

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 19, 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
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:

Steve Roth, Executive Assistant

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the February 2, 2026, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the February 2, 2026, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the February 2, 2026, Meeting Minutes as presented by:
Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; except Trustee Christofilakos voted present

MOTION PASSES.

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS: President Lopez asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 26-20 dated February 19, 2026, totaling \$49,096.18. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount of \$6,942.22 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$171.07 will be paid out of the 1% Fund, and \$41,982.89 will be paid from the Water Account. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 26-20 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 26-20 totaling \$49,096.18 as presented
by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Lael
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez wanted to thank the Trustees and employees who reached out to him when he had a medical issue. President Lopez wanted to thank everyone for their prayers, the input tonight and coverage in previous meetings, he expressed his appreciation. President Lopez reached out to Niemann Foods and had no response. Scheels is using the Shop n Save building for employees building various items for the next 6 weeks. They appear to be outgrowing the area already. Legacy Point is charging \$15.00 per vehicle to park and \$15.00 per person. President Lopez also stated that the TIF district would need to have action one way or another in March, so he asked the Trustees to review the ordinances that were provided in November and be ready for action. The Police Department is doing a great job and all the departments are stable.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: President Lopez opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Dan Williams, resident on Rita, stated the new light on the PD is something to behold. It is very bright. Trustee Christofilakos stated she will talk to Public Works to ensure they did point it more towards the ground, so it is not intruding on their property.

Susan Langmore, resident on Filmore, asked what can be done about the black charger that is speeding through the Village. Susan also expressed concerns about the homeless encampment at Shop n Save along with the Dental Office. Susan asked what the Police Department is doing about the racing up and down Wabash. Trustee Leigh Irons stated that ISP has made several traffic details with stops along the stretch of roads and so has our officers, but that Wabash is not in Jerome's jurisdiction. Susan asked if the Village would do free leaf pickup. President Lopez stated that the revenue to provide this service is prohibited. Another resident stated it is \$2.00 a sticker to have the garbage hauler haul it away. Susan also asked if there were business registrations on the landscaping companies. Trustee Lael stated that we have contractor registration but not for landscaping.

Steve, resident on Filmore, stated that the fence by Hunan and Allied and the strip mall is littered with garbage. There is also people dumping behind the Bait Shop and Car Wash. President Lopez stated that he would contact Mike Horn who works for the City of Springfield as a zone manager and let him know of the issues. It was also mentioned by Attorney Brokaw that the City allows for complaints on properties to be submitted on their website.

Clerk Cave stated no public comments had been received. The portion of the meeting closed at 7:00 pm.

REPORTS:

Trustee DeHart stated she has been working on the fire pits either to have the season longer or not have permits for them. There are new smokeless firepits and many that have permanent firepits. Trustee DeHart is brainstorming for the July 4, 2026, parade with it being the 250th anniversary of the Independence Day. Trustee DeHart also stated she has left cards at residents that do not have stickers on the leaf bags; Trustee DeHart has been unable to catch them at home. Trustee DeHart is working on the homes with debris in their yards.

Trustee Cannella stated that the guys have been finishing up the civic center improvements and they have repaired 1 water leak. The crew is working very well together.

Trustee Christofilakos stated that due to the water break the Civic Center is delayed in being completed but should be done soon. Trustee Christofilakos met with Greg from Benton regarding grants that can be applied for the park, storage facility and possible restrooms for the park. Trustee DeHart stated she would like to be apart of the subcommittee deciding what improvements to apply for.

Trustee Lael stated a new business the Shabby Shack boutique has opened in the Village and is a neat little shop.

Trustee Leigh Irons stated one of the police vehicles struts are getting repaired. Trustee Leigh Irons reminded residents to lock their vehicles up.

Trustee Ralph Irons stated that Public Works has been out replacing the water pits and that the Village has had a great response on the letters that went out inviting residents to sign up for emails and texts for their water bills. Trustee Ralph Irons also stated it will allow the Village to notify residents of water leaks, street closures, or any emergency within the Village.

Treasurer Snow stated that the budget worksheets went out and that she has asked Trustees to have forward thinking of 3 – 5 years. Treasurer Snow will be reaching out in about 2 weeks to go over budgets with the Department heads.

Clerk Cave asked for any information the Trustees want in the Bulletin to get the information in before February 28, 2026. Clerk Cave stated that she has begun gathering information for the Spring Bulletin.

Attorney Brokaw had nothing to report.

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 stated that the ordinances regarding the TIF will need to have action in the month of March. President Lopez stated he has not heard anything from District 186. 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 Fire Hydrant Extensions.

Motion to Approve the Purchase of Fire Hydrants Extensions not to exceed \$2,800.00, as presented by: Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee Cannella
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Attendance to the US Infrastructure Conference. Trustee Christofilakos stated that Dave would like to attend the conference on June 3 – 4th , 2026. Trustee

Christofilakos stated that there are still some issues that the Village will need to work out and she asked to table this until the next meeting.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of the Hiring of Full Time Public Works Employee.

Motion to Approve the Hiring of Full Time Public Works Employee Dominice Brown effective March 2, 2026, at \$20.00 per hour, as presented by: Trustee Cannella and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of the Quote for Library Improvements. Trustee Christofilakos stated the bid is for the library by removing the wall near the front entrance of the library to open the building up. Dave asked Phil Raftis to look at the bids and his recommendation was to add a header of 10 ft long. Discussion took place with Trustee Lael stating he did not believe it needed a header as there is one there and asked if anyone did any environmental testing before we go and tear into something. Trustee Christofilakos would like to make some updates to the library to allow the Village to apply for other grant opportunities, and this is the first step.

Motion to Approve the Quote for Library Improvements not to exceed \$6,400.00 with Trustee Lael involved to ensure environmental testing is conducted prior to any work, 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 Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 7:46 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Cave, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: March 5, 2026

Village Clerk

Date