

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, January 8, 2026, 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
Joe Cannella, Trustee of Public Works
Katrina Christofilakos, Trustee of Public Property arrived 6:37 pm
Kathy DeHart, Trustee Public Health
Leigh Irons, Trustee of Public Safety
Dale Lael, Trustee of Building & Zoning

Also Present:
Emily Snow, Village Treasurer
Lisa Cave, Village Clerk

Absent:
Ralph Irons, Trustee of Water Department
Jason Brokaw, Attorney, Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, PC
Steve Roth, Executive Assistant

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the December 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the December 18, 2025, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the December 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes as presented by:
Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS: President Lopez asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 26-17 dated December 18, 2025, totaling \$35,071.74. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount of \$16,331.08 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$513.58 will be paid out of the 1% Fund, and \$18,227.08 will be paid from the Water Account. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 26-17 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 26-17 totaling \$35,071.74 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 6:33 pm.

Adam White addressed the Board regarding the November 2025 Sangamon County Mental Health Commission Report and explained Sangamon County does not have a County Mental Health Board and he is hopeful that in March the voters of Sangamon County would vote yes in creating Sangamon County Mental Health Board. Within the presentation Adam stated the Mental Health Board would be funded by sales tax, an extra half a cent, this tax does not apply to medication, vehicles, medical devices or groceries. They have anticipated the first year with this tax would generate 14.7 million dollars.

Sontae Massey and Kelly Hurst also presented that Mental Health has shortcomings within Sangamon County and that this would help to provide services that are needed by every family at one point in time or another.

Clerk Cave read a letter received on December 18, 2025 to the office *Dear Village President Lopez, I am writing to formally complain about repeated damage to my property caused by a Village of Jerome snow plow operator. This is the second consecutive year that the driver of a gray truck equipped with a snow plow blade has dug into my yard, resulting in significant tearing and ripping of the grass. My property is located in a cul-de-sac with curbing, providing a straight path for plowing operations. There was no accumulated snow pushed into the yard; the damage appears to have been caused directly by the blade cutting into the ground unnecessarily. This has left visible scars in the lawn that require repair and has been frustrating to deal with repeatedly. I kindly request that the Village investigate this matter, take steps to prevent future occurrences—such as providing additional training for operators or adjusting plowing procedures in cul-de-sacs—and consider reimbursing me for the cost of repairing the damaged areas. I can provide photos of the damage upon request and am available to discuss this further. Thank you for your attention to this issue. I look forward to your prompt response. Sincerely, Gale Scott.*

Clerk Cave stated no other public comments had been received. The portion of the meeting closed at 7:17 pm.

President Lopez thanked the Public Works and the Jerome Police Department for all they do. President Lopez stated he loves getting complaints that the Jerome Police Department is doing their jobs.

REPORTS:

Trustee DeHart stated the leaf bags had been taken care of since the last meeting and now we have new ones out without the stickers. Thanks to Public Works and Trustee Cannella for cleaning the ditch on Chatham Road. Trustee DeHart has made contact with the owner of the putt putt and has asked they clean up the property. Resident on Reed is trying to secure services for a dumpster.

Trustee Cannella stated the guys are doing great.

Trustee Christofilakos had nothing to report.

Trustee Lael stated he has seen lease signs on the Shop n Save building. Trustee Lael stated that Capital Teletrack is having an auction so if anyone needs a TV. Trustee Lael stated fence permits are up with the good weather we have had.

Trustee Leigh Irons just wanted to thank the Jerome Police Department for all their efforts, and they are doing good work. Chief Houston stated they are already on #58 on police reports as of January 8, 2026, which last year they didn't reach that number until summertime.

Trustee Ralph Irons was absent. Trustee Leigh Irons stated she did receive her water bill via text.

Treasurer Snow stated she will be scheduling budget meetings starting next month and asked Trustees to begin thinking of what is needed for the upcoming year.

Clerk Cave had nothing to report.

Attorney Brokaw was absent.

President Lopez stated that in regard to the budget, since the Village is fully staffed with Public Works that has increased our expenses and this next year could be challenging with wages, equipment expenses. President Lopez also wanted to thank the Board with all their help and support, and it all helps when we all work together.

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

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

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

NEW BUSINESS: President Lopez stated there was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, President Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 7:38 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Cave, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: January 22, 2026

Village Clerk

Date