

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
Ralph Irons, Trustee of Water Department
Dale Lael, Trustee of Building & Zoning

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the June 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the June 18, 2026, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the June 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes as presented by:
Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; except Trustee Ralph Irons voted present
MOTION PASSES.

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

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

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

Motion to approve the June 4, 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.

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS: President Lopez asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 27-05 dated July 2, 2026, totaling \$32,519.24. Treasurer Snow stated the breakdown of the amount of \$11,431.81 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$1,046.60 will be paid out of the 1% Fund, \$2,020.11 will be paid from the Cannabis Fund and \$18,020.72 will be paid from the Water Account. President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 27-05 as presented.

Motion to Approve the Warrant List 27-05 totaling \$32,519.24 as presented
by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez introduced Cameron Hayes with Benton & Associates. Cameron discussed the proposed water rate increase. Benton & Associates had examined the rate increases the Village has received from the City of Springfield, and their recommendation is a 5% increase each year that would allow a 1–2-month buffer. Trustee Ralph Irons stated that the Village did not pass the costs of the meters to the residents and now some of those are needing batteries replaced; costs can be over \$152,000.00.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: President Lopez opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 7:01 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, stated the Village looks very nice for the parade, and he hopes that the Village continues to move forward and keep Jerome the premium place to live.

The portion of the meeting closed at 7:03 pm.

President Lopez stated that the 4th of July parade will go on rain or shine, starting setup at 7:30 am, they have 30 units confirmed, 18 cars, 10 trucks and possibly 5 more units. Hyvee donated 240 hot dogs, water and hopefully residents will show up and support. Touch a truck will be from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm and will be on Leonard. President Lopez wanted to thank the Trustees for their help along with Kat Grimes in helping make this parade such a success. President Lopez stated he also purchased 240 water bottles to be served with the hot dogs and chips.

REPORTS:

Trustee DeHart stated she will forward a complaint on Iles to Attorney Brokaw to discuss the next steps, and she will be meeting with Trustee Lael and follow up on the list they have been working on. Trustee DeHart stated that there are some yards that have tall grass that she will attempt to make contact before the 4th of July parade since it is on the parade route. Trustee DeHart reminded the Board about the reading of the Declaration of Independence happening on July 8, 2026.

Trustee Cannella reminded residents with the heat coming there will be no branch pickup but will resume. More piles of branches are showing up after they have already picked up that street. Public Works has been doing a great job!

Trustee Christofilakos had nothing to report.

Trustee Lael stated he is looking for more restaurants.

Trustee Leigh Irons thanked the Police Department that have been out and about even with scheduling conflicts. Reports of a solicitor came in today of the solicitor in the area and Chief Houston is trying to make contact with the solicitor for them to obtain a permit in the Village.

Trustee Ralph Irons thanked Hunter and his team with the cleanup. They are doing an outstanding job. Public Works will be flushing the hydrants and next week they will conduct the lead testing.

Treasurer Snow apologized for the miscommunication on the Audit dates.

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 the ordinance will be amended with the 5% increase each January to allow for a buffer as discussed earlier when Cameron Hayes with Benton & Associates explained the rates to the Board during the Visitor section.

Motion to Approve Ordinance 27-03 an Ordinance Amending Section 600.1-9
Related to Water Rate Increases as modified by: Trustee Ralph 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 Additional \$2,000.00 for privacy slats for fence at 3030 ½ Chatham Road. Trustee Christofilakos stated that the privacy slats were not in the original bid that was approved, and the total for the vendor to place them in the fence would cost \$900.00. After discussion, the Board agreed to Hunter Green as the color of the slats. Trustee Lael stated that someone needs to confirm the easement on the South side and that there is a utility easement on the West of the Lot. Trustee Christofilakos also stated that the salt bin is deteriorating and eroding behind the Police Department due to leaks in the roof and Public Works will be cleaning the area up.

Motion to Approve \$900.00 for privacy slats in hunter green to be placed by the Vendor for the Fence at 3030 ½ Chatham Road, as presented by: Trustee Christofilakos and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; except Trustee Lael voted NO

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Closing Park & Library Parking Lot for the Public Event July 2 – July 4th, 2026. The Village will be using the area to stage for the 4th of July parade.

Motion to Approve Closing Park & Library Parking Lot for the Public Event July 2 – July 4th, 2026, for staging as presented by: Trustee Christofilakos and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Ordinance with Fines for Consistent Parking and Overnight Parking at the Park and Library. Trustee Christofilakos stated that she would like to impose fines for anyone violating the overnight parking at the Park and Library. Attorney Brokaw stated he will have to check on if that is an option as it would require administrative hearing at the Circuit Clerk on how to proceed if it would be a violation of an Ordinance or does the Village want to tow vehicles. Attorney Brokaw asked if the signs were up, which Trustee Christofilakos stated they were. Attorney Brokaw stated that she could ask the Police Department to ask the vehicles to be moved or towed. Trustee Christofilakos stated she would ask Chief Houston to proceed asking them to move or be towed.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Paving and Striping the Park/Library Parking Lot. Trustee Christofilakos stated using state funds, she would like for Benton & Associates to obtain bids from contractors for a gradual slope towards the front so there is no standing water by creating site plans, storm drain inlet and allow for an ADA compliant parking lot.

Motion to approve Pursuing Bids for Paving and Striping of the Park/Library Parking Lot, as presented by: Trustee Christofilakos and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Ordinance 27-07 Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property of the Village of Jerome, Illinois (Police Toyota Truck). Attorney Brokaw stated that

Trustee Leigh Irons would like to place the Toyota Truck as surplus to sell and eventually purchase a newer SUV for the Police Department.

Motion to Approve Ordinance 27-07 Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property of the Village of Jerome, Illinois (Police Toyota Truck), as presented by: Trustee Cannella and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Purchasing a Police Vehicle. Trustee Leigh Irons would like approval of purchasing a SUV police vehicle with payment due next year in the amount off \$15,985.31. Total costs are \$65,807.00 with a 5 (five) year lease to own.

Motion to Approve the Purchase of a Police Vehicle for \$65,807.00 with the first payment due next fiscal year in the amount of \$15,985.31, as presented by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Authorized Contacts for the Civic Signal Alert System. President Lopez stated there needs to be clear authorized contact to send alerts on weather related information and Road Work, Water Breaks, etc.

Supervisor

Motion to Approve President Lopez to be authorized to send weather related information and Trustee Cannella Public Works Trustee, Public Works

and the Jerome Police Chief would be the only authorized contacts for the Civic Signal Alert System, as presented by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

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 8:06 pm.
The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:26 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, President Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 8:27 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Christofilakos

PREPARED BY: Lisa Cave, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: July 16, 2026

Village Clerk

Date