

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – MAY 12, 2025**

Mayor Joanne Dodaro called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

A roll call was taken with the following officials present: Alan Robbins, Tamitha Sorgi, Leslie Burns, Barb Hunter, Ken Demeter, Lowell (Bud) Hardesty, Allan Michelson – Solicitor, Jim Brandenburg – Zoning Inspector, Matt Sorgi – Assistant Zoning Inspector, Gary Harris – Fiscal Officer; visitors Kelly Schmetzer, Greg Stanislawski, Tom Melter, Alison & Andy Weimer, Howard Wolff, Pam Williams, Mark Reuter, Joseph Jones, Lisa Krosse, Deputy Harhay and Assistant Fire Chief Holzman

Mayor Dodaro thanked everyone who voted “yes” on State Issue 2 that allows funding for statewide infrastructure work to continue including Chippewa Lake’s OPWC Grant funding for future projects.

Mayor Dodaro asked if everyone read and agreed with the April Regular Meeting Minutes and asked if there were any corrections, questions or comments – Tamitha stated one correction is needed under Community Relations, item 1, replace Michelle with Richelle

**Bud made the motion to accept the revised April Regular Minutes, and it was seconded by Barb.
Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays.**

Mayor Dodaro asked if everyone read the May Bill’s for Approval and asked if there were any other changes, questions or comments – Gary confirmed one addition for \$31.99 for a revised total of \$13,997.58

Alan made a motion to approve the revised May Bill’s for payment in the amount of \$13,997.58 seconded by Leslie. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

Council Reports:

Safety

Alan Reporting:

1. read the Sheriff’s Monthly Reports, they worked 74 hours in April versus 80 hours scheduled – read the Activity Report identifying the 86 Total Activities for the month of April – reported that Deputy Harhay will be retiring in 11 months and discussions are underway concerning employing Deputy Harhay through the Sheriff’s Office once he retires – Alan reported that theft of catalytic converters is on the rise and if anyone sees suspicious activity around vehicles to call the Sheriff’s Office and report it
2. Assistant Fire Chief Holzman reported that of the 82 calls in April, 11 of the calls were for Chippewa Lake and 71% of all calls were for EMS – reported that the April average turn-out time was 1 minute and 49 seconds, travel time is 5 minutes and 21 seconds – thanked all those who attended the Pancake Breakfast this year that had the highest turnouts with 600 on each of two weekends and one weekend at 500+ - reported that hydrant testing will be delayed as a Water Tower is being refurbished and he will alert the Village as to when the testing will take place
3. Alan reported that the siren did continue to activate during the test that happens on the first Saturday of each month and Alan had reports from the other side of the lake that heard the

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siren – Mark stated that he heard another community's siren before ours went off – Alan will look into this

Zoning

Leslie reporting:

1. Jim read the Zoning Report for May mostly regarding tree removal and costs totaling \$7,000 – Bud confirmed that the work will be done this week
2. Leslie reported that she will be generating a list of zoning issues around the Village and giving them to Jim – she also reported dumping of grass clippings around the pond – Barb said she will check the cameras – Bud suggested posting “no dumping signs” and he will look into where to obtain such signs
3. Allan stated that there is a bill in the State Senate pertaining to short-term property rentals that will prevent a community from not allowing these types of rentals but allowing regulating these types of rental properties – Leslie reported one issue with such a property owned by an LLC, Allan stated that we can charge an LLC with violations and fine them

Community Relations

Tamitha reporting:

1. confirmed that the Newsletter is at the printers and should be distributed within the next week
2. reported that the next kid's event will be Arts & Crafts at Point Park on June 7th

Buildings and Utilities

Barb reporting:

1. confirmed that the Christmas lights have been removed from the Community Center
2. reported that Voting went well although the County contacted Bud even though she listed herself as the point of contact – thanked Bud for moving the tables back once the voting equipment was removed
3. confirmed that Gary is ordering the new Carriage Lights for the Community Center
4. confirmed that the new electric meter and power have been restored to the pole at the Pond for use in cleaning-up the Pond – thanked Al for his assistance on this project – Ken confirmed the receipt of materials from The Pond Guy and plans on installing the system with the assistance of an electrician

Parks

Ken reporting:

1. confirmed that the Beach will open on May 24th for the weekend and no Beach Passes will be required to gain access to the beach for this one weekend
2. confirmed hiring 10 Beach Attendants and the meeting with the new attendants will be Thursday, May 22nd at 5:00 p.m. after which they will proceed to the beach for the annual clean-up
3. thanked Keith for repairing the 5 bent brackets on Bungalow Bay
4. thanked Howard, John and Eric for their assistance for the installation of the Kayak Launch
5. confirmed that he spoke with the Park District about the chemicals to be used for cleaning-up the Pond and they have no issue with the chemicals to be used
6. the new locks and keys for the Boat Ramp are on back-order and he hopes to have them over the next few weeks

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7. Mark reported that mowing is not being done on Briarwood – Ken offered to text Jim about this and Bud said that he will do so since he is responsible for signing off on all mowing – Mark said that he mowed it once but he will not continue doing this
8. announced that the Applications for Permits and Passes are on the website and also at the Post Office and a public sales event will be taking place on May 17th from 2-4 p.m.
9. Pam asked about adding mulch along the walkway leading to the Beach – Bud stated that he is in discussions with Tom and that they are waiting on warmer weather – if others see areas needing similar attention (adding mulch) to let him know but he is also keeping an eye on the expense for doing so
10. Ken mentioned the need for sand for the Beach – Tamitha suggested contacting Frank Brothers south of Lodi on SR 83 as a possible source

Streets

Bud reporting:

1. confirmed that the large tree by the Tennis Court will be taken down and as soon as it comes down, road work will begin soon thereafter

Legal

Allan reporting:

1. confirmed that he has 5 cases, one involving a Disorderly Conduct where the plaintiff plead guilty and was fined \$1,377 of which \$1,025 has been paid, two cases for Disorderly Conduct involving a driveway dispute and each was fined \$252 and two cases on Zoning Violations where each was fined \$294 + Court costs
2. reported that he will be out of town for the June meeting and unable to attend and he will send his points for discussion to Gary

Finance

Gary reporting:

1. confirmed that he distributed the April Bank Reconciliation Report to Council reflecting that all accounts are in balance – he asked if there are any questions or comments – none were offered; he requested **a motion approving the April Bank Reconciliation Report as distributed and authorizing Council to sign the report – Alan made a motion to so move, and it was seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
2. confirmed that he distributed the April Appropriations Report to Council through the end of April, he asked if there were any questions –none were offered– he asked for **a motion approving Council to sign-off on the Appropriations Report through the end of April signifying Council's review and agreement with the expenditures, Alan made a motion to so move, and that it was seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
3. confirmed that tonight he provided copies to the Mayor and all members of Council the 2026 Budget along with instructions and the deadline for any changes, that being on or before June 6th – he also offered, as he does every year, to meet individually or as a group if anyone needs assistance in reviewing or in considering making any changes to the budget as submitted – he asked if there were any questions or comments – none were offered
4. reported that May 1st he started to receive documentation relating to the 2022 and 2023 Audit with the final documentation receipt on May 2nd - the Audit contained 8 non-compliance findings and he advised the Audit staff that he needs to review and investigate those findings before signing off on the Audit and before sharing the details with Council due to potential revisions of

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the findings as reported – Gary stated that in his 13 years as a Fiscal Officer he has never had an Audit Finding and he needs to do a thorough review on the reported findings to determine if any can be challenged – he reported that with his going on vacation beginning tomorrow and not returning until the 20th of May coupled with catching up upon his return and month-end reporting that it may be sometime in early June before he can get into the details – a public Finance Committee meeting was suggested before any response to the Audit Team is issued – Gary will schedule the meeting as suggested

5. confirmed that the NOPEC Grant monies can be used to pay for reconnecting power for the pole at Reece's Pond
6. as of the end of April, the balance in the Primary Checking Account was \$407,554.59 and \$205,543.77 in the Money Market Account and \$113,264.67 in the Star Ohio Account for a total of \$726,363.03 – he asked if there are any questions or comments – none were offered

Old Business

Nothing to report.

Public Participation

1. Pam – confirmed that the Golf Cart Parade will take place on Sunday, May 25th at 7:00 p.m. with an ice cream social afterwards at the Village Inn – Pot Planting will take place on May 22nd with a total of 32 pots all of which will have anti-deer plants – the Village Garden is done with 12 plots with black plastic liners to help control/limit weed growth – thanked Debbie for the great work she did with the Garden - asked Barb if the power has been restored at Point Park, Barb responded “not yet” and Mayor Dodaro asked her to proceed to power it back up for the summer
2. Kelly thanked Council for conducting civil meetings – asked Ken if the devices have been installed to clean-up the Pond, Ken responded “not yet” – announced that Cross Point Church is having a raffle with prizes on June 7th starting at 1:00 p.m. to aid the Chippewa Lake Historical Society and asked that residents look through their “stuff” to see if there is anything that they would like to donate to the Church for the raffle
3. Lisa reported an issue with the Village website that had a software flaw that was directing folks to weird websites so Host Mantis rebuilt the software at a very reasonable fee
4. Allison said the Pond looks bad and it is filled with ‘muck’ and has concerns that people might be tempted to wade into it or swim in it and asked when can it get cleaned-up – Ken is going to check to see if we have any cameras to monitor the new equipment that will be installed for the purposes of cleaning-up the Pond – Bud suggested that we be pro-active in protecting the equipment and purchase signs to discourage entering the Pond – Ken reported that there is dumping behind the Pond and Bud confirmed it is on property owned by others
5. Tom voiced concerns about where the dollars are going that are being collected by the Village for the Dock Permits and made other comments about concerns and the use of these funds – Mayor Dodaro stated that the collections are being deposited into the General Fund but as of now no specific use for these funds has been identified – Tom questioned the revenues collected and Gary reported that in 2024 the Village collected \$7,885 for Beach and Parking and \$13,860 for the Dock Permits – Tom expressed concerns about the amounts charged for the permits and asked Council to go back to the Park District to reduce fees – for concerns about these fees, it was suggested that Tom attend the Park District meetings as the Village has no input on the fee structure

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New Business

Nothing to report.

There being no further business Barb motioned to adjourn at 8:32 PM, seconded by Leslie.

Mayor Joanne Dodaro

Fiscal Officer, Gary Harris