

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 18, 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
Dale Lael, Trustee of Building & Zoning

Also Present:
Jason Brokaw, Attorney, Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, PC
Lisa Cave, Village Clerk
Steve Roth, Executive Assistant

Absent:
Ralph Irons, Trustee of Water Department
Emily Snow, Village Treasurer

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the June 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the June 4, 2026, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the June 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes as presented by:
Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS: President Lopez asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 27-04 dated June 18, 2026, totaling \$89,269.76. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount of \$19,629.29 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$41,204.49 will be paid out of the 1% Fund and \$28,435.98 will be paid from the Water Account. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 27-04 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 27-04 totaling \$89,269.76 as presented
by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Cannella
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez received an email from Kat Grimes regarding the Vendor Market that was held on June 14, 2026. The Vendor Market was a great success. The vendors were pleased with the outcome, and it turned out to be a nice day for music, food, and shopping. President Lopez stated that Katrina Grimes had received unprofessional treatment from the Board and it should never have happened. President Lopez wanted to thank the Police and the Public Works staff for the lengthy hours and help clearing the roads due to the storms last week. Officer Small was able to rescue residents on Filmore when they were trapped inside their home after a tree had fallen blocking their door. The employees did a fabulous job. President Lopez stated the rumor is that the Barrelhead has sold at auction. All About Wine is interested in leasing the Henrys Appliance space for their overfill events, showers etc. as they want to invest in Jerome.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: President Lopez opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:33 pm. President Lopez states each member would receive 5 minutes to address the Board.

Clerk Cave received no public comments.

Dan Williams, resident on Reed read from a paper that he wanted to share in the minutes. Dan stated: *My name is Dan Williams, we have lived on Reed Ave for twenty six years. We love this place and think there is no where better to live. We have seen steadily progress. Especially since the addition of Kristina Christofilakos to the board. Her initiative and eagerness to make positive changes to help the life of our community have been impressive to say the least. Her ability to persevere through unfamiliar bureaucratic territories nothing short of heroic. Another amazing addition has been "The other Kristina (Ms Grimes)" has only multiplied the benefit. Together they are an amazing powerhouse for the good of our village. Recently through, we have seen undue obstacles placed on their efforts. From my limited vantage point, it seems like this may be due to a misunderstanding of terminology. I reference a scene from one of my favorite movies, "The Princess Bride". In this scene the character Vizinni keeps using the term "inconceivable" after many times another character, Inigo turns to him and says, "you keep using that word, but I don't think it means what you think it means." I have noticed an analogous situation during several board meetings. The word in this case is transparency. Now this is a perfectly good word and has a perfectly good application, but it also has limitations. I understand that there is a need for what most people understand to be transparency in the transaction of village business, but there seems to be a misunderstanding as to the extent of this term. I have noticed in the initiation and approval of various projects this term has been used effectively. by that I mean that the specifics of the use of requested funds are fully understood by those in a position to approve those funds. I fully agree that full transparency is absolutely essential before the use of public funds is allowed. Now once a project has been approved and funded then the person whose project is moving forward should be given the ability to administer those funds as needed for the proper completion of the project. Now, if the person conducting the project comes back and says they need more money this is another time for transparency and a full understanding of what happened causing this additional need. But, as long as the project is conducted and completed as prescribed there is all the transparency that is needed. Once a project has been approved unless there's some problem there is no further need for transparency. The time for transparency is before the project is approved and the funds are approved after the project, and funds are allocated there is no further need for transparency. It appears. Though that this has not been the case always and additional pressures have been exerted upon those who have been charged with doing the project. Now in its part of transparency in the approval of a project, there are all kinds of requirements that can be placed upon those conducting and doing the project you can request periodic reports weekly reports in the project, or you can request daily reports if you want to whatever but that's part of the transparency which occurs before the approval of the project. Once the project has been approved and funded then you've got what you've got. You at that point have to trust your judgement that the project was worthwhile to be funded. Once the funds have been authorized, then there's no further need for transparency now as a board you certainly have the right to set up all kinds of cost controls, you can set up a committee for cost control. You can set up all kinds of oversights to assure that funds and public monies are being well spent. But that should all end once the process of approval and funding has been completed. The people doing the project should be*

allowed to do their work. It seems to me, though that this is where the definition of transparency begins to go astray. Now there is all there are all kinds of transparency and all kinds of degrees and you can go all the way down to answer the age old questions boxers or briefs or bikinis or thongs, but I don't think there are many people that want to go that far and I don't and I'm afraid you might see some things that you cant unsee if you go that far even some things you regret seeing. What I am trying to say is that it seems to me there's been a misunderstanding of the meaning of transparency. When one goes too far it is called something else and there another word for it, its called meddling. The point I'm trying to make is that in the future there need to be some kind of understanding or regulation about projects and their completion without interference. In conclusion, I love what has been going on in this village and the progress that's being made, especially in the library and in some of the events that we've been able to put on that have been a benefit for the people of the village and the people the entire Springfield area and I hate to see this kind of progress be limited or stopped when its done such good for the people of the village of Jerome. I thank you for allowing me to speak to you about this important topic.

Penny Cannella, resident asked the about where the animal ordinance for dogs was supposed to be updated after the dog attack 2 years ago. Trustee DeHart stated that she is still finalizing the ordinance with Sangamon County and will be sending it to the attorney to be presented to the Board for approval. Penny stated that it has been quite a long time to finalize like it did with the civic center rental agreement.

The portion of the meeting closed at 6:45 pm.

REPORTS:

Trustee DeHart stated she applied for the temporary food service for the 4th of July parade today and has completed 27 fire pit permits.

Trustee Cannella asked for Trustee DeHart's resignation due to opening the Village to liability. Trustee DeHart stated she will be staying until the end of her term. Trustee Cannella stated he feels that Katrina Grimes treatment was inexcusable and Trustee DeHart put her in an awful position as she is a wonderful person. Trustee Cannella stated that Trustee DeHart cannot harass someone constantly and bully them. Trustee Cannella stated that the Baptist Group has helped the Village on Welch and other areas, David Fuchs recommended them and they will be back to help with the cleanup. Public Works will be working with the Village of Southern View to share equipment from time to time which will save funds for both villages. The new backhoe has been delivered, and Hunters' decision making is above and beyond.

Trustee Christofilakos stated Public Works will be purchasing the mower on Monday as the Village of Jerome received the payment for the mower sold to the Village of Southern View. The library will open on Monday.

Trustee Lael had nothing to report.

Trustee Leigh Irons reminded residents to lock your vehicles, campers, boats and homes. Do not leave your keys in your vehicles. Chief Houston wanted to thank his officers for coming in early and staying late during the storms and that they stepped up and worked some long hours. Chief Houston stated it is nice

that the Village of Jerome Police Department is working together with the City of Springfield, Leland Grove, and Southern View.

Trustee Ralph Irons was absent. President Lopez stated he hopes Trustee Ralph Irons feels better soon.

Treasurer Snow was absent.

Clerk Cave had nothing to report.

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, 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.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Agreement for Water Cooler Rental and Service for the Village Complex. Discussion took place on the prices of Culligan and Puritan Springs.

Motion to Approve Agreement for Puritan Springs Water Cooler for the Village Complex, one in the Police Department, Public Works and the Office
as presented by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

NEW BUSINESS: President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Ordinance 27-06 An Employment Agreement for the Chief of Police. Attorney Brokaw stated that the agreement is the same as before except it added a 3% raise and 3 personal days and will take effect on July 1, 2026.

Motion to Approve Ordinance 27-06 An Employment Agreement for the Chief Of Police, as presented by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Cannella
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of a Pay Adjustment for Michael Rhone. Trustee Cannella stated that Michael has proved himself the last year and works very well with Hunter and Dom. Trustee Cannella would like his hourly rate to increase to \$27.00 per hour effective June 22, 2026.

Motion to Approve Pay Adjustment in Hourly Rate for Michael Rhone to \$27.00 per hour effective June 22, 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 and approval of a One-Time Stipend for Village Employees. Trustee Cannella stated that the Public Works Department, Hunter and Michael jumped in and has figured things out since March of 2026. Trustee Cannella stated he trusts both of them and would like to give each of them a one-time stipend in the amount of \$1,200.00 the next pay period. Clerk Cave reminded the Board that any compensation that is given to the employees IMRF will be taken out.

Motion to a One-Time Stipend to Hunter and Michael in Public Works in the amount of \$1,200.00 payable at the next pay period, as presented by: Trustee Cannella and 2nd by Trustee Lael
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Enforcement of Neighbors Next to the Park parking lot. Trustee Christofilakos stated that it has continued to get worse, first was one or two cars, now it is 6 cars, and during the event this weekend they tried to place a 30 ft camper into the parking lot. Trustee Christofilakos stated that she has looked into purchasing signs stating no overnight parking and possible vehicles will be towed. Attorney Brokaw stated it would be good for the Village to send them letters stating they cannot park there overnight. Trustee Christofilakos stated it is also the trash that they leave around their vehicles.

Motion to Approve the Purchase of No overnight parking signs and No Parking signs, as presented by: Trustee Christofilakos and 2nd by Trustee Cannella
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Weather and Village Alerts on the Website. Trustee Christofilakos stated she has reached out to Ethan who does the Village website and he can place Civic Signal on the website to alert residents of road closures, water main breaks, events etc. This subscription would be \$300.00 per year, and residents would need to sign up for it as it is a 3rd party service, and they would need to agree to the terms and conditions. The Village can select authorized users, less is more, to allow them to send out a notice if Ethan is not available, and it would be automatically sent to residents' phones that sign up.

Motion to Approve Civic Signal for \$300.00 per year to allow for weather and village alerts via text message, as presented by: Trustee Christofilakos and 2nd by Trustee Cannella
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Trustee Coordinators for Village Events. President Lopez stated with the absence of Katrina, he would like to appoint Trustee Christofilakos and Trustee Cannella to coordinate the remaining events for 2026 and beyond. Trustee Christofilakos stated that there will be clear parameters and they would work together to ensure successful events. Trustee Christofilakos also stated that Treasurer Snow will receive all income and donations coming in and will

provide the Board quarterly reports of income and expenses. Treasurer Snow has created line items for revenues and expenses and has opened its own checking account. Trustee Christofilakos wants to finish what Kat started.

Motion to Approve Trustee Christofilakos and Trustee Cannella as Coordinators for Village Events, as presented by: Trustee Christofilakos and 2nd by Trustee Cannella
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Resolution 04-27 Approving and Authorizing Execution and Delivery of Contract with Lincoln Institute for Education, Inc. Related to Lincoln Appearance for Celebrating America Event.

Motion to Approve Resolution 04-27 Approving and Authorizing Execution and Delivery of Contract with Lincoln Institute for Education, Inc. Related to Lincoln Appearance for Celebrating America Event as presented by: Trustee DeHart and 2nd by Trustee Lael
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; except Trustee Leigh Irons voted NO, Trustee Cannella and Trustee Christofilakos voted present
MOTION FAILED.

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 Christofilakos seconded the motion.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:49 pm.
The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:12 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, President Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 8:13 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Cannella and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Cave, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: July 2, 2026

Village Clerk

Date