

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, March 5, 2026, at the Jerome Civic Center, 2901 Leonard Street, Jerome, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 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
Dale Lael, Trustee of Building & Zoning

Also Present:

Jason Brokaw, Attorney, Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, PC
Emily Snow, Village Treasurer
Lisa Cave, Village Clerk
Steve Roth, Executive Assistant

Absent:

Ralph Irons, Trustee of Water Department

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the February 19, 2026, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the February 19, 2026, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the February 19, 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 26-21 dated March 5, 2026, totaling \$48,731.28. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount of \$18,990.89 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$2,350.96 will be paid out of the 1% Fund, and \$27,389.43 will be paid from the Water Account. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 26-21 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 26-20 totaling \$49,096.18 as presented
by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Cannella

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: President Lopez opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:38 pm.

Clerk Cave stated no public comments had been received. The portion of the meeting closed at 6:39 pm.

President Lopez stated that he was reviewing the budget and we are over budget for this fiscal year with a few more months to go. President Lopez stated that some of the costs were creating the TIF that will be recouped if the TIF is approved. President Lopez asked the Trustees to keep this in mind when they are meeting with Emily for next fiscal year budget. President Lopez stated it is taking 18 days to mail something in Springfield. President Lopez stated Dave has submitted for a water infrastructure grant. Public Works have done a great job updating the civic center, and the Police Department continues to do great work. President Lopez stated that IDOT has stated they do not believe there is flooding around Iles Ave and there will be a meeting within 60-90 days and he would like support that the flooding is there and is an issue. Town and Country Mall has a new owner and they are anticipating placing 100's of storage units but there is an underground reservoir that is causing issues.

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.

President Lopez stated they would set a date next week.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of the Attendance to the US Infrastructure Conference. Trustee Christofilakos asked to discuss this after new business as the travel and per diem expense is listed under new business.

NEW BUSINESS: President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Ordinance 26-19 Related to Updating the Water Department Ordinance. Attorney Brokaw stated that some are state laws that need to be updated and the others are updating the costs to today's standards.

Motion to Approve Ordinance 26-19 Related to Updating the Water Department Ordinance, 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 Rental of a Street Sweeper in April of 2026 for one week. Dave stated that the street sweeper the Village has does not do a good enough job on several streets. Renting the equipment would allow Public Works to clear the streets within a week. Costs is \$4,500.00 for the week.

Motion to Approve Rental of a Street Sweeper for \$4,500.00 for one week in April 2026, as presented by: Trustee Cannella and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion on travel and per diem expenses. Attorney Brokaw provided Trustee Christofilakos on the Village's travel and per diem expenses. Attorney Brokaw stated that the Village follows the State's per diem and out of state travel. Trustee Christofilakos asked if an employee was going to Texas what would the costs be. Attorney Brokaw stated that the Village would pay for a commercial flight, standard and not for first class. There is a cap on the amount the Village would pay for the room and that cap is \$170.00 in Texas. Trustee Christofilakos stated what happens if the Village pays for an employee to go to a conference and spend for example \$2,500 and then they decide to leave can we ask that they pay it back? Attorney Brokaw stated that most Villages would pay for items prior to and that the employee would turn in receipts for reimbursements. Trustee Christofilakos stated she had checked all sites and that the costs for air fare for first class is over \$1,200.00, and she also stated she travels quite regularly and she has never flied first class. Discussion took place on the US Infrastructure Conference; Dave stated the room rate is \$225.00 per night. Trustee Cannella asked if Dave would pay the difference between \$170.00 and \$225.00. Dave stated no he would not as the knowledge he would be bringing back was worth more than that. Dave continued that he was invited to the conference for free and all he had to do was pay for the airfare and hotel. Trustee Christofilakos stated that government employees are all free if they signed up for the conference by the end of March to be clear, anyone could go. Following discussion, Dave rescinded his request to go to the conference.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Agreement(s) for Grant Application Services related to the Village Civic Center Complex and Community Center. Trustee Christofilakos stated this is for the OSLAD grant that Benton & Associates would submit on behalf of the Village. Costs for the grant application is \$7,000.00 and if the Village does not get selected, they will apply again the next year for free.

Motion to Approve Agreement(s) for Grant Application Services related to the Village Civic Center Complex and Community Center, as presented by: Trustee Cannella and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

REPORTS:

Trustee DeHart stated she has made contact with the Wabash Square tenants regarding the debris that is behind the building. There is also trash on lles towards Macarthur and with the rains it is flooding due to the leaves, gumballs and overgrowth. The Church has agreed to help stuff the easter eggs, and the Bike Rodeo will be the same day as the spring garage sales and vendor market. Trustee DeHart has reached out to the Springfield Bike Club for assistance.

Trustee Cannella stated that Dom started full time and the guys are tired of waxing floors.

Trustee Christofilakos stated that the testing for asbestos was negative at the library. Trustee Lael asked if the cold air return can be added to the wall and not the floor. Trustee Christofilakos and Trustee Cannella stated that they would ask the contractor when they met with him to proceed.

Trustee Lael stated a new business at 1502 Wabash, the former bagel shop is now the Ocean Breeze Wellness & Primary Care.

Trustee Leigh Irons stated she had nothing and asked the Chief if he would like to share anything. Chief Houston stated that the new Chief of Leland Grove is Kevin Oliver, and they have a good relationship. The department is very busy, and they have been receiving a lot of FOIAs.

Trustee Ralph Irons was absent. Dave stated he completed the grant application and submitted it. Dave also stated that any water main break repairs that the Public Works has completed this year, they will come out and level and seed the area as weather permits.

Treasurer Snow was absent.

Clerk Cave had nothing to report.

Attorney Brokaw stated he will be forwarding to Trustee Lael the Air B n B ordinance and has been responding to the yard clean up issues.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, President Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 7:58 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Cave, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: March 19, 2026

Village Clerk

Date