

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 22, 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:  
Jason Brokaw, Attorney, Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, PC  
Emily Snow, Village Treasurer  
Lisa Cave, Village Clerk

Absent:  
Ralph Irons, Trustee of Water Department  
Steve Roth, Executive Assistant

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the January 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the January 8, 2026, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the January 8, 2026, 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 26-18 dated January 8, 2026, totaling \$44,933.02. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount of \$11,832.94 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$203.36 will be paid out of the 1% Fund, and \$32,896.72 will be paid from the Water Account. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 26-18 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 26-18 totaling \$44,933.02 as presented by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez acknowledged that resident, Robert Gathard had passed away on January 10, 2026. Robert and his wife had been longtime residents of the Village dating back to 1957, Robert's wife had passed away a few years back, they were a great couple and will be missed. President Lopez asked for a moment of silence in remembrance.

President Lopez stated that the weather update is that it will be very intense, retail establishments have already announced they are closing early, please stay home and warm, it will be very dangerous to be out. Public Works will be adding sand and salt at intersections and hills to allow for stopping. The Police Department suggests checking on your neighbors during this weather event.

President Lopez stated he has heard some rumors that he will be resigning due to his family obligations, this is completely untrue. President Lopez stated he is not resigning period.

President Lopez also stated that there was an issue that was brought up where a Trustee was cleaning the library in the basement and there were coolers that were dirty etc. President Lopez asked the Trustee to take the coolers home and clean them and when discovered that the coolers were leaking and it was more to fix them instead of buying new coolers, President Lopez instructed the Trustee to throw them away. President Lopez stated this was all on him, there was no intent to dispose of property owned by the Village without it being surplus, they were leaking and no longer being used. President Lopez stated in the future, he will ensure transparency is followed and issued an apology.

President Lopez also addressed the Police Department that they are doing a great job backing up the City and County and they are earning a lot of respect from the law enforcement community.

President Lopez also stated that there will be a town hall for the Massey Commission who addressed the Board at the last meeting. The town hall will be in the Jerome Civic Center and will be held on the first Tuesday in February. President Lopez will be attending the Citizens Club meeting and will inform the Board after the event.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** President Lopez opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:42 pm.

Clerk Cave stated no public comments had been received. The portion of the meeting closed at 6:43 pm.

**REPORTS:**

Trustee DeHart stated 1500 Reed has a dumpster and has made a vast improvement. Trustee DeHart has received complaints of leaf bags without the stickers. Trustee DeHart will be investigating two houses with junk in the backyard, and business vehicles in residential districts. Trustee DeHart met with the Springfield Fire Department to share with them our complex and see if there were an avenue of onsite training for safety issues and compliance, they will be inspecting in the future. Trustee DeHart also spoke with Jeanne Keenan with Sangamon County regarding the Village's animal control ordinance and reviewing the fine structure.

Trustee Cannella stated that the guys have been painting, cleaning, organizing, and ordering supplies that are needed. Public Works received a total of 204 work orders and completed 176. Dave will be out from Feb 17-19 attending a water conference.

Trustee Christofilakos stated that the Civic Center is closed for a few weeks to allow Public Works to paint the bathrooms, strip and wax the Civic Center floors. Trustee Christofilakos is scheduling events for 2026 with the fall festival and festival of trees being planned and with comments on a Facebook post, most residents have shared they would like a spring and fall garage sale.

Trustee Lael stated he was informed that Yummi Yummi had closed. Trustee Lael is still wanting to review Air B n Bs. Trustee Lael stated this is not in Jerome, but the sports complex has announced a bowling alley, and local restaurants are being added and a rumor of a sports hall of fame. Trustee Lael stated that it is exciting. Trustee Lael stated fence permits are up, and he had a request for a four-foot chain link fence.

Trustee Leigh Irons stated residents should stay home this weekend. Trustee Leigh Irons also stated that there is an increase of car break ins and residents should lock their doors and not leave their keys in their vehicle.

Trustee Ralph Irons was absent; Trustee Leigh Irons stated he wanted to thank the Board for the card and that cross connection surveys will be online this year.

Treasurer Snow had nothing to report.

Clerk Cave had nothing to report.

Attorney Brokaw stated that the Village received the signed IGA from Sangamon County. Questions were raised regarding permit applications and Attorney Brokaw was able to share via email before the meeting finished that the permits are online at Sangamon County and we are to direct residents and contractors there to complete and submit. Attorney Brokaw also stated that there are qualified and non-qualified overtime that need to be calculated starting in 2025. Qualified overtime is over 40 hours actually worked. This is new and will need to be stated to KEB on whether the overtime is qualified or non-qualified overtime.

**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 asked for discussion and approval of the Purchase of a Backhoe. Following discussion, it was recommended to table this until Treasurer Snow reviews the appropriation and see if there are funds available to purchase the Backhoe during this fiscal year. Treasurer Snow will get back to the Board at the next meeting.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Jerome Building Gutter Repairs. Trustee Christofilakos stated the Police and Library are \$1,000.00, Civic Center is \$1,640.00 and they will be repairing sections of the facia and gutters and adding downspouts with the quote.

Motion to Approve the Jerome Building Gutter Repairs, as presented by:  
Trustee Lael and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez asked for discussion of Submission Date for Renovation Ideas from Board Members. Trustee Christofilakos provided the Board members with some ideas of improvements she had come up with and has asked the Trustees to respond by February 12, 2026. Trustee Christofilakos would like input from all the Board members so everyone can be on the same page.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of the Purchase of Copper Tubing, Check Valves, Couplers and Meter Pits for Repairing Water Services. Total costs are \$6,125.00 to Midwest Meter, they will deliver the materials. A list of materials was provided to all Board members.

Motion to Approve the Purchase of Copper Tubing, Check Valves, Couplers and Meter Pits for Repairing Water Services, as presented by:  
Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of a Zoning Hearing Officer. Attorney Brokaw asked that this be tabled to the next meeting, as he has not received confirmation of availability as of the time of the Board meeting.

Kat Grimes passed out some information on ideas for donations from the Village businesses and will be having set hours at the Library every Tuesday. Kat stated she has sent thank you cards to sponsors and has created a sponsor list that flyers will go out to at various times of the year. Kat has been working with Ethan to place volunteer sign-ups on the website and possibly starting a summer reading program. Kat has asked if anyone takes anything out of the library that they fill out the sign out sheet, so everyone knows who has what.

**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 7:25 pm.  
The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:15 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, President Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 8:16 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Cannella.

**PREPARED BY:** Lisa Cave, Clerk

**DATE APPROVED:** February 5, 2026

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Village Clerk

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Date