

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

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

A roll call was taken with the following officials present: Tamitha Sorgi, Leslie Burns, Barb Hunter (arrived 8:23), Ken Demeter, Al Horning, Allan Michelson – Gary Harris – Fiscal Officer; visitors Greg Stanislowski, Lisa Krosse, Jill Heck, Debbie Horning, Ed Nagy and Deputy Harhay

Mayor Dodaro reported that Debbie is ill tonight and will not attend – Mayor Dodaro also wants to move forward with appointing the Zoning Inspector

Leslie made a Motion to appoint Lowell (Bud) Hardesty to the Zoning Inspector position, seconded by Ken. Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays

Allan swore Bud into Office as the Zoning Inspector

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

Leslie made the motion to accept the January Minutes, and it was seconded by Ken. Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Mayor Dodaro asked if everyone read the February Bill's for Approval and asked if there were any other changes, questions or comments – Gary confirmed that there are three additions totaling \$4,909.62 of which \$250 is for a training class for Debbie and Al for newly elected members of Council to be held in Columbus – **may I have a Motion approving payment for this class and expenses for Debbie and Al, so moved by Leslie, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays** – this brings the revised total for all payments to \$31,896.21

Leslie made a motion to approve the revised February Bill's for payment in the amount of \$31,896.21 seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Council Reports:

Safety

Tamitha Reporting:

1. read the Sheriff's Monthly Reports, they worked 84 hours in January versus 80 hours scheduled – read the Activity Report that had a total of 111 Total Activities for the month of January that included 70 Patrols, 12 Victor Watches and several other services
2. confirmed that she is working up the forms she will use to report to Council in future meetings
3. reported that Fire Chief Cavanaugh is unable to attend tonight but he did confirm that he will be at the Polar Bear Jump on February 14th – Tamitha read the Monthly Report normally read by the Fire Chief or Assistant Chief – reported that the average turnout time was 2 min. and 8 sec. Year-to-date Turnout Time is 2 min. and 9 sec. and Enroute time 7 min. and 11 sec.
4. Mayor Dodaro reported that the Siren worked on Saturday's test

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Zoning

Leslie reporting:

1. asked Allan about the status of 9 Parkway Path – Allan confirmed that charges have been filed – Allan stated that he has three other properties pending filing charges and asked that Bud as the new Zoning Inspector review the three properties, 13 Circle Crest, 273 Rustic Rook and 13 Parkway Path, the deadline to correct has passed but before he proceeds with filing charges, he wants Bud to review each property
2. confirmed a tree removal at Briarwood and Willow Wood that was touching live wires
3. confirmed attending the Ohio Realtor Convention and one of the topics was on Rental Properties and how we need to know the contact information on all owners of rental and unoccupied properties

Community Relations

Mayor Dodaro reporting:

1. confirmed Debbie is receiving emails about ideas from the residents on what projects to use the funds being collected from the Watercraft Stickers and she will be reporting back to Council with this information
2. stated that she wants Debbie to attend the Health Department Meetings as our interest is mosquito control – Tamitha stated that last year’s meeting focused on septic systems

Buildings and Utilities

Mayor Dodaro reporting:

1. confirmed that we have been offered a \$1,698 NOPEC Grant and that we have a new NOPEC Representative
2. Gary said that he has details to report on about the NOPEC Grants

Parks

Ken reporting:

1. confirmed that Reece’s Pond froze over and he contacted The Pond Guy and was told that this is not a problem as the units will continue to function but the bubbles that typically appear on the surface are now under the ice
2. **Ken made a Motion to increase the 2026 budget for Parks by \$10,000 for a Park project possibly the rehab of the Bungalow Bay playground, seconded by Leslie. Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays**
3. confirmed that he is still working on the No Dumping Signs
4. reported that Kelsey will not be returning as the Beach Attendant Supervisor and he thanked her for her service and the great job that she did as the Supervisor – Mayor Dodaro suggested that Ken schedule a Committee Meeting to discuss options and candidates – Leslie suggested advertising and sending out texts to also try to locate potential candidates
5. was asked about installing a canopy around the Pickleball Court, Bud said that there is a definite need for such a structure and Lisa suggested installing it on the Lake side of the court

Streets

Al reporting:

1. confirmed that there have been three water line breaks on Willow Wood just this month and that all have been repaired
2. confirmed that the Village Matching Funds for Ph. 10 are all budgeted for payment in this year’s budget and that the design engineering work is near completion – Mayor Dodaro stated that the Village has been awarded the Ph. 10 OPWC Grant

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3. confirmed that he has reached out to CW Landscapes but they have not returned his calls – Ken said that he heard that they have fixed the issues – Gary stated that before we begin using them, he needs to confirm that they are re-established as a business with the Ohio Secretary of State

Legal

Allan reporting:

1. confirmed that he has legislation ready but we need 5 Councilmembers present to vote on it but we can do the first reading – Allan did the first reading of Ordinance 914-26, an Ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2026 Energized Community Grant
2. confirmed that he has two cases – one is a case against a defendant driving under the influence with a Change of Plea Hearing scheduled for March 2nd – the second case was for a defendant wanting his old trespassing case removed from the records that was issued by the Briarwood Beach Police Dept. years ago which Allan agreed with since no other cases against this individual since this one case years ago

Finance

Gary reporting:

1. confirmed that he distributed the January 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 January 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: 4 ayes, 0 nays**
2. confirmed that he distributed the January Appropriations Report to Council through the end of January, 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 January signifying Council’s review and agreement with the expenditures, Tamitha made a motion to so move, and that it was seconded by Leslie. Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays**
3. confirmed that the NOPEC Sponsorship Grant Application supporting the Lions Club July 4th Parade has been submitted and this afternoon he was advised that it has been approved – monies will be deposited directly into the Lions Club checking account and he is confident that Tom Melter will confirm once the monies are deposited
4. confirmed that a NOPEC Grant in the amount of \$1,698 has been offered to the Village and Allan has completed the first reading – Ken asked if the monies can be used for purchasing additional surveillance cameras and Gary said he will look into this
5. reported that the Village has a total of \$2,138 in NOPEC Grant monies available as of today, not including the 2026 Grant dollars and of the \$2,138 the Village must spend no less than \$447 by November 30, 2026 or forfeit this amount
6. in the document delivered to the Mayor and Council this past Saturday, one of the topics being finalizing the 2026 Appropriations, at the March Meeting he will be asking Council if any departments want any increases to be considered for the 2026 Appropriations and if so to please let him know no later than March 2nd
7. in that same document delivered to Council this past Saturday, at the March meeting he will be distributing the 2027 Budget Worksheets and he will need Council’s input for any changes to that budget at the April Council meeting – for both the 2026 Appropriations and the 2027 Budget he

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offered to meet as a group or individually with anyone needing assistance or to answer any questions

8. confirmed that he needs to attend required training in March in Columbus on Ethics as required by the AOS office every election cycle – he will split the costs for the training fee, mileage and meal between Chippewa Lake and Burbank – Gary **asked for a Motion authorizing the Fiscal Officer to attend training and to reimburse the Fiscal Officer for all related expenses, so moved by Tamitha, seconded by Leslie. Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays**
9. reported that he followed up with PEP this morning for the grant monies not yet received against our December, 2025 Application to be used to pay for the Parking Stops ordered through the Pride committee and he was informed that the payment was mailed on February 2nd so he expects that it should be delivered by this Friday
10. confirmed that this afternoon he contacted the Medina County Sheriff's office as he has not yet received the 2026 Agreement for Dispatching Services – he was advised that this is still in discussion between the Sheriff's office and the union and as soon as all matters are finalized, we will receive the new Agreement – Gary did ask and the Sheriff's office confirmed that there will be no lapse in dispatching services while this discussion continues
11. confirmed this past Friday, he received a small number of the 2025 Property Tax invoices from the Medina County Auditor's office – 2 of the 5 received had property value increases and increased taxes due – he notified Allan's office on the same day and asked if Allan has any updates at this time and Allan has no updates at this time – Gary reported that he was missing 17 other property tax documents and he notified the Auditor's Office about being short these other tax documents
12. as of the end of January, the balance in the Primary Checking Account was \$373,758.41 and \$209,083.32 in the Money Market Account and \$116,974.62 in the Star Ohio Account for a total of \$699,816.35 – he asked if there are any questions or comments – none were offered

Old Business

1. Leslie does not see the need for a separate PO Box for Zoning and will move forward to close that down and direct all future mailings to the Village PO Box 25
2. Gary reported that the checks he just received from our previous Zoning Inspector had one check dated back as far as June of 2025 and he is unsure if when he deposits any old checks there will be any receipts not processed due to the age of the checks
3. Mayor Dodaro reminded folks about road closures due to the Polar Bear Jump starting at around noon this upcoming Saturday

Public Participation

1. Jill congratulated Bud on his appointment to Zoning Inspector
2. Ed reported that he needs feedback from Allan about his liability concerns expressed at last month's meeting – Allan stated that he only has liability in such matters if Ed actively created a hazard by not maintaining the property i.e., an open hole that is not filled-in for example

New Business

1. **Leslie made a Motion to go into Executive Session, at 8:06 p.m., to consult with the Village attorney regarding Solicitor Permitting considerations for possible excluding of applicants based on information received on their background checks, seconded by Tamitha. Roll-call Vote: Tamitha – aye, Leslie – aye, Ken – aye, Al – aye**
2. **Leslie made a Motion to return to Regular Session at 8:24 p.m., seconded by Tamitha. Roll-call Vote: Tamitha – aye, Leslie – aye, Ken – aye, Al -aye, Barb - aye**

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3. Allan re-read the 1st reading of Ordinance 914-26, an Ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2026 Energized Community Grant
3. **Barb made a Motion to waive the 2nd and 3rd readings of Ordinance 914-26, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays**
4. **Barb made a Motion to adopt Ordinance 914-26 as an emergency, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays**
5. **Gary asked for a Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the NOPEC Grant Agreement, so moved by Barb, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays**
6. **Barb made a Motion instructing the Fiscal Officer to issue the Solicitor’s Permit to the one open applicant, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays**
7. Tamitha asked if we can have the Sheriff patrol hours increased to the level they were at before reducing the hours in 2024 due to budget concerns – Gary reported that he already increased the budget for the Sheriff patrols when he generated the 2026 budget – Gary to verify the number of hours that are now budgeted to Tamitha
8. Council asked Bud if he is going to fill the Assistant Zoning Inspector’s position – Bud stated not at this time and he plans to have open communications with Leslie and all of Council on Zoning matters

Buildings & Utilities

Barb reporting:

1. confirmed being offered the NOPEC Grant for \$1,698 and being awarded the \$500 NOPEC Sponsorship Grant for \$500
2. reported that NOPEC was active in the movement to get House Bill 6 approved for a multi-million-dollar settlement with First Energy and their having to reimburse customers due to their being found guilty of fraud – Barb indicated that this will result in a \$65.61 credit on resident’s electrical bill for three consecutive months along with the requirement that First Energy also pay for certain upgrades and assistance including making homes more weather efficient
3. confirmed submitting the paperwork to the Board of Elections for setting up the delivery and pick-up of voting booths naming herself as the primary contact and Bud as the secondary contact
4. reported that the cold-water line in the Community Center is plugged and she will check the lines
5. reported that Ohio Edison relocated and replaced the flood lights on Bas Bay and all are functioning now
6. confirmed that the contract with ARLO has been activated for a year and will set-up the account on line that should permit all Village Officials to access all security cameras – reported that one camera has a dead battery and she will get that replaced

There being no further business Leslie motioned to adjourn at 8:49 PM, seconded by Tamitha.

Mayor Joanne Dodaro

Fiscal Officer, Gary Harris