

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, December 4, 2025, at the Jerome Civic Center, 2901 Leonard Street, Jerome, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Pro Tem Cannella, followed by Roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** The following were present:  
Joe Cannella, Trustee of Public Works  
Katrina Christofilakos, Trustee of Public Property  
Kathy DeHart, Trustee Public Health arrived 6:37 pm  
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:  
Mike Lopez, Village President  
Steve Roth, Executive Assistant

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** President Pro Tem Cannella asked whether the Board had reviewed the November 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Pro Tem Cannella asked the November 20, 2025, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the November 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes as presented by:  
Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; except Trustee Christofilakos voted present  
**MOTION PASSES.**

**APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS:** President Pro Tem Cannella asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 26-15 dated December 4, 2025, totaling \$32,857.34. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount of \$27,457.75 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$367.37 will be paid out of the 1% Fund, and \$5,032.22 will be paid from the Water Account. President Pro Tem Cannella asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 26-15 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 26-15 totaling \$32,857.34 as presented  
by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

Stephanie with Benton Engineering reported to the Board that there are two items on the agenda for discussion and approval. Stephanie stated that Iles Avenue Improvements Change Order #3 (Final time extension only with no cost changes) and the Pay Estimate #5 is the final payment to PH Broughton which was 10% of the project. Stephanie recommended approving the Change Order #3 and Pay Estimate #5.

Motion to Approve the Iles Avenue Improvements Change Order #3 (Final time extension only with no cost changes) as presented

by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

Motion to Approve the Iles Avenue Improvements Pay Estimate #5 as presented by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

Trustee Lael asked Stephanie if the City of Springfield will be installing the street light they removed during the storm sewer repairs last year. Stephanie stated she had no lighting in her bid/project notes but that she would make a call and find out.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** President Pro Tem Cannella opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:38 pm.

Dan Williams, resident on Rita, stated that Santa was very pleased with all the elves from Franklin and the Festival of Trees was a great event.

Shawn Stillman, resident on Iles, thanked Dan for standing in for Santa at the Festival of Trees. Shawn also thanked Trustee Christofilakos and Treasurer Snow for the event. Shawn also wanted to thank Public Works for all their work plowing this weekend, and they did a great job. Trustee Cannella stated it was their first time plowing on their own.

Dorothy Keys, resident on Filmore, stated that she also wanted to thank Public Works for their efforts in snow removal and she is concerned about the fire hydrants not being accessible when the roads are plowed, they are barely visible. Trustee Ralph Irons stated he will talk to Public Works to see what they can do about that and the good news is they all are in working order.

President Pro Tem Cannella closed the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:43 pm.

**REPORTS:**

Trustee DeHart wanted to thank the volunteers at the Festival of Trees. Trustee DeHart reminded everyone there are no more fire pits until March of 2026. Trustee DeHart will be working on reviewing and presenting changes to ordinances under Public Health in the next few months.

Trustee Cannella stated he is proud of everyone in Public Works. Public Works did a great job for plowing the snow and when the Village had a water main break, he watched first hand a machine in motion when Public Works Foreman Hunter manned up and dove in to repair the leak. Trustee Cannella stated he did a great job.

Trustee Christofilakos stated the Festival of Trees was a success. All 10 trees were sold, Trustee Christofilakos does not have the final number yet but it was a positive event. Kat Grimes decorated the trees and did a great job. Trustee Christofilakos stated trees started out at \$35.00, some were buy it now for \$200.00 and one tree sold for \$500.00.

Trustee Lael thanked Trustee Christofilakos for sharing the pictures of the Festival of Trees on Facebook. Trustee Lael stated he could not attend but it was cool and should be huge next year. Trustee Lael stated he turned in the report to Sangamon County Hazard Mitigation Task Force and that the Barrell Head inventory is online with Aumann Auctions through December 17, 2025, everything inside must sell. Trustee Lael asked Attorney Brokaw about the Intergovernmental Agreement with the County, Clerk Cave stated she has not seen the signed copy back yet and Trustee Lael asked Attorney Brokaw about the Air B n Bs status as he has residents inquiring where the Village is at with it. Attorney Brokaw stated he will check with the attorney in his office and get back to him.

Trustee Leigh Irons had nothing to report.

Trustee Ralph Irons stated Public Works did a great job on the water main break. Public Works has tested each of the Village's fire hydrants and all of them are in working order. Trustee Ralph Irons stated he could not remember the exact number but the Village has more than 54 fire hydrants.

Treasurer Snow stated some of the grant money has begun to trickle in and that the Board will see that on reflected on the Revenue page.

Clerk Cave stated that the Liquor and Gaming Licenses are coming in.

Attorney Brokaw stated he will add the Property Tax Levy to the next agenda for approval.

**OLD BUSINESS:** President Pro Tem Cannella asked if there were any questions on Ordinance 26-08 Approving the Tax Increment Redevelopment Plan and Project for the Jerome TIF. President Pro Tem Cannella asked to table until the next meeting.

President Pro Tem Cannella asked if there were any questions on Ordinance 26-09 Designating the Jerome TIF. President Pro Tem Cannella asked to table until the next meeting.

President Pro Tem Cannella asked if there were any questions on Ordinance 26-10 Adopting Tax Increment Financing for the Jerome TIF. President Pro Tem Cannella asked to table until the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** President Pro Tem Cannella asked for discussion and approval of Changing Part-Time Seasonal Employee to Regular Part-Time Employee effective January 30, 2026. Clerk Cave reminded the Board that a Part Time Employee can not go over 1,000 hours or they would need to join IMRF.

Motion to Approve Changing Part-Time Seasonal Employee to Regular Part-Time Employee effective January 30, 2026 as presented by: Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos  
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 Christofilakos seconded the motion.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:12 pm.  
The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:55 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, President Pro Tem Cannella asked for a motion to close the meeting at 7:56 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos.

**PREPARED BY:** Lisa Cave, Clerk

**DATE APPROVED:** December 18, 2025

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Village Clerk

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Date