

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the  
Village of Jerome Board

**CALL TO ORDER:** The President and the Board of Trustees held a special meeting on Monday, April 28, 2025, at the Jerome Civic Center, 2901 Leonard Street, Jerome, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 5:31 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  
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:  
Lisa Cave, Village Clerk

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

---

President Lopez started the meeting with a moment of silence on the tragedy which resulted in four fatalities reported at the YNOT program in Chatham Illinois.

**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 5:32 pm.  
The Board returned from Executive Session at 5:58 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS:** President Lopez opened discussion and approval of the hiring of Public Works Employee.

Motion to Approve the Hiring of Joshua Jackson as a full-time laborer at \$22.00 per hour pending background check and drug testing by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez opened up discussion and approval of Hourly Pay of Police Department.

Motion to Approve a Pay Increase for Dillon Branham to \$27.00 per hour effective May 1, 2025, with a stipend of \$1,000 per month as interim Chief until a permanent Chief is hired and Tajay Small increased to \$25.50 per hour effective May 1, 2025, by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Raftis  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez opened up discussion and approval of Hourly Pay of Dave Wilken.

Motion to Approve Hourly Rate of \$33.32 an hour with a stipend of \$1,500.00 monthly for the water operator effective May 1, 2025, by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; except Trustee Lael and DeHart voted NO  
**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez stated that Ruth has requested no raise at this time and she has stated she enjoys her job at the Village.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, President Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 6:02 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons.

**PREPARED BY:** Lisa Cave, Clerk

**DATE APPROVED:** May 1, 2025

---

Village Clerk

---

Date