

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2026**

Mayor Joanne Dodaro called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

A roll call was taken with the following officials present: Barbara Hunter, Tamitha Sorgi, Ken Demeter, Leslie Burns, Jim Brandenburg – Zoning Inspector, Gary Harris – Fiscal Officer; visitors Lisa Krosse, Debbie & Al Horning, Mark Reuter, Jill Heck, Debbie Rustic, Deb Scolaro, Alan Robbins, Bill Glasenapp, John Sandora, Edward Nagy, Deputy Harhay and Fire Chief Cavanaugh

Mayor Dodaro announced that Solicitor, Allan Michelson, is unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a physical injury

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**Gary asked those elected to Office and to be appointed stand and raise their right hand – Joanne Dodaro, Tamitha Sorgi, Al Horning, Barb Hunter and Debbie Rustic were sworn into Office**

**Barb made a motion to nominate Tamitha Sorgi as Council President, seconded by Ken. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays**

Mayor Dodaro announced the assignment of the Committee Chair positions – Tamitha – Safety, Ken – Parks, Barb – Buildings, Leslie – Zoning, Debbie – Community Relations and Kid Programs and Al – Streets, in addition, Mayor Dodaro also announced the members of each Committee that will be distributed to all members of Council, announced that Gary as Fiscal Officer remains responsible for Finance and a Finance Committee will be formed if needed

This ended the Organizational Meeting

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Dodaro thanked Williams', Safko's, Horning's and John Sandora for the Christmas Lights along the lakefront and beach areas as it looked great

Mayor Dodaro thanked Tamitha for Breakfast with Santa and was sorry that she could not attend but the pictures she saw looked great and everyone appears to have had a great time along with a great Santa

Mayor Dodaro asked if everyone read and agreed with the December Regular Meeting Minutes and asked if there were any corrections, questions or comments –none were offered

**Tamitha made the motion to accept the December Minutes, and it was seconded by Leslie. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays.**

Mayor Dodaro asked if everyone read the January Bill's for Approval and asked if there were any other changes, questions or comments – Gary stated that there are no additional charges and the Total Bill's for Approval are \$23,103.81

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2026**

**Barb made a motion to approve the January Bill's for payment in the amount of \$23,103.81 seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**

Council Reports:

Safety

Tamitha Reporting:

1. read the Sheriff's Monthly Reports, they worked 80 hours in December versus 80 hours scheduled – read the Activity Report – Leslie reported vandalism with a car driving onto private properties through resident yards and asked if such incidents should be reported – Deputy Harhay stated yes, but it needs to be the property owner(s) whose property has been vandalized that must make the call to Dispatch – Barb reported that the cameras did not pick-up the vandalism caused by the cars when this happened on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 1:15 a.m. – Deputy Harhay stated that any Village Official can call in any such vandalism that might be happening on Village owned properties
2. Fire Chief Cavanaugh read his reports and reported, in addition to other topics, that they had a total of 57 calls in December and 8 of the calls were for Chippewa Lake; 68% of all calls were for EMS, reported that the average turn-out time for the year was at 1 minute and 59 seconds, reported that – they made almost 200 stops for the Santa visits and the kids really enjoyed these visits – in 2025 they responded to 805 calls and 99 of those calls were in Chippewa Lake – Leslie reported attending the swearing in the new Fire Chief in Seville and how wonderful it was to see so many other Fire Chiefs and their families in attendance along with their children and it made it feel like a family gathering versus a swearing in
3. Mayor Dodaro asked Alan about the Siren close-out – Alan reported that the final Report he hopes to submit to the Stated by this Wednesday and he is listed as the primary contact and Gary is also listed as a contact in case the State has any questions or needs additional information – Alan thanked Deputy Harhay and Chief Cavanaugh for transmitting their reports to Tamitha

Zoning

Leslie reporting:

1. Jim read the Zoning Report for January that included 9 Parkway Path and 13 Circle Crest Drive – where charges have been filed and Allan is now handling
2. Barb asked about the stones spread on Lee Lore, near the new construction going on, caused by the snow plowing and that this should be picked-up
3. Leslie stated that she was contacted by a resident about a lose dog that lives at 533 Lee Lore that appeared to be aggressive, she immediately contacted the owner of the dog who was going to take care of it right away – Bill asked about the Zoning Code booklet for property owners and Leslie stated that she has a Flyer for the short-term renters that needs to be reviewed by Council and she also wants to make it available on the Village website – Jim stated that other communities have a Renters Catalog where the Village knows who is in each unit being rented as well as listing who owns the property and suggested some sort of registration is needed – Mark reported that Columbus has such a registration requirement as well as a fee - Leslie said that she will look into this option
4. Leslie asked about the status of the Zoning charges and Mayor Dodaro stated that Allan is the one to report on that but he is unable to attend tonight

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2026**

Community Relations

Debbie reporting:

1. Announced that the Polar Bear Jump is scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup> – Mayor Dodaro asked Alan if he has more information on this event – Alan reported that this is the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Bear Jump – a back-up date in case of bad weather is February 8<sup>th</sup> and first there will be a walk/run event for adults and children 6 years old and up before the Jump at 1:15 p.m. for 11 year old's and up – Jim and Lindsay Brandenburg will be providing entertainment – after dispensing the funds raised for this year's event, Alan said The Lions Club will have donated over \$500 thousand dollars to various groups including Food for those in need, Chippewa Lake Pride Committee, etc. – the 85 volunteers and three Fire Departments that participate help to make all of this possible – Barb said that for a small community the amount dispersed to help others is quite substantial – Alan agreed and said all of these donations flow into our local area communities – Mayor Dodaro mentioned the road closures and that raffle tickets are still available and can be purchased on-line by going to lionsclub.com and the three prizes are \$3,000 First Prize, \$1,500 and \$500 for Second and Third Prizes respectively
2. Tamitha thanked all who assisted with Breakfast with Santa including, but not limited to Debbie who is always there to help, Ken and Laurie, Matt and his Elf outfit and Jim who prepared the pancakes along with all of those who participated in this event and Ken who started this tradition in the Village, they had 35 children with their parents, Santa and Mrs. Claus were available for pictures with the children and all who attended had a great time

Buildings and Utilities

Barbara reporting:

1. the cameras were unable to pick-up details of the cars vandalizing the yards of residents, she researched and found that ARLO for \$18/month offers a Basic Plan for recording an unlimited number of cameras in the Village that would assist the Village in similar matters and she will send the information to Gary
2. **Barb made a Motion to proceed to contract with ARLO with the Basic Plan for \$18 per month, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
3. asked Gary to see if PEP would cover using the Grant monies to purchase trail cameras and if this qualifies as a safety issue
4. Ken reported that he is waiting on feedback from Allan Michelson for language to be used on signs to be posted about "surveillance" in the areas where cameras would be installed
5. thanked Bill for repairing the Chippewa Lake flag and announced that she will be purchasing a new flag to replace the flag on Bungalow Bay
6. Ohio Edison repaired the floodlights on Bungalow Bay and she is working with them to get some pole repairs completed and noticed that they were working on a pole down by the boat ramp and wondered how they gained access without a key – Bill said someone pulled the gate pole out the ground, which he has now repaired, and maybe that's what they did
7. ordered and received supplies for the Community Center

Parks

Ken reporting:

1. stated that he would like to rehabilitate the Bungalow Bay Park as it is in very poor condition and he is thinking of using the Water Sticker revenues for this project

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2026**

2. Mayor Dodaro asked John to report to Council on what he has been looking into – John recommends that the Village consider putting together a committee that will gather ideas from residents and put a list together of several items that they would like to see done with the park locations in the Village, he also stated that CW Landscaping put a price together to repair walls from the beach area to Point Park at a cost of \$20,000 – Barb suggested Ga Ga Ball, a game like Dodgeball that the kids love to play these days and another idea is Disk Golf – Ken asked Barb to send him pictures of these games – a lengthy discussion took place about other ideas to use the Water Sticker revenues for and to send Ken ideas as to what the Village residents might like to see done with the Village Parks – Leslie suggested building a Fishing Pier and the Break Walls that are pulling away from the properties - Mayor Dodaro asked Gary what our collections totaled – Gary reported that in 2025 the Village collected \$12,000 and the prior year was approximately \$10,000 – Gary cautioned Council that the contractor mentioned during tonight’s meeting cannot be used by the Village and he will discuss the details with Ken later – Mayor Dodaro feels that the Village needs to initially use the Water Sticker revenues on Lake related projects

Streets

Al reporting:

1. confirmed that the Township is using Fire Department personnel, during their off times, to fill in the gaps in staffing for snow plowing and salting and it seems to be working out
2. Bill asked about the three street repairs in the areas where the streets have been damaged around some of the fire hydrants by the Medina County Water Department – Al said that these areas will be repaired in the Spring by the County
3. Mayor Dodaro asked Gary to report back to Council on the status of the Ph. 10 OPWC Grant Application

Legal

Mayor Dodaro had nothing to report in Allan’s absence.

Finance

Gary reporting:

1. confirmed that he distributed the December 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 December Bank Reconciliation Report as distributed and authorizing Council to sign the report – Tamitha made a motion to so move, and it was seconded by Leslie. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
2. confirmed that he distributed the December Appropriations Report to Council through the end of December, 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 December signifying Council’s review and agreement with the expenditures, Tamitha made a motion to so move, and that it was seconded by Leslie. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
3. **asked for a Motion from Council to allow the Fiscal Officer to receive training for the Mayor and all of Council on Certified Public Records Retention Training, so moved by Leslie, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
4. over the weekend Gary reported that he closed the Year 2025 and he distributed the Financial Summary Report tonight – he did not review all of the numbers, but he did report on the totals for each section – by distributing this tonight, it will allow Council time to review the documents

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2026**

to ask any specific questions at the February Meeting – Gary did report that for the year ended 2025, in his opinion, the Village of Chippewa Lake remains on a “sound” financial footing - he asked if there were any questions –none were offered

5. asked for a **Motion to allow the Fiscal Officer to publish the annual notice of the 2025 Financial Reports that are also now available for public review, Tamitha said so moved, seconded by Leslie. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
6. confirmed that the 2025 PEP Grant has been approved, he is waiting on the deposit so he can issue the check to the Village Pride Committee for the 6’ Parking Stops - he asked if there were any questions –none were offered
7. to date he has issued one Solicitor Permit and it is posted on the Village Website for Steven Mayo and it expires 2/27/26 – we have received all payments and documentation for a second Permit that we will be discussing in Executive Session tonight – it was reported that Mr. Mayo is parking in unauthorized areas and Gary was asked to have them park at the Community Center
8. tonight we have to vote on the 2026 Agreement for patrolling the Village that reflects a 3% increase with a new hourly rate of \$35.05 – Gary did the first reading of Ordinance 913-26, “an Ordinance approving an Agreement for Law Enforcement services for the Village with the Medina County Sheriff from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 and declaring the same an emergency”
9. **Barb made a Motion to waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of Ordinance 913-26, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
10. **Barb made a Motion to adopt Ordinance 913-26 as an emergency, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
11. the Village’s letter of support to the Ohio House of Representatives for the State Capital Request for the Chippewa Lake Amusement Park, as approved by Council at last month’s meeting, was sent to Director Eppink on December 8<sup>th</sup>
12. as of the end of December, the balance in the primary checking account was \$380,443.20 and \$208,783.02 in the Money Market Account and \$116,594.44 in the Star Ohio account for a total of \$705,820.66 - he asked if there were any questions –none were offered
13. stated that with all of the discussion tonight about spending monies, he cautioned Council to view the monthly Appropriation Reports distributed as part of the pre-meeting documentation delivered to Council each month as this shows the spending budgets for all departments and if Council wants to consider projects for spending appropriated/budgeted monies, make sure your budgets support the spending that you are wanting to use, we have until early March to finalize Appropriations for identified projects – Gary offered to meet as a group or one-on-one with any member of Council who needs assistance interpreting Appropriation Reports or budgets – Gary also reminded Council that as of the end of the year, 40% of all available funds are restricted and can only be used on Street related projects
14. Barb asked Gary to advise the folks issued Solicitor Permits to park their vehicles at the Community Center and also add this requirement to the document that Gary has the Solicitor’s sign

Old Business

Nothing to report.

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2026**

Public Participation

1. Deb Scolaro said that perhaps she can talk with Debbie Rustic about programs for the kids starting this Spring along with the Garden Club
2. Edward reported that his property taxes increased 700% on the lakefront parcels and that the taxes were assessed by a third party, he contacted the Board of Revisions and was told that they will re-evaluate all lakefront parcels – he also stated that he needs clarification in writing about his liability as applies to people walking across his property to gain access to the boat docks – a lengthy discussion took place about the history of these properties, associated liabilities, etc. – Mayor Dodaro suggested that he contact her with the exact details about what is being requested and she will contact Allan Michelson
3. Jill wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked Council for the great job that they are doing

New Business

1. Barb reported receiving two calls from residents complaining about cars driving the wrong way on Bungalow Bay – Mayor Dodaro said advise residents to call the Sheriff – she also raised concerns about the trash being left along the streets including the tie wraps that were used to hang the Christmas lights along the beach area
2. Bill reminded everyone that if you are leaving your home for any length of time to report it to the Sheriff's office as they do a great job keeping an eye on your property while you are gone
3. Mark suggested requesting more patrols on Bungalow Bay and Leslie suggested a one-way sign relocation in this area and a discussion took place about the history of traffic in this area and trying to route traffic in the right direction

**Leslie made a Motion at 9:06 to go into Executive Session on a Personnel matter and on a Solicitor Permit matter, seconded by Tamitha. Roll-call vote: Tamitha – aye, Leslie – aye, Barb – aye, Ken – aye, Al – aye, Debbie – aye**

**Barb made a Motion at 9:52 to return to Regular Session, seconded by Al. Roll-call vote: Tamitha -aye, Leslie – aye, Barb – aye, Ken – aye, Al -aye, Debbie – aye**

**Barb made a Motion to deny a Solicitor Permit to the second applicant and any future applicants having the same degree of arrests, pending Allan's legal input, seconded by Ken. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**

**There being no further business Barb motioned to adjourn at 9:56 PM, seconded by Tamitha.**

---

Mayor Joanne Dodaro

---

Fiscal Officer, Gary Harris