

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, February 5, 2026, at the Jerome Civic Center, 2901 Leonard Street, Jerome, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Pro tem Leigh Irons, followed by Roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** The following were present:  
Joe Cannella, Trustee of Public Works  
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  
Emily Snow, Village Treasurer  
Lisa Cave, Village Clerk

Absent:

Mike Lopez, Village President  
Katrina Christofilakos, Trustee of Public Property  
Emily Snow, Village Treasurer  
Steve Roth, Executive Assistant

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked whether the Board had reviewed the January 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked the January 22, 2026, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the January 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes as presented by:  
Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee Cannella  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked whether the Board had reviewed the November 6, 2025, Executive Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked the November 6, 2025, executive minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the November 6, 2025, Executive Meeting Minutes as presented by: Trustee DeHart and 2nd by Trustee Cannella  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked whether the Board had reviewed the November 18, 2025, Executive Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked the November 18, 2025, executive minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the November 18, 2025, Executive Meeting Minutes as presented by: Trustee DeHart and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked whether the Board had reviewed the December 4, 2025, Executive Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked the December 4, 2025, executive minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the December 4, 2025, Executive Meeting Minutes as presented by: Trustee Lael and 2nd by Trustee DeHart

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked whether the Board had reviewed the December 18, 2025, Executive Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked the December 18, 2025, executive minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the December 18, 2025, Executive Meeting Minutes as presented by: Trustee DeHart and 2nd by Trustee Lael

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

**APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS:** President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 26-19 dated February 5, 2026, totaling \$19,254.30. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount of \$16,344.69 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$111.61 will be paid out of the 1% Fund, and \$2,798.00 will be paid from the Water Account. President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 26-19 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 26-19 totaling \$19,254.30 as presented by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** President Pro tem Leigh Irons opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Dan Williams, resident on Reed, stated he wanted to thank the Village of Jerome for sponsoring the town hall meeting regarding the Mental Health Board that is up for a vote at the next election. Dan stated he felt it was well attended and had great participation. Dan was pleased that the Village made a decision to hold the town hall meeting here at the Civic Center to allow voters to come and ask the questions that voters would have before they would cast their vote at the next election.

Dan Devaul, resident, asked the Board if they would be repairing the damage to property that was caused by the snowplows. Dan stated there were several properties on his court that had damage. Trustee Leigh Irons stated that it would be spring before they could repair any damage. Trustee Cannella stated he is aware and will see that it gets taken care of when the weather breaks.

Clerk Cave stated no public comments had been received. The portion of the meeting closed at 6:44 pm.

**REPORTS:**

Trustee DeHart stated she is still addressing the leaf bags with no stickers, and she is going to reach out to the landlords as the residents has not responded to her. She has a complaint on Jerome and has spoken to Attorney Brokaw about the property and that it would be a good property to test out the agreement with Sangamon County. Trustee DeHart stated that 3 issues of furniture out in front of their property and have provided them with Habitat for Humanity contact information for disposal.

Trustee Cannella stated that the guys have been busy; the Police Department has been painted. There have been 2 water main breaks, one was repaired by Public Works, and we called CWLP for repairs of the 2<sup>nd</sup> break. Trustee Cannella stated that the Public Works guys are doing a great job.

Trustee Christofilakos was absent.

Trustee Lael stated there is a new restaurant by Sonic that offers a Mediterranean menu. Trustee Lael stated that the Village has a great variety of food businesses. Trustee Lael stated that he cannot find anything on the website and it should be more user-friendly. Trustee Cannella stated that he would just send an email or text to Ethan, and he can make any changes that are needed. Attorney Brokaw will come up with some language for the permits to be added to the website. Trustee Lael stated he also needs information on the daycares in Jerome. Attorney Brokaw stated he will pull it up and send it over to Trustee Lael.

Trustee Leigh Irons stated she had nothing to report. Chief Houston stated that life is good.

Trustee Ralph Irons stated that the Village has expanded communication with locis for the water bills and we will be able to enhance the billing and communication to the residents. They can accept online payments, and will be able to send an email/text on road closures, boil orders etc. The Water Department is working on getting it set up and ready for the residents to sign up to receive.

Treasurer Snow was absent.

Clerk Cave had nothing to report.

Attorney Brokaw had nothing to report.

President Pro tem Leigh Irons stated that the Village lost another resident Jim Corgan on Glenn St. Jim was a resident of Jerome since 2020 and was a proud homeowner. Jim was 96 years old. Please take a moment of silence to remember him and his family.

**OLD BUSINESS:** President Pro tem Leigh Irons 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 Leigh Irons asked to table until the next meeting.

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

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

President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked for discussion and approval of a Zoning Hearing Officer. Attorney Brokaw stated he has spoken with Tim Moore, City of Springfield, Chairman of Zoning that he would be interested in contracting with the Village of Jerome for \$250.00 per hour as the Jerome Zoning Hearing Officer.

Motion to Approve Tim Moore, Zoning Hearing Officer for \$250.00 per hour as presented by: Trustee Lael and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

President Pro tem Leigh Irons stated that the discussion and approval of the Purchase of a Backhoe would be after new business as we need to make the backhoe surplus prior to agreeing to trade the backhoe in for the new backhoe.

**NEW BUSINESS:** President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked for discussion and approval of the Ordinance 26-17 Increasing the Reconnection Fee to \$75.00. Trustee Ralph Irons stated the Village has not increased the costs of the reconnection fee in many years. Turning on and off water takes time and can cause issues within the water system that could cause additional charges.

Motion to Approve Ordinance 26-17 Increasing the Reconnection Fee to \$75.00., as presented by: Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

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 Pro tem Leigh Irons asked for discussion and approval of Quote from Matrix for Service Renewals. Trustee Cannella explained that the service renewals expired where we could not get onto the internet. There are 3 devices and each one is \$432 for one year or three year is \$1,231 for each device.

Motion to Approve the Quote from Matrix for Service Renewals not to exceed \$3,400.00 which is the three-year option, as presented by:

Trustee Cannella and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked for discussion and approval of Ordinance 26-18 Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Property Owned by the Village. Discussion took place on why the Village would dispose of the piano. Trustee Lael and DeHart stated that some people do use it occasionally, but it has not been tuned in years.

Motion to Remove the Piano from Ordinance 26-18 Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Property Owned by the Village, as presented by:  
Trustee Lael and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; except Trustee Leigh Irons voted present  
**MOTION PASSES.**

Motion to approve Ordinance 26-18 Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Property Owned by the Village specifically the backhoe, as amended by:  
Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee Lael  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked for discussion and approval of the Purchase of a Backhoe. Trustee Cannella stated he has spoken to Treasurer Snow and Steve Roth, and they have found the funding to purchase the Backhoe with a down payment of \$40,000.00, trading in the current backhoe that was deemed surplus for a total of \$193,815.95.

Motion to Approve the Purchase of a Backhoe with Option 3 of the Quote from Luby Equipment LLC, as presented by: Trustee Cannella and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

#### **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 Cannella seconded the motion.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:21 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:40 pm.

President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked for discussion and approval of the Final Action on Recommendation for Dismissal of Public Works Employee.

Motion to Approve the Recommendation and Proceed with Dismissal of Stefan Wade termination effective on February 5, 2026, as presented by: Trustee Cannella and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, President Pro tem Leigh Irons asked for a motion to close the meeting at 7:42 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Lael and 2nd by Trustee Cannella.

**PREPARED BY:** Lisa Cave, Clerk

**DATE APPROVED:** February 19, 2026

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Village Clerk

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Date