

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2026**

Mayor Joanne Dodaro called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

A roll call was taken with the following officials present: Tamitha Sorgi, Barb Hunter, Ken Demeter, Leslie Burns, Al Horning, Debbie Rustic, Gary Harris – Fiscal Officer, visitors Joshua Burns and Andrea Wlaszyn both representing NOPEC, Greg Stanislawski, Jill Heck, Debbie Horning, Mark Reuter, Bill Glasenapp, Tammy & Alan Nandrasy, Len Olenik, Chief Cavanaugh and Deputy Harhay

Mayor Dodaro asked if everyone read and agreed with the March Regular Meeting Minutes and asked if there were any corrections, questions or comments – Mayor Dodaro reported one correction needed regarding the past Mayor of Briarwood Beach, Leonard English

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

Gary reported that we also need to vote on the March Special Meeting Minutes as furnished to the Mayor and Council members this past Saturday

**Barb made the motion to accept the March Special Meeting Minutes, and it was seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays.**

Mayor Dodaro asked if everyone read the April Bill's for Approval and asked if there were any other changes, questions or comments – Gary confirmed no additions to the bills as issued

**Barb made a motion to approve the April Bill's for payment in the amount of \$14,819.38 seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**

Mayor Dodaro invited Tammy to address Council – Tammy stated that she is asking permission from Council to plant a tree in the Village, perhaps at the Bungalow Bay Park, in memory of her 94 year old mother who recently passed away – her mom spent 87 summers in Chippewa Lake and shared a 1932 photo of her mom in Burbank at the age of 4 and Tammy said her mom loved all of those summers, here in the Village – Leslie stated that she will ask Bud and AJ to look for a good spot to locate a tree and Council asked Gary if he can locate the tree specialist who we worked with years ago

**Al made a Motion approving the planting of a tree, by Tammy's family, once the Village determines a location and type of tree, seconded by Barb. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**

Mayor Dodaro invited NOPEC representatives Joshua Burns, the Director of Governmental Affairs and Andrea Wlaszyn, the new Relationship Manager for Chippewa Lake to address Council – Joshua thanked the Village for being a member going back to 2014 and reconfirmed that it is a State requirement that every 2 years with electric and every 3 years with gas all members are required to be surveyed to see if they wish to remain as members or revert back to the main utility companies so residents in the Village will soon be receiving these surveys – for those wanting to remain with NOPEC, you do not have to return the form or fill anything out – NOPEC also offers a fixed rate option and residents can call the 800# to obtain details and “tool kits” are

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2026**

available on-line to also assist residents for reviewing options and general information – Andrea introduced herself as the new Relationship Manager for the Village and its residents and provided Council with her contact information, she also made available handouts explaining how to compare rates and interpret utility invoices – Mayor Dodaro thanked Joshua and Andrea for coming tonight and also thanked them for the Grants awarded to the Village as well as the \$500 annual Sponsorship Grant for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade

Council Reports:

Safety

Tamitha Reporting:

1. Chief Cavanaugh reported that for March they had 75 calls, 5 of which were for Chippewa Lake, 51 were daytime calls and 24 were nighttime calls, 64% of the calls were EMS, the average turnout time in March was 1 min. 46 sec, YTD is 2 min. 7 sec and average travel time is 6 min. 6 sec, Mutual Aid was given 6 times and received 2 times – gave special recognition to the Medina County Sheriff's Office Dispatch for their outstanding performance during the March 13<sup>th</sup> storm when they received 498 calls between 2:45-7 p.m. and handled 4,288 radio Transmissions – spoke about Grants that have been awarded to them and the Department Awards Ceremony recognizing firefighter efforts and outstanding attitudes
2. Tamitha reported that the Sheriff Department worked 82 hours and the requested hours were 80, read from the Activity Report that had 48 extra patrols, 8 Victor Watch among the 88 total Activities – Tamitha asked what the "Open Line" listing is on this report and Deputy Harhay stated that this happens when someone dials 911 but the party calling in has no one on the line, so, they check this out to make certain that the calling in party is OK – Bill voiced concern about the number of motorized bikes running stop signs and on Village streets at high speeds – Deputy Harhay stated that they can only ticket them if they have a license and a license is not required and he suggested that the Village Attorney consider restrictive legislation for enforcement purposes

Zoning

Leslie reporting:

1. advised Council that Bud is working on Cyber Security as per H.B. 96 – Gary advised Council that he has been working on this for the last two months and asked that Bud not proceed any further – Leslie will have Bud contact Gary
2. reported that there is a tree behind 91 Longacre that is on Village property and needs to be removed and that a tree on Circle Crest was removed that came down during the storm
3. stated that she is very happy with how Bud is handling Zoning violations – he is talking with the residents involved, he is building relationships and following-up and also confirmed that she and Bud are working on the Zoning Codes
4. Bill asked about the Pribish house and Leslie stated that Bud sent them a Certified Letter as he could not reach anyone to speak with at this location
5. asked Gary to check with Allan to see if the Village must accept any donated property to the Village
6. reported that she was contacted by a resident who was most pleased with the work being done on Reece's Pond and how much better it is looking
7. distributed an information sheet to Council, entitled Quick Reference with a QR code for scanning in order to gain access to additional details that list property owner and renter

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2026**

responsibilities within Village limits – Mayor Dodaro thanked Leslie for her work on this document

Community Relations

Debbie reporting:

1. confirmed that the Health Department will begin spreading the anti-Mosquito pellets into the storm sewers starting sometime after May 11<sup>th</sup>
2. Working on the Newsletter now and almost done
3. 5 uses for the Watercraft Sticker funds have been identified in this order – water weed control, beach wall, boat ramp gate, beach area and Point Park – reported that John is speaking with the Medina County Park District regarding weed control as well as the walls and any possible assistance from the Park District
4. Mayor Dodaro thanked Debbie and Tamitha for the Easter Party and for the great job done by Easter Bunny Barb and her interaction with the children

Buildings and Utilities

Barb reporting:

1. the backflow annual inspection has been completed and Gary has paid the bill
2. the Christmas tree lights have been removed from the Community Center's roof
3. will contact First Energy again about the street light near Mark's home

Parks

Ken reporting:

1. reported that the Applications for Lake Access and Watercraft will be posted on the social media sites and are due May 7<sup>th</sup> and on May 16<sup>th</sup> the stickers and passes will be available from 2-4 p.m. at the Community Center
2. clean-up of the beach area and Point Park will be done by Kies Knollbrook Lawncare
3. installed three (3) No Dumping signs at Reece's Pond and will be applying chemicals later this week
4. has been working on the Bungalow Bay Park Rehab that will include removing the railroad ties that are rotted and replacing them with the plastic border, will be installing Parking Stops, ordering 50 tons of playground gravel, repairing the Pickle Ball storage box and purchasing a Pickle Ball Practice Board as well as a cover for the bench near the Pickle Ball Court for a cost of \$12,242 – a discussion took place about building a roof over the bench and it was decided to remove this from the list of things to do at this Park and also about the lack of need of having wheelchair access ramp to the play areas due to the depth of pea gravel and the inability to push a stroller or move a wheelchair through this gravel – Ken stated that this will bring the costs down to a revised total of \$11,242
5. Gary reported that the \$10,000 for this effort was added to the Appropriations and all necessary monies are approved and available – Gary encouraged Ken to look at the March Appropriation Report and it will show all monies available for 2026 and if he deducts for this project, he will know the balance of funds yet available once he deducts for the Bungalow Bay Park Rehab
6. thanked Bud, Derrick and John for installing the Pickle Ball nets
7. Bill wants No Parking Signs installed at Point Park – Mayor Dodaro pointed out that with the OPWC Grant being awarded to the Village and the disruption that the construction work will cause in this area, it is best to wait on such signs until the construction work is completed

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2026**

Streets

Al reporting:

1. temporary road patching has been completed and he is getting bids on additional road repairs
2. working on a storm sewer repair and is getting bids on three catch basins that need repair on Brookshore
3. Phase 10 is out for bids with Bid opening to take place on May 15<sup>th</sup>

Legal

Mayor Dodaro reported that Allan just had shoulder surgery which is why he is not here tonight so there is no Legal presentation tonight

Finance

Gary reporting:

1. confirmed that he distributed the March 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 March 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: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
2. confirmed that he distributed the March Appropriations Report to Council through the end of March, 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 March signifying Council’s review and agreement with the expenditures, Tamitha made a motion to so move, and that it was seconded by Barb. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
3. reported that he was asked by Mayor Dodaro last month why NOPEC does not appear on the invoices for electrical usage – NOPEC purchases its electrical power from NextEra Energy Services and they do appear on the invoices for electrical consumption – Mayor Dodaro asked if there is a rate comparison on the invoices and Gary said “no”
4. confirmed that the NOPEC Grant monies are in the amount of \$3,836 and the Village must spend no less than \$447 by November 30, 2026 or forfeit this amount - he asked if there were any questions –none were offered
5. 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
6. on March 28th Gary sent Allan, and copied the Mayor and Council, documents received from the Auditor’s office that appear to try to justify the increase in taxes – Gary reported that Allan is working on this matter and that he will update us at the next Council meeting – this is due to the significant increase in 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 - he asked if there were any questions –none were offered
7. at last month’s meeting, Council approved Gary setting up with First Financial Bank the Positive Pay program at \$0.00 costs to the Village – Gary reported that he was notified by First Financial Bank that they increased the costs for this service from \$30/month up to \$100/month and they are willing to reduce this cost down to \$70/month if we want to proceed – as Council may recall, this is a fraud prevention program that releases payment based on the bank receiving a daily report from the Village on checks and ACH transactions issued naming the amount and payee which is then checked against the submitted check or ACH submitted by the payee for the receipt of funds to verify no fraud has taken place, i.e., changing the amount or payee - Gary asked if

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2026**

Council still wants him to proceed to set this up with a monthly expense of \$70 – Council asked if other banks offer this program at a lesser rate – Gary stated that he will have to investigate as we do not want to lose our high yield accounts and we can only use banks approved by the Treasurer of State's office

8. at last month's meeting Gary was asked if PEP Grant monies can be used to purchase Smoke Detectors to be distributed to Village residents – PEP responded that prior requests for these items have not been successful – he asked if Council still wants him to proceed to see if they will approve although Gary recommended that we not proceed with this request – Council agreed
9. confirmed that we have received payment in the amount of \$375 from Lafayette Township for the replacement costs for the Exit sign at the Community Center damaged by their snow plowing crew
10. confirmed that Allan did prepare the legislation amending Ordinance 898-24 to increase the fine for dumping up to \$500 – he asked if Council wants him to do the first reading of Ordinance 916-26 – Council stated yes
11. Gary did the first reading of Ordinance 916-26, 4<sup>th</sup> iteration, “an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 898-24 with respect to dumping of household trash and waste materials within the Village or on Village owned property and declaring the same an emergency”
12. **Barb made a Motion to waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of Ordinance 916-26, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
13. **Barb made a Motion to adopt Ordinance 916-26 as an emergency, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
14. tonight Gary did deliver the 2027 Budget Worksheets to the Mayor and Council – Gary stated that he will need input from Council no later than May 29<sup>th</sup> if you want to make any changes to the budget, otherwise, Gary's proposed budget will become the 2027 budget – Gary offered to meet with anyone individually or as a group - he asked if there were any questions or comments – Jill asked for a copy of the proposed 2027 budget – Gary stated that it is a somewhat complicated document to interpret, that he provides guides for Council on how to read the reports and he did offer to send copies to anyone who wants them if they send him a text, or call him or send him an email
15. confirmed with Ken that a date will be set in May to meet with the new Beach Attendants and Supervisor to complete all new employee paperwork
16. as of the end of March, the balance in the Primary Checking Account was \$462,754.23 and \$209,685.34 in the Money Market Account and \$117,692.82 in the Star Ohio Account for a total of \$790,132.39 – he asked if there are any questions or comments – none were offered

Old Business

Nothing to report.

Public Participation

1. Mark stated that he is upset hearing that the Sheriff's Department cannot do anything about the motorized bikes in the Village and he doesn't feel that the Village is getting the level of support based on the amount of monies being paid out – a lengthy discussion ensued on several matters related to the current Sheriff patrols, preference on enforcement within the Village limits, hours worked and costs
2. Jill is happy to hear that no serious damage or injuries were reported with the most recent storm
3. Debbie Horning reported that on May 15<sup>th</sup> the Ski Team will be cleaning up the beach and that ropes marking the swimming area will be installed in time for the beach opening on Memorial

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2026**

Day – Debbie Rustic also recommended that we block-off Village parking areas on May 15<sup>th</sup> when the Medina County Park District is having a public outing in a newly worked section of the old Chippewa Lake Amusement Park – Mark stated that this would be a good time to have the Sheriff Department in the area for unauthorized parking and issuing tickets

New Business

1. Barb reported that she picked-up a replacement flag for the flag at the Bungalow Bay Park and that the lanyards at the Community Center’s flag pole may need repair or replacement
2. Leslie stated that she has been getting calls asking for details on the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade – Mayor Dodaro told Leslie to have them contact her
3. Tamitha is asking for input from Council about increasing hours for the Sheriff patrols in the Village – a lengthy discussion took place regarding the Sheriff patrols on several issues of concern

**There being no further business Tamitha motioned to adjourn at 9:12 PM, seconded by Barb.**

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Mayor Joanne Dodaro

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Fiscal Officer, Gary Harris