

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 18, 2025, at the Jerome Civic Center, 2901 Leonard Street, Jerome, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 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
Kathy DeHart, Trustee Public Health arrived 6:40 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

Absent:
Emily Snow, Village Treasurer
Steve Roth, Executive Assistant

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the December 4, 2025, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the December 4, 2025, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the December 4, 2025, Meeting Minutes as presented by:
Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS: President Lopez asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 26-16 dated December 4, 2025, totaling \$186,486.48. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount of \$20,290.76 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$121,645.52 will be paid out of the 1% Fund, and \$44,550.20 will be paid from the Water Account. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 26-16 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 26-16 totaling \$186,486.48 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 6:40 pm.

Dan Duvall asked if the Village was going to have Bingo this year; his wife wants to attend. President Lopez asked Trustee Leigh Irons if she was interested in holding Bingo again this year. Trustee Christofilakos stated she would help out also. Trustee Leigh Irons stated she would see what she can get together and report back to the Board.

Clerk Cave stated no public comments had been received. The portion of the meeting closed at 6:42 pm.

Chief Houston stated that the officers are doing a great job and they helped a lot of motorists who were stuck or in a ditch during the last few snowfalls.

Trustee Lael wanted to thank Trustee Cannella for posting the highlights of public works on Facebook during the last few snowfalls. Trustee Lael stated that it showed great communication.

REPORTS:

Trustee DeHart stated she has received one complaint on W Grand Ct and she has spoken with the owner and the tenant had recently moved and he is working on cleaning it up and renting the property back out. Trustee DeHart stated there are quite a few leaf bags without stickers, and she is working on getting in touch with the residents to remove them. Trustee DeHart wanted to ask who calls for vehicles to be towed? Attorney Brokaw stated only the police department can call to have a vehicle towed, and the vehicle must be on the snow route. There are only a few streets that are snow emergency routes. Trustee DeHart stated she received a call from a resident asking her to call to have a vehicle towed, and she wanted to ensure it was something she could do. Attorney Brokaw stated NO, it is only the Jerome Police Department that can call to have a vehicle towed.

Trustee Cannella stated things are smoothing out in Public Works and that there is positive changes in the department. Trustee Cannella stated he will continue to post on Jerome Neighbors on Facebook.

Trustee Christofilakos had nothing to report.

Trustee Lael asked Attorney Brokaw if there was any progress on the Air B n Bs? Attorney Brokaw stated he has made some progress and will send over what the attorneys have come up with for review before presenting to the Board. Barrell Head had their auction this week, and Trustee Lael stated his hope is that another restaurant can move into it.

Trustee Leigh Irons just wanted to thank the Jerome Police Department for all their efforts.

Trustee Ralph Irons thanked Hunter and Public Works for a great job on the Jerome Street water break. They did an excellent job in frigid temperatures. Trustee Ralph Irons also wanted to state that the Public Works Department did a fantastic job on the snow removals in the last few weeks.

Treasurer Snow was absent.

Clerk Cave stated that the Liquor and Gaming Licenses are coming in and we have four more left to receive.

Attorney Brokaw stated he had nothing to report but that if anyone is interested in any honey, Shawn Stillman sells honey, and it is wonderful and very reasonable.

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 that the Overtime/Comp Time Calculations would be discussed in executive session.

President Lopez stated that the Personnel Actions with Respect to Public Works Employees would be discussed after executive session.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Ordinance 26-16 Levying and Assessing Taxes for the Village of Jerome, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2026, Attorney Brokaw stated that the total of the tax levy is \$28,903.00.

Motion to Approve Ordinance 26-16 Levying and Assessing Taxes for the Village of Jerome, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2026, as presented by: Trustee Lael and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons
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 7:02 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:51 pm.

President Lopez stated that Ruth would be out of town for the holidays starting on December 20, 2025, till the Monday after Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, President Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 7:54 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Cave, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: January 8, 2026

Village Clerk

Date