christofilakos was absent.

Trustee Lael stated 1636 Jerome, the house has been demolished. The owner will need a zoning change for the property and he has instructed him to file his petition. There still needs to be a survey on the property before that happens. Trustee Lael met with Osaka owners to correct the fence on the west side

of the property, Trustee Lael stated they had to stop at the side of the building and are not allowed to go to the street with the height of the fence. Trustee Lael stated it is construction season so he expects to be busy.

Trustee Leigh Irons had nothing to report.

Trustee Ralph Irons was absent.

Treasurer Snow had nothing to report.

Clerk Cave stated the bulletin is out in residents mail and the next meeting will be the Public Hearing for the TIF on April 17, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

Attorney Brokaw stated there was some confusion on the replacement grocery tax and he is following up with the Illinois Department of Revenue.

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

President Lopez stated the discussion and approval of the Fire Pit Applications and Terms is tabled until the next meeting.

President Lopez opened discussion and approval of a date for an Informational Meeting Regarding Chickens. President Lopez stated the Board would not make any decision, but residents can voice their opinion and have a discussion regarding chickens.

Motion to Approve April 23, 2025 at 6:00 pm for the Informational Meeting Regarding Chickens by Trustee DeHart and 2nd by Trustee Raftis
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

NEW BUSINESS: President Lopez opened discussion and approval of the Removal of Maple Tree at 1614 Reed Ave by Jeremiah's Tree Service for \$950.00.

Motion to Approve the Removal of Maple Tree at 1614 Reed Ave by Jeremiah's Tree Service for \$950.00 by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

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 Raftis seconded the motion.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:00 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:24 pm.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED: President Lopez opened up discussion and approval of Hiring Summer Help for 12 weeks.

Motion to Approve Hiring Jayden Gerberding for 12 weeks as Summer Help at \$18.00 per hour by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

Discussion took place on a variety of items for the next fiscal year budget. President Lopez asked that Trustees review the spreadsheets that Treasurer Snow provided and if there are any questions or amendments, please have them to her before April 11, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, President Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 7:35 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Raftis.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Cave, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: April 17, 2025

Village Clerk

Date