

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

Mayor Joanne Dodaro called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

A roll call was taken with the following officials present: Tamitha Sorgi, Barb Hunter, Ken Demeter, Al Horning, Debbie Rustic, Allan Michelson – Solicitor, Gary Harris – Fiscal Officer, Bud Hardesty – Zoning Inspector; visitors Greg Stanislawski, Lisa Krosse, Jill Heck, Debbie Horning, Mark Reuter, Chief Cavanaugh and Deputy Harhay

Mayor Dodaro reported that Leslie's daughter is ill tonight so she will not be attending tonight

Mayor Dodaro did her annual salute to the past Mayor of Briarwood Beach, Leonard English, for being the first community in the United States to make Saint Patrick's Day a Legal Holiday who once traveled to Ireland and got the Lord Mayor of Dublin to declare it a Holiday for Briarwood Beach and it is also a question in Trivial Pursuit, players are asked to name the Village in the United States that made Saint Patrick's Day a legal holiday for the Village

Mayor Dodaro announced that this past Saturday, Pastor Randy K'Meyer had a retirement party and Mayor Dodaro wanted to express her thanks for all of the community work that he organized anything from painting to cleaning-up property sites and more – Mayor Dodaro also thanked Leslie for the letter she wrote, from the Mayor and all of Council that new Pastor Jacob read at this event

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

Barb made the motion to accept the February Minutes, and it was seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mayor Dodaro asked if everyone read the March Bill's for Approval and asked if there were any other changes, questions or comments – Gary confirmed that there was one addition in the amount of \$2,617.04 for the February Plowing & Salting bringing the March total to \$21,641.12

Tamitha made a motion to approve the revised March Bill's for payment in the amount of \$21,641.12 seconded by Barb. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Mayor Dodaro said that some of the work was done for the Polar Bear Jump and that The Lions Club would reimburse the Village for that work, valued at \$343-\$348

Council Reports:

Safety

Tamitha Reporting:

1. thanked the Fire Department and the Sheriff Department for their assistance at the Polar Bear Jump
2. Chief Cavanaugh reported that for February they had 62 calls, 6 of which were for Chippewa Lake, 41 were daytime calls and 21 were nighttime calls, 60% of the calls were EMS, the average turnout time in February was 2 min. 35 sec, YTD is 2 min. 22 sec and average travel time is 6 min. 37 sec, Mutual Aid was given 7 times and received 3 times – reported that the Polar

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

Bear Jump is a great community event and they also did their Ice Rescue Training during the preparation and event – also thanked everyone who supported the Pancake Breakfast and the proceeds from that event will be used to purchase a new rescue boat

3. Tamitha reported that the Sheriff Department worked 85 hours and the requested hours were 80, read from the Activity Report that had 46 extra patrols, 5 Victor Watch among the 78 total Activities – Deputy Harhay asked the Village who do they want the Sheriff Department to mail the Parking tickets to, as a brief discussion Tamitha said that she will get back to Deputy Harhay on that matter – Allan reviewed the Parking Violation Bureau set-up for the Village that includes the ability of the Village to prevent a vehicle from registering for new or renewed plates if someone has 3 unpaid parking violations

Zoning

Bud reporting:

1. advised Council on the methodology that he plans to use when interfacing with residents before issuing any Permits or Citations or Orders to Correct as he feels that the current Zoning materials for residents to try to work through are rather confusing and difficult – he is working with Leslie and thus far 43 residential locations have been identified meaning that some are rentals and some are not owner occupied and they are working to obtain names of the property owners, phone numbers and emails – he is also working to see if he can get the Fire Department to reactivate the service where they inspect fire alarms and fire extinguishers in resident homes – reported that he has been reviewing Zoning Codes and he believes that there are several items in there that are no longer needed or need to be updated and he distributed to Council several documents for their review as relates to his findings in the Zoning Codes and Ordinances – Allan said if Council wants to remove any existing Ordinances, Council will need to generate a new Ordinance to remove old Ordinances – Barb stated that since Council is the Zoning Board for the Village and recommended that Council first review and consider which items need to be removed and/or updated and then involve residents by forming a committee to obtain further input – Mayor Dodaro asked Council to download copies of the Zoning documentation and discuss this further at the April Council Meeting
2. discussed current Zoning violations – Allan confirmed that 9 Parkway Path violations have been filed with the Court and he is waiting for a Court date to be set – Bud reported that 13 Parkway Path improvements are underway and at 273 Rustic Rook discussion is not possible with the owner and he will send a registered letter and also follow-up with Allan

Community Relations

Debbie reporting:

1. confirmed attending three seminars – Medina County Demographics discussed the growing population and what is needed to be planned for as they look ahead – Medina County Health Department spoke about the five top illnesses in the County – Newly Elected Officials Conference in Columbus that had an interesting first half presentation and topics of interest – Mayor Dodaro asked is the Health Department spoke about using the mosquito pellets in standing water – Debbie said that she will look into this and report back
2. Tamitha reported that she and Debbie are working on the March 28th Easter Egg Hunt and they are in need of locating an Easter Bunny
3. reported that next week John Sandora will be meeting with others to discuss uses for the revenues collected through the Watercraft Sticker sales and one consideration is to repair the retaining wall from the Beach to Point Park

VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2026

4. Mayor Dodaro asked if everyone is aware of the Vouchers for Solid Waste notice that was issued – Bud said that he will ask Leslie to put this up on Facebook

Buildings and Utilities

Barb reporting:

1. contacted Ohio Edison based on the email forwarded by Gary to Council regarding a new 5 Year LED Light Conversion program but because we are already on an LED program with Ohio Edison they will continue to install LED's as existing sodium vapor lights fail in the Village
2. stated that reception has been mixed by residents about the LED's, some claim it is too bright others say it is just right when they install the 20 watt LED's – suggested that in heavy traffic areas we may want to go to a 30 or 50 watt LED – Mayor Dodaro asked why doesn't NOPEC appear on the invoicing from First Energy – Gary to check and report back – Barb reported that two floodlights have been moved from the Shuffle Board area and that a tree limb fell on the storage bin that she will repair
3. she is working on the backflow annual inspection and will get the invoice to Gary once the work is completed and also reported that new exit signs are being built, damaged by the snow plow, and that the Village will be reimbursed for costs
4. the ARLO contract is in place for the cameras – Mayor Dodaro asked that she offer tie-in to members of Council so they can view the cameras as well
5. asked Gary if the PEP Grant can be used to purchase smoke detectors for distribution to residents but wasn't sure if this poses a liability issue for the Village – Allan wasn't sure that if the Village were to be sued if it would hold-up in Court as a valid case – Gary to check about using these Grant monies for smoke detectors

Parks

Ken reporting:

1. confirmed that we can use the PEP Grant monies for cameras at Reece's Pond and asked Barb if it is possible to get a WiFi Booster – Barb will look into this and report back to Council
2. confirmed that he wants to install three No Dumping Signs at Reece's Pond and wants to increase the fine to make it more of a deterrent – Ken is also thinking about the height of these signs and the color, either red or green - Allan stated that we will need an Ordinance to revise the old Ordinance listing the amount of the fine
3. **Ken made a Motion to issue an Ordinance revising Ordinance 898-24 and increasing the fine for dumping from \$250 to \$500, seconded by Barb. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays**
4. Bud recommended remediating the Reece's Pond area and Ken suggested turning this area into a useful Park
5. reported that Keli Helman has been hired as the Beach Attendant Supervisor and with her being a Junior High School teacher, he believes that she will interface well with the Beach Attendants – reported that Beach Attendant Applications will be posted in the next two weeks and will be due on or before May 7, 2026
6. Mayor Dodaro announced that Debbie Horning is here representing the Chippewa Lake Ski Team – Debbie read the 2026 Agreement that she reported is the same as last year's and confirmed that the Liability Insurance Certificate has been delivered to the Village – confirmed that they will have Ski Shows on July 4th and a Labor Day show, Learn to Ski will be offered on June 12th and it is open for anyone wanting to learn including non-residents – reported that she met with the Medina County Park District and that they are now treating the Lake and have licensed with Aqua Doc to treat and test the Lake – a discussion took place about water weed

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

control, which weeds or growths to manage and Debbie reported that the County has not budgeted for this work and is looking at Save the Lake or Chippewa Lake to assist

7. Mayor Dodaro reported that she has been contacted by residents that most of the money being spent in Parks is geared towards adults and not the children – Barb suggested once again GaGa Ball and that setting up for this game is very inexpensive – Ken said he will look into this as part of the Bungalow Bay project for this year as well as the rehab area of Reece’s Pond
8. **Barb made a Motion to approve the 2026 Ski Team Agreement, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays**

Streets

Al reporting:

1. confirmed that a meeting is scheduled for this Thursday with Engineering Associates to finalize the Phase 10 Construction Drawings and that we will be going out for bids soon
2. reported that he has been in contact with three contractors for patching roads and is investigating a reported storm sewer issue by a resident

Legal

Allan reporting:

1. confirmed that he has two cases – one is a case against a defendant driving under the influence with sentencing to take place on May 12th as well as the 9 Parkway Path matter
2. reported that ten Village Property Tax invoices are out of whack and one of the properties on Briarwood went from \$700 in value up to \$47,100 – he is also going to look into making some of the properties tax exempt or request re-evaluation

Finance

Gary reporting:

1. confirmed that he distributed the February 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 February Bank Reconciliation Report as distributed and authorizing Council to sign the report – Barb made a motion to so move, and it was seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays**
2. confirmed that he distributed the February Appropriations Report to Council through the end of February, 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 February signifying Council’s review and agreement with the expenditures, Barb made a motion to so move, and that it was seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays**
3. confirmed that the NOPEC Sponsorship Grant Application supporting the Lions Club July 4th Parade 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 the NOPEC Grant in the amount of \$1,698 has been awarded to the Village and coupled with the previous balance of \$2,138 in NOPEC Grant monies available as of today we have a total of \$3,836 and the Village must spend no less than \$447 by November 30, 2026 or forfeit this amount
5. on Saturday he delivered to the Mayor and Council the Legislation and explanation of increases to the 2026 Permanent Appropriations – no other departments contacted him for any additional increases to spending – he asked if Council has any questions or comments about Ordinance 915-

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

- 26 for the 2026 Permanent Appropriations – none were offered – he asked Allan to please do the first reading of Ordinance 915-26
6. Allan did the first reading of Ordinance 915-26, an Ordinance to set Permanent Appropriations for the current expenses of the Village of Chippewa Lake, State of Ohio, during the year ending December 31, 2026 and declared to be an emergency for the public peace, health, safety and welfare
 7. **Barb made a Motion waiving the 2nd and 3rd readings of Ordinance 915-26, seconded by Ken. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays**
 8. **Barb made a Motion to adopt Ordinance 915-26 as an emergency, seconded by Ken. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays**
 9. requested that Council determine no later than the October meeting where to use PEP Grant monies for 2026 since he wants to expense this in 2026 and it can take up to 2 months for PEP to issue the check - he asked if there were any questions - none were offered
 10. referring back to the property taxes, in 2025 the Village paid \$186.40 for the entire year's taxes and for only the first half of taxes due in 2026 the Village paid \$795.39 which would work out to over \$1,500 for the year
 11. Thus far we have issued 2 Soliciting Permits, one has expired and one is active until April 17th – these are posted on the Village webpage and will be updated as changes occur
 12. Westfield Bank has been acquired by First Financial Bank whose headquarters are in Cincinnati, OH – Gary has been working with their local agents to assure a smooth transition especially on ACH payments and deposits, IntraFi Hi Yield deposits, etc. – tomorrow he has a Zoom Meeting with First Financial agents to re-establish remote deposit capabilities - he asked if there were any questions - none were offered
 13. First Financial Bank offers a program named Positive Pay; this is a fraud prevention program that releases payment based on them receiving a daily report on checks and ACH transactions issued naming the amount and payee which is then checked against the submitted check or ACH to verify no fraud has taken place, i.e., changing the amount or payee – he has asked the bank to waive the monthly fee and if Council wants to proceed with this program **Gary asked to have a Motion authorizing the Fiscal Officer to set-up Positive Pay with First Financial Bank with monthly fees waived, so moved by Tamitha, seconded by Barb. Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays**
 14. he will deliver the 2027 Budget Worksheets to the Mayor and Council before next month's Council Meeting – he will need input from Council at the May Meeting if they want to make any changes to the budget that he will provide to them next month, otherwise, his proposed budget will become the 2027 budget - he asked if there were any questions - none were offered
 15. as of the end of February, the balance in the Primary Checking Account was \$399,435.06 and \$209,364.01 in the Money Market Account and \$117,315.54 in the Star Ohio Account for a total of \$726,114.61 – he asked if there are any questions or comments – none were offered

Old Business

Nothing to report.

Public Participation

1. Greg reported that the County is planning an event at the old Chippewa Lake Amusement Park location and they plan to open a new structure – his concern is enforcement of parking violations due to expected higher levels of traffic through the Village and parking in the Beach area – a discussion took place between Council and those in attendance regarding No Fishing signs and parking in the Village
2. Debbie thanked Council for the work that they are doing

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

New Business

1. Barb reported that the cold water in the Community Center is working fine, unsure why it wasn't working last month – said that the document distributed by Gary to Council listed a “do not solicit” listing for consideration for residents who do not want any solicitor's knocking on their doors and she thought that this might be an idea for our Village
2. Mayor Dodaro reported that the County's Adult and Senior Service Committee will accept someone from Chippewa Lake, residents included, to be a part of the Advisory Committee that meets at 1:00 p.m. near the end of each month should anyone be interested let Mayor Dodaro know
3. Bud asked Barb about her recent activity – Barb reported that every year she participates in an annual event to raise money that involves going up 1254 steps in downtown Cleveland – reported that she raised \$364 and did the run up the stairs in 15 minutes and then said that Fire Fighter's then did their run up the steps dressed in full gear and did so in less than 15 minutes

There being no further business Barb motioned to adjourn at 9:35 PM, seconded by Ken.

Mayor Joanne Dodaro

Fiscal Officer, Gary Harris