

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, May 21, 2026, at the Jerome Civic Center, 2901 Leonard Street, Jerome, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 6:43 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  
Kathy DeHart, Trustee Public Health (arrived at 7:00 pm)  
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:  
Katrina Christofilakos, Trustee of Public Property  
Ralph Irons, Trustee of Water Department

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

Motion to approve the May 2, 2026, Meeting Minutes as presented by:  
Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Lael  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; including President Lopez

**MOTION PASSES.**

**APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS:** President Lopez asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 27-02 dated May 21, 2026, totaling \$60,588.51. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount of \$30,423.52 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$29,326.41 will be paid from the Water Account and \$838.58 will be paid out of the 1% Fund. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 27-02 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 27-02 totaling \$60,588.51 as presented  
by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Cannella  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; including President Lopez

**MOTION PASSES.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** President Lopez opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:45 pm. President Lopez state each member would receive 5 minutes to address the Board.

Clerk Cave stated no public comments had been received.

The portion of the meeting closed at 6:46 pm.

**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, Ordinance 26-09 Designating the Jerome TIF, Ordinance 26-10 Adopting Tax Increment Financing for the Jerome TIF. President Lopez stated there is no action tonight and Attorney Brokaw, Adam and himself had a productive meeting with the members of the School Board last Thursday and we expect to hear from them shortly.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Ordinance 27-03 an Ordinance Amending Section 600.1-9 Related to Water Rate Increases. Attorney Brokaw stated that Benton Engineering is needing more information for a reasonable rate before moving forward. This item was tabled.

**NEW BUSINESS:** President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Summer Employee Hourly Rate of \$20.00 per hour for 13 weeks.

Motion to Approve Summer Employee Hourly Rate of \$20.00 per hour for 13 weeks for Jayden Gerberding, as presented by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Cannella

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; President Lopez

**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of the Purchase of a Mower. Discussion took place on purchasing a mower and a trailer that would haul the roller along with the lawn equipment. President Lopez asked to table the item until the next agenda.

#### **REPORTS:**

Trustee DeHart stated that 22 fire pit applications have been completed. Trustee DeHart stated that she has received more complaints on a property on Homewood. Trustee DeHart and Attorney Brokaw have a plan going forward to address the issues. Trustee DeHart asked about the E-bikes that are riding throughout the Village at night in groups and Attorney Brokaw stated there is no regulation at this time but that there is a bill that is being considered in the legislature. Trustee DeHart also stated that she has been working on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is looking for a drum band.

Trustee Cannella stated that the weather is not cooperating but Public Works has added hot patch to the water repairs, cleaning up the parking lot between the building and Police Department and will be cleaning it up and sealing and stripping the lot. Keyless entry pads are now installed on the building, the backhoe is in and should be delivered next week and Trustee Cannella has received bids on the decals for the trucks.

Trustee Christofilakos was absent.

Trustee Lael stated that he is waiting for the three new restaurants to open up in the Village.

Trustee Leigh Irons reminded everyone to lock your cars and doors as we are approaching summer and if they see anything out of the ordinary to call the non emergency number 217-753-6666.

Trustee Ralph Irons was absent.

Treasurer Snow stated that the auditors will be in the office June 22-24, 2026. Treasurer Snow also stated that the Gaming Board took out their prior period adjustment this month.

Clerk Cave stated that she met with IML yesterday and there are new OSHA requirements for the Village and there are 7 trainings they offer, 3 in person and 4 virtual.

Attorney Brokaw had nothing to report.

**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 Lael seconded the motion.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:22 pm.  
The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:20 pm.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Pay Increases for the Village Employees.

Motion to Approve a 3% increase for Village Employees except for the Police Chief and Part time Officers, as presented by: Trustee Cannella and 2nd by Trustee DeHart  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Assignment of Interim Public Works Director.

Motion to Approve Hunter Sikes as Interim Public Works Director with an interim salary of \$30.00 per hour effective May 25, 2026, as presented by: Trustee Cannella and 2nd by Trustee Leigh 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 8:23 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Cannella and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons.

**PREPARED BY:** Lisa Cave, Clerk

**DATE APPROVED:** June 4, 2026

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Village Clerk

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Date