

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, November 6, 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
Kathy DeHart, Trustee Public Health
Leigh Irons, Trustee of Public Safety
Ralph Irons, Trustee of Water Department
Dale Lael, Trustee of Building & Zoning

Also Present:
Jason Brokaw, Attorney, Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, PC
Lisa Cave, Village Clerk
Emily Snow, Village Treasurer

Absent:
Katrina Christofilakos, Trustee of Public Property
Steve Roth, Executive Assistant

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED TRUSTEE: President Lopez administered the Oath of Office to Joe Cannella as an Appointed Trustee. President Lopez has asked Trustee Cannella to be a Co-Trustee over Public Works and Public Property.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the October 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the October 16, 2025, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the October 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes as presented by:
Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; Trustee Cannella voted present
MOTION PASSES.

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS: President Lopez asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 26-13 dated November 6, 2025, totaling \$37,578.34. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount of \$16,551.51 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$406.76 will be paid out of the 1% Fund, \$18,791.07 will be paid from the Water Account and \$1,829.00 paid out of the Motor Fuel Tax Fund. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 26-13 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 26-13 totaling \$37,578.34 as presented
by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Lael
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.

A resident asked if the Village would be addressing the cracks in the road? The temporary repairs that Public Works has done on Maple and Park are crumbling. President Lopez stated he was speaking with Dave earlier this week and he has made contact with a firm out of Jacksonville or Greenville on obtaining bids to resurface Vernon from Corbin going west. President Lopez stated he will speak with Dave and see what can be done on Maple and Park.

Trustee DeHart asked if the Village was going to do anything on the waste haulers that are exceeding the weight limits? Attorney Brokaw stated that the waste hauler permit applications used to have a letter addressing the weight limits but with the turnover he is unsure if that has continued the last few years. Trustee DeHart stated she would ask Ruth tomorrow.

Shawn Stillman stated that the waste haulers are all speeding through the Village and there are multiple residents that are running stop signs at Park and Iles. He witnessed them running the stop signs and turning into the driveways. Shawn also stated that he purchased a home on Leonard and the water meter is sunken into the yard, and he is asking if Public Works could raise it up so noone trips on it. Trustee Ralph Irons stated he would ask Public Works to add it to their list.

Trustee Lael stated that Republic has trucks that have the arm and drops the garbage at the top of the truck and if residents are not placing their trash in bags, the paper flies out and is all over the streets.

President Lopez asked Attorney Brokaw to send a letter of enforcements to the Waste Haulers to address the weight limits and the speeding in the Village.

President Lopez closed the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:51 pm.

President Lopez stated he received a call that Benchmark will be closing, and a used furniture store will be moving into that location by the name of Shabby Chic. President Lopez stated that the fall festival was a great success and he wanted to thank the Police Department for the Halloween event that was also a great success and that in January he hopes to have some dates for the next year for events.

REPORTS:

Trustee DeHart stated she has a few more firepit permits to approve by November 30, 2025 and that the Flu Clinic which was set up by Kayla Tomcheck, even with the short notice, served a total of 21 people, of which 3 were kids, 1 nonresident and the rest were seniors. Trustee DeHart is looking forward to set up another Flu Clinic next year with the help of Kayla Tomcheck. Trustee DeHart has received a few complaints on trash and debris that she will be checking on.

Trustee Christofilakos was absent but did tell President Lopez that they have started limb pickup and the Village foreman has started, and everything is going well.

Trustee Lael stated that the Sangamon County Hazardous Mitigation Task Force had a meeting yesterday via zoom and has asked for the homework to be completed by December 1, 2025. Trustee Lael stated that on October 21, 2025, there was a semi parked on the road at 23 Alberta Lane and Trustee Lael spoke to the owner and he was told by Air B n B that it was acceptable. Trustee Lael stated that a semi-truck is not allowed on Village streets. Attorney Brokaw stated that there are some legal fights and that he has an attorney in his firm reviewing permitted uses in R-1 and what steps the Village can take in the near future. Trustee Lael stated that a new business will be moving into 1502 Wabash named Ocean Breeze Wellness.

Trustee Leigh Irons wanted to thank Trustee Christofilakos for setting up the Halloween event. Trustee Leigh Irons stated it was a great event for the kids and thanked the Police Department for hosting the event.

Trustee Ralph Irons had nothing to report.

Treasurer Snow stated that she has sent an email to the audit firm to finalize the audit and to schedule a day to present the audit to the Board. Treasurer Snow also stated that the \$700,000.00 grant has been sent over to DCEO for processing.

Clerk Cave had nothing to report.

Attorney Brokaw had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: President Lopez asked for discussion of Ordinance 26-08 Approving the Tax Increment Redevelopment Plan and Project for the Jerome TIF. Attorney Brokaw stated that this ordinance has included the items that District 186 raised in the Joint Review Board meetings. President Lopez asked to table until the next meeting.

President Lopez asked for discussion of Ordinance 26-09 Designating the Jerome TIF. Attorney Brokaw stated that the ordinance describes the physical location of the TIF area. President Lopez asked to table until the next meeting.

President Lopez asked for discussion of Ordinance 26-10 Adopting Tax Increment Financing for the Jerome TIF. Attorney Brokaw stated that this ordinance describes the funding mechanism to finance the TIF. President Lopez asked to table until the next meeting.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Retaining a Community Liaison Consultant. President Lopez introduced Katrina (Kat) Grimes to the Board. Kat stated that she helped with the Fall

Festival, and she is interested in outreach programs like community blood drives, library events, and car seat safety checks. Kat stated she can reach out to local businesses and obtain donations for events for the Village. Kat stated so far; they have 10 businesses for the Festival of Trees. Trustee DeHart stated she would like the Board to be informed and approve any donation requests and that the person asking for donations has the right credentials. Kat stated she would put together a Press Kit and share it with the Attorney to ensure the language is approved and will tally her hours and will be splitting her time at the library and the time that she is there she would like to open the Library to the residents. President Lopez stated he would like to pay Kat \$275.00 per month as an independent contractor for 6 months and at that time the Board can revisit the agreement.

Motion to Approve Retaining Katrina Grimes as the Community Liaison Consultant at \$275.00 per month for 6 months as an Independent Contractor as presented by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

NEW BUSINESS: President Lopez asked for Attorney Brokaw to address the Estimated Property Tax Levy. Attorney Brokaw stated that the Village is able to restructure the Tax Levy for the next year and will present it to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Trustee Lael 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 7:30 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:47 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, President Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 8:47 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Cave, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: November 20, 2025

Village Clerk

Date