

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, June 4, 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
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
Steve Roth, Executive Assistant

Absent:

Lisa Cave, Village Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the May 21, 2026, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the May 21, 2026, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the May 21, 2026, Meeting Minutes as presented by:
Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; except Trustee Christofilakos and Trustee
Ralph Irons voted present

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the April 2, 2026, Executive Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the April 2, 2026, executive meeting minutes would stand approved as presented.

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

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the April 16, 2026, Executive Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the April 16, 2026, executive meeting minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the April 16, 2026, Executive Meeting Minutes as presented
by: Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the April 28, 2026, Executive Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the April 28, 2026, executive meeting minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the April 28, 2026, Executive Meeting Minutes as presented
by: Trustee DeHart and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS: President Lopez asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 27-03 dated June 4, 2026, totaling \$32,590.37. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount of \$13,310.04 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$16,018.41 will be paid from the Water Account and \$861.92 will be paid out of the 1% Fund and out of the Cannabis Fund \$2,400.00. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 27-03 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 27-03 totaling \$32,590.37 as presented
by: Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee Cannella
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; including President Lopez
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez commended Trustee Christofilakos for having her ducks in a row and setting up a meeting with Senator Doris Turner. Trustee Christofilakos announced she met with President Lopez and Senator Turner and after meeting the Village will be receiving \$75,000.00 for updates to the park including infrastructure and ADA compliance, along with appropriating the funds last year the Village did not receive, totaling \$1,129,000.00. The funding will allow lles to be milled and overlaid. President Lopez would like the next road addressed to be Vernon Ave. President Lopez reported he and 7 other communities went to the SATS meeting and asked them to rewrite the bylaws as the way they are written smaller communities can't compete to receive any funds. The Chamber of Commerce has agreed to promote our events and have expressed how wonderful it is that the Village is doing the Vendor Market, Festival of Trees and parade along with the others. Congratulations to our Police Department, they are doing a great job. Our police are actively patrolling at night, and President Lopez will be doing a ride along with the police and obtain a list of streetlights that are out that the City has not replaced. The 4th of July parade is filling up. Next meeting will be on the 18th, and we will begin discussing the TIF district. President Lopez is asking IDOT to do a traffic study for Park and Leonard Streets.

Trustee Joe Cannella is working on a scope for lles with Benton regarding the drainage issues. It was noted that MacArthur will be lowered by 6 inches. The runoff is coming from the apartments. This is not something we can do today, but at least we are working to address the issue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: President Lopez opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 7:08 pm. President Lopez states each member would receive 5 minutes to address the Board.

President Lopez read a statement from a resident that stated they have been dealing with speeding on Maple. *Can the Village install speed bumps or even close the road completely to restrict traffic. President Lopez sent back an email to the resident. I currently live near the intersection of Maple/Lincoln Ave. Could the village please do something about the amount of speeders traveling on Maple? Daily there are several vehicles I estimate are driving in excess of 35mph. I believe they are either inconsiderate residents or people using Maple/Park as a cut through to avoid the Wabash/MacArthur intersection. Some ideas I had was either speed bumps or additional stop signs along Maple to make it less convenient to use it as a pass through or more difficult to speed. I would suggest stop signs as speed bumps can cause unnecessary wear to vehicle suspension and more of a hassle for resident. As a more extreme measure I've also liked the idea of closing the road to thru traffic similar to what Leland Grove did many years back. If this email becomes a matter of public record I would request my name be omitted. Thank you,*

Dave Duvall asked, "is there a way we can ask for a grant for extra police for the accidents and speeding around the stoplights?" Chief Houston stated that the Village would not qualify for a grant due to manpower and census.

Shawn Stillman wanted to state his appreciation to the Board on what they are doing for the future of Jerome and that the police department is doing a great job. Shawn stated it is nice seeing new businesses opening in Jerome. Shawn thanked the Board.

Katrina Grimes, Village Liaison, stated there are 15 vendors inside with a musician Mike Metz and his Fairweather friends, opening the Village Library with special readings. Katrina stated that the volunteer forms are going well on the website. 4th of July invitations has went out and Katrina has visited over 75 businesses in and around Jerome. Katrina stated that the 4th of July parade and the 250th celebration are two different events. The 250th celebration will be on July 8th, 2026, in the Jerome Civic Center. Katrina wanted to be clear that she had no idea she had to submit to the Trustees for approval or that it would cause such turmoil within the Board. Katrina passed out a report to the Board after receiving a text message from a Board member. President Lopez asked for forgiveness that he had asked Katrina to arrange the events. Apologies to the Board if they are not happy.

The portion of the meeting closed at 7:08 pm.

REPORTS:

Trustee DeHart stated she wanted to apologize for the lateness she is still catching up. 25 fire pit applications have been completed. Trustee DeHart thanked Katrina Grimes for meeting with her and all the effort to hold Village events. Trustee DeHart has enlisted many entries into the 4th of July parade.

Trustee Cannella stated that the new backhoe will arrive next week, including the jackhammer attachment. Public Works repaired the hole over by Shop n Save and working on the parking lot behind the civic center. They are working great together.

Trustee Christofilakos stated the library will be open June 13th, and is volunteered based; it will only be opened when volunteers can be there. Trustee Christofilakos wanted to apologize for removing some of the books, we had donated several boxes to the rotary club and sold many totaling \$160.00 that was turned into the office. All codes are being finalized and will be distributed next week.

Trustee Lael stated that two businesses have opened and the Barrelhead has an online auction on June 10, 2026, and there was not much left. Trustee Lael stated June 20th starts the Great Race in downtown Springfield heading to California. Trustee Lael has asked for a business list; he has had one in the past. Discussion took place on the confidentiality of the list, and only 4 people in the Village has access to that. Steve stated that he can get the list from the IL Department of Revenue.

Trustee Leigh Irons asked Chief Houston if he would like to report anything. Chief Houston stated the police department is helping Leland Grove, Springfield and Sangamon County. Residents may see us everywhere, law enforcement helps each other out. If you need the police you need to call dispatch 217-753-6666 and they will send an officer out do not call the police department as there is no staff there. Trustee Leigh Irons stated please lock your cars. Chief Houston stated unfortunately the Village has had 3 vehicles stolen and two have had keys that were left in their cars.

Trustee Ralph Irons stated Hunter is doing an awesome job working with Benton making sure the water is tested and reported.

Treasurer Snow stated she will not be at the June 18th meeting. Auditors will be in the office June 22-24, 2026. Treasurer Snow also stated she opened a Civic Center Events bank account for event donations and has created line items for each event. Any questions please reach out to her directly. All donations prior to today has gone into the general revenue fund that is reported monthly to the board.

Clerk Cave was absent.

Attorney Brokaw stated public donations could be tax deductible as long as you do not create an invoice. Some businesses may want a receipt of the donation, and if they do, please reach out to Attorney Brokaw for more information. Katrina Grimes stated that she has made a dummy receipt that she has given back to various businesses on Village letterhead along with the Village W9.

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.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Ordinance 27-03 an Ordinance Amending Section 600.1-9 Related to Water Rate Increases. President Lopez stated that this is also tabled to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Resolution 02-27 Approving and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for the Local

Government Health Plan for FY 2027. Attorney Brokaw stated that this is a yearly agreement to provide health insurance to our employees the same as the state of Illinois employees receive.

Motion to Approve Resolution 02-27 Approving and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for the Local Government Health Plan for FY 2027, as presented by: Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked to table item C the Agreement for Water Cooler Rental and Service for Village Complex to allow the Board to review the material.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of the Signage for Public Works Trucks. Trustee Cannella stated he received a quote of \$350.00 for the signage, two on each truck; other bids were around \$850.00.

Motion to Approve Signage for Public Works Truck, as presented by:
Trustee Ralph Irons and 2nd by Trustee DeHart
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED: President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of the Purchase of a Mower contingent on Southern View purchasing our mower. The new mower will fit in all our areas.

Motion to Approve the Purchase of a Mower Contingent on the Village of Southern View purchasing our mower for \$9,000.00, as presented by:
Trustee Cannella and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Fence and Sliding Gate at 3030 ½ Chatham Road (Village Property). Trustee Christofilakos received a quote from Amco to allow the Village to store items at that property instead of around the Civic Center. Unfortunately, the salt could not be there as the salt comes in on a semi and those trucks can not pull in there. Attorney Brokaw stated that the Village would need to ask for a variance for the height of the fence at 8 feet and adding barb wire to the top. Trustee Lael stated he does not agree to higher than 6 feet and barb wire, he wouldn't want that behind his house. Trustee Lael also asked for 3 bids and stated the Village does not need to be spending money on this. Discussion took place on reducing the fence height to 6 feet adding slats or mesh and the need for storage for the Village items, like culverts, hydrants, water equipment etc. President Lopez asked that Public Works create a list of what materials would stay and what needs surplus.

Motion to Approve a 6 feet Fence with Sliding Gate with no barbwire at 3030 ½ Chatham Road not to exceed \$11,000.00, as presented by:
Trustee Christofilakos and 2nd by Trustee Cannella
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; except Trustee Lael voted NO
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Resolution 03-27 Approving and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Agreement for Community Liaison Services for the Village. Attorney Brokaw stated it is a new fiscal year, and a new agreement is needed. President Lopez stated he brought Katrina Grimes into this position and has been a valuable asset to the Village. President Lopez would like to give her \$500 a month. Trustee Ralph Irons stated he can't believe the turnout of the events, and she is doing an awesome job. Trustee Christofilakos stated she is going to speak for Katrina Grimes as she is emotional regarding this, Katrina will not be renewing her agreement with the Village she feels she is being used as a pawn between Trustee Christofilakos and Trustee DeHart. Trustee DeHart has no longer gone to Trustee Christofilakos and she goes straight to Katrina. Katrina and Trustee Christofilakos have been accused of misappropriating funds, FOIA, and have felt harassed and put in the middle. Katrina will be staying through the 4th of July.

Trustee Christofilakos stated Katrina Grimes is resigning and there is no need to discuss the Resolution tonight. Katrina stated that the dynamic between Kathy, Dale and Katrina Christofilakos has been turmoil over anything she tries to do. Katrina stated she has not been able to do one thing without being questioned. Trustee Leigh Irons stated as a board member she apologizes to Katrina that this is unacceptable, no one should be talked to that way and she has been nothing but an asset. Trustee Ralph Irons stated she has been great for the Village, and he doesn't want her to leave. Trustee Christofilakos stated that she will be stepping away and not be involved in the Civic Events. Trustee Christofilakos stated she has a good business and a career at the State and she has tried to make events self-sufficient and everything she has tried to do, someone is question why and how they are doing it. Trustee Christofilakos stated we have never hid anything. Trustee Lael stated he hasn't questioned Katrina Grimes. Trustee Christofilakos stated no, you have questioned me Trustee Lael. Trustee Christofilakos stated that in the last three months we were asked to hold off on reports. President Lopez stated he will take responsibility and apologized to Katrina Grimes and if you reconsider, please let him know. President Lopez also stated that the Village Board needs to work on their relationships moving forward. Trustee DeHart stated she did not accuse Katrina of any wrongdoing. Katrina Grimes stated she would read the text message out loud. President Lopez asked to stop discussing at this moment as emotions are high and if Katrina Grimes reconsiders, please reach out.

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 Ralph Irons seconded the motion.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:27 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:07 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, President Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 9:07 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Cave, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: June 18, 2026

Village Clerk

Date