

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, August 14, 2025, at the Jerome Civic Center, 2901 Leonard Street, Jerome, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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
Courtney Wick, 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 August 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the August 6, 2025, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the August 6, 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 26-08 dated August 14, 2025, totaling \$154,737.55. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount that \$58,996.38 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$68,604.86 will be paid out of the 1% Fund, and \$27,136.31 will be paid from the Water Account. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 26-08 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 26-08 totaling \$154,737.55 as presented
by: Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez wanted to thank a resident of the 1600 block of Homewood for their donations of vegetables for anyone that would like some. Ruth will be sending out thank you cards to residents that donate anything to the Village or their residents. President Lopez asked for a moment of silence for Craig

McFarland, whose brother is a Village resident Donald McFarland and directed staff to lower the flags at the Village complex to half-staff through the end of the month. President Lopez also has reached out to Jack at the county to have a study to be done for rehab on the bridge. President Lopez stated that he needs help, and he feels he is being a pain by asking other Trustees for help. President Lopez stated that emails have gone out have a tone and there needs to be more of a softness to the emails. President Lopez stated the next three meetings will be lengthy and to be prepared.

President Lopez reminded everyone that the Night Out to meet the Police Department is on August 27, 2025, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm. This is an opportunity to meet the Jerome Police Department 4 part time officers and 4 full time officers.

Stephanie from Benton & Associates stated Iles has been completed and next week there will be doing the coring of the asphalt. Stephanie stated the bid for Iles was for \$1,368,737.23 and the total costs for Iles Avenue came in at \$1,206,500.24.

OLD BUSINESS: President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Iles Avenue Improvements – Change Order #3.

Motion to Approve Iles Avenue Improvements – Change Order #3 as presented by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: President Lopez opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:56 pm.

A resident asked who owned 3030 ½ Chatham Road. President Lopez stated the Village owns the back of the lot and the plan is to demolish the home and use it for storage.

Shawn Stillman stated he is happy with the police presence on Iles.

A resident stated she is frustrated with the Air B n B that is next door to her, they are parking in her yard, it is all muddy, rocks and ruts. Why can't the Village ban them. Jason Brokaw, attorney, stated that the Village needs to hold a zoning board meeting in order to discuss Air B n B's.

A resident stated that there needs to be something done with the utility easements as there are areas that residents are not taking care of and have encroached onto her area behind her home. President Lopez stated he will reach out to John Harris with Public Health and see if they can address it.

Patricia Dille, resident on Iles, stated she has lived in the Village for 7 years and she is requesting the reposition of the 1st speed hump. When any vehicle or trailer goes over it, the speed hump makes a very loud noise and wakes up her son and the glass windows shake in her home. Patricia is requesting that the Village mitigate the noise. Dave Wilken stated there is nothing they can do besides remove it totally as with the amount of driveways that is the only place it can be to be within so many feet of a corner.

REPORTS:

Trustee DeHart stated she has been addressing complaints about properties throughout the Village on trash and overgrowth. Trustee DeHart and Trustee Lael met with Attorney Brokaw regarding the sizeable list of homes with issues and addressing the non-compliance. Trustee DeHart left a message with Franklin Middle School to address the overgrowth on fence line, she asked about lights, security cameras and with all the overgrowth she was told by other residents that someone was sleeping back in there. Shawn Stillman asked if the Village can install a stop sign at the corner of the apartments and President Lopez stated that it is private property and the Village cannot do that, but he will contact Jay Habersat and ask them if they could request they close the driveway, as it once was years ago.

Trustee Wick stated the new truck is in service, Dave will open the sealed bids tomorrow, spray patching will be starting next week, and she received 7 pages of trees that are interfering with stop signs and are problematic (hanging over the street)

Trustee Christofilakos stated inspections were completed on 3030 ½ Chatham Road and on September 16th Public Works will start demolition. Public Works will begin painting the Civic Center, working on the bath stalls and addressing the Civic Center floor this fall/winter.

Trustee Lael stated he met with Attorney Brokaw on the 8 houses with issues and the homes that are falling down that need to be demolished. Trustee Lael stated they still have cars parking in yards, and they need to be fined; some have expired stickers of over a year old. Trustee Lael stated he has found 10 homes that are Air B n Bs in the Village, there are no addresses, but they all have great pictures of the inside just don't know where they are in the Village. Trustee Lael stated there needs to be rules and they need to be taxed with inspections between each rental. The Village does not allow motels, and these homes should be rented for 30 days at a time and not nightly or weekly.

Trustee Leigh Irons stated they have received the new police vehicle and will be showing it next week. Trustee Leigh Irons wanted to thank the City of Springfield for allowing the use of the speed buggy. Trustee Leigh Irons will see about a school crossing sign for Iles Ave. Trustee Leigh Irons has arranged for the junk drop off to be the first Saturday of October and has arranged for Shepps to be present to pick up the metal.

Trustee Ralph Irons stated Dave will be gone from Sept 10 – 15, 2025. Public Works has inspected and reported all hydrants are working and there were 10 water services that were not transmitting correctly. Treasurer Snow had nothing to report.

Clerk Cave had nothing to report.

Attorney Brokaw had nothing to report at this time.

Steve Roth stated he has cleaned up the basement files and has about 65 boxes to shred. Steve has reached out for approval from the Secretary of State Index Department. Steve has arranged with Affordable Shred to come to the Village to shred the boxes and will turn it into a shred day on October 11 or October 18, 2025, with a limit of 3 boxes per resident. More information to follow.

NEW BUSINESS: President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of the Adjustment on the Water Account at 1333 Wabash. Trustee Ralph Irons stated there were 10 days that a leak was present, and the

office did not correspond with the resident. A plumber repaired the leak and Trustee Ralph Irons is asking for an adjustment to be made in the amount of \$1,435.92.

Motion to Approve an Adjustment on the Water Account at 1333 Wabash in the amount of \$1,435.92 as presented by: Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee Wick

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Phase 1: Approval of Change Order # 2 be tabled.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Proposal for Coring from Midwest Engineering Testing. The Coring will rate the quality of the compaction of asphalt of Iles Ave.

Motion to Approve Proposal for Coring from Midwest Engineering Testing as presented by: Trustee Wick and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of 3030 ½ Chatham Road Asbestos Inspection Bid. The bid for abatement of asbestos is \$2,800.00.

Motion to Approve 3030 ½ Chatham Road Asbestos Bid totaling \$2,800.00 as presented by: Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Extending Temporary Summer Help. President Lopez stated the Village originally hired Dominice Brown for 12 weeks and Dave would like to extend that for an additional 12 weeks beginning August 21, 2025.

Motion to Approve Extending Temporary Summer Help an additional 12 weeks beginning August 21, 2025, as presented by: Trustee Leigh Irons 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 8:19 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Lael and 2nd by Trustee Wick.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Cave, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: September 4, 2025

Village Clerk

Date