RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of The Regular Meeting

July 14, 2025 @ 7:00 P.M.

Council met in Regular session with Lora Lyons, Brad Bohland, Jason Hower, Nancy Speice and Priscilla Kadolph present. Allen Wobler and Jennifer Zartman were absent.

Guests Present: Officer Brandon Shuherk, Melissa Hamrick, Fire Chief Jesse Hefner, EMS Coordinator Bill Lyons, and Payne property owner Jordan Childs.

 Melissa Hamrick presented voluntary Aflac insurance options for Council and Village employees.

Jordan Childs, a resident and property owner, addressed Council regarding yard debris left on his property. He expressed concern about the leaf and brush collection service not removing the material and noted difficulty accessing the compost site during posted hours. He requested that the compost site be made accessible 24/7. Council acknowledged the concern, they explained that consistent monitoring—even with cameras—remains a challenge for extended site access. Instructions for proper removal of the limbs was discussed further. Council will consider bi-monthly openings.

The Minutes from the June 23, 2025 meeting were read. Councilman Bohland made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Hower seconded. Councilmen Bohland and Hower voted yes. Councilwomen Kadolph and Speice voted yes. Motion passed.

**EMS: EMS Coordinator Lyons** was present and reported the following to Council:

1. There have been 6 runs so far this month.
2. EMS Coordinator Lyons asked about the policy for not finishing class. Surrounding counties have said that trying to get compensation back from the student is hard, so they do not ask to be reimbursed.
3. EMS Coordinator Lyons was asked about the status for the new ambulance, which is to be done around January 2027.
4. Mayor Lyons shared with council the Daytime Staffing cost report showing what the village has paid out so far in EMS wages along with what will be needed for the second half of the year. $25,074.04 is needed between Benton, Harrison, and Payne for the remainder of the year with $9,402.77 being provided by the village.

**Fire Department: Chief Hefner** was present andreported the following to Council:

1. There has been 1 run so far this month.
2. Mayor Lyons informed Council and Chief Hefner that the Mannick Smith Engineers estimate is $30,600, and the Kleinfelder’s estimate is $29,300. The village is going to pause on the project for now, but the village will budget more for the project next year.
3. Chief Hefner presented that there is a fire class that 3 guys will be going to, and there is a grant that can be applied for. The classes are from September 13th to February 22nd. The class is $2,690 per person to attend if we do not get the grant.
4. Chief Hefner informed council that there are 3 trucks that are needing front tires, which is 6 tires in total. Officer Shuherk stated that he thinks the tires last purchased were Continental tires at around $300 each.
5. Chief Hefner informed council that the SCBA’s are being tested on August 14th.
6. Chief Hefner informed council that the battery on the extrication tools need replaced. They currently cost $770 to replace. However, most batteries have become obsolete for them. He is suggesting a new set to replace the old set.

**Police Department:** **Police Chief Miller** was not presentand there was nothing to report.

**Street:** **Mayor Lyons** reported the following to Council:

1. Mayor Lyons stated that a resident on W. Townline requested installation of a “Deaf Child at Play” sign. Council approved the resident’s sign and voted to purchase an additional sign for visibility from both directions.
2. Mayor Lyons discussed that the compost site will be open to the public on July 26, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Flyers are posted online and around town. Council is considering bi-monthly openings.
3. Mayor Lyons discussed Summit Sweeping coming to do a street sweep before July 28th. She also discussed with council about having the company coming back in August before Rock the Block. The cost will be around the same amount that it was last year, which was $3,200.
4. Mayor Lyons discussed partnering with the Chamber for the benches. The chamber is willing to put $2,000 towards the benches. Antwerp Poly furniture has an estimate of $7,800 for 8 benches and 8 trash cans. The village is going to get rid of the old trash cans. Councilwoman Kadolph motioned to approve with Councilwoman Speice seconding the motion. Motion was approved.
5. Mayor Lyons informed council that two job applications for seasonal help were received. One applicant did not meet standard contract requirements. If contact is made with the second applicant, a start date of July 21 will be offered.

**Zoning: Zoning Inspector Sinn** was not present.  **Mayor Lyons** reported the following to Council:

1. Council discussed the need for an ordinance prohibiting private burials on residential properties. A sample ordinance from a neighboring village was reviewed.
2. Results of the chicken-keeping survey were shared: 101 residents in favor, 32 opposed (online responses only; paper ballots pending).
3. Mayor Lyons gave an update on the doctor office. The hospital board is meeting next month on August 7th and will discuss the pros and cons of each location and determine which path they want to take.
4. Council wants to verify that Brad Young got a permit for adding an addition onto his home. Council also wants to see if Economic Development could reach back out to Roxanne LaBounty about selling her property or at least allowing for the grant to remove the home.

**Committee Reports:** Mayor Lyons had nothing to report for the committee.

**Correspondence Letters:**

1. Mayor Lyons stated that the WMEA Recycling Roundup will be on July 18th and July 19th.
2. Mayor Lyons reported that Rock the Block will be held in the Village on September 13 and 14, 2025. Flyers have been mailed out for this event.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. A resident’s vehicle damage claim was discussed. Council proposed drafting an ordinance to clarify liability during construction when appropriate signage is in place. Motion to approve ordinance drafting by Councilman Bohland and seconded by Councilwoman Kadolph. Motion was approved.
2. Mayor Lyons reviewed the fiber internet lease agreement with Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative, Inc. The lease agreement is for 5 years. Councilwoman Kadolph motioned to approve with Councilman Bohland seconding the motion. Motion was approved.
3. Mayor Lyons announced that Metalink has started work on the north side of town.
4. Mayor Lyons has connected Councilman Bohland and Councilwoman Kadolph with Steph Miller for the tree risk assessment. There is a grant that the village can apply for that is due August 27th. The grant is for up to $100,000.
5. Dangler Excavating is working on the sinkhole on Merrin by the Library and the Gas Station on 49 this week.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Mayor Lyons informed council of the Townline waterline bid with Fenson Contracting coming in at $329,000. There is an OPWC grant up to $195,305 along with an OPWC Loan for $195,305. Paperwork has been received. Mayor Lyons, Fiscal Officer Cassie Wright, and solicitor Rachel Hammersmith needs to sign the paperwork for the loan.
2. Mayor Lyons gave an update on the sidewalk grant for Orchard Street. Flatrock Concrete won the bid at $110,000. A letter will be sent out to residents, and a pre-construction meeting needs to be set up for this project. The village is ready to sign paperwork.
3. Griffin Pavement Striping is working on an estimate, but they are the same company that did Merrin and Oak streets.
4. Resolution 2025-O-Amended appropriations was discussed to add Ohio Department of Development Funds for Merrin and Oak Street waterline Project. This would give the budget $148,328.14. Councilwoman Kadolph motioned to suspend the money in the current account with Councilman Hower seconding the motion. Motion was approved. Councilwoman Kadolph motioned to move the funds to the waterline budget with Councilwoman Speice seconding the motion. Motion was approved.
5. Mayor Lyons asked Councilman Bohland about the 2025 2nd quarter credit card compliance. Councilman Bohland explained that the cards are off for right now as Rhonda Stabler’s card has been destroyed, and the village is waiting on the new card for Cassie Wright. However, everything else is the same. Councilwoman Kadolph motioned to approve with Councilwoman Speice seconding the motion. Motion was approved.
6. Mayor Lyons discussed with council the unpaid trash removal fee from 105 Hyman Street. The invoice total was $545.00, and they have paid $200.00 with the last payment being at the beginning of May. Council discussed certifying it to taxes to get payment. Councilwoman Kadolph motioned to approve with Councilman Bohland seconding the motion. Motion was approved.
7. Mayor Lyons discussed the updated policy and procedures manual. Council, Fire/EMS personnel, and village employees need to have a copy of the manual and sign the acknowledgements. Then, the signed acknowledgement needs to be turned into the fiscal officer.
8. Mayor Lyons discussed bad trees needing to be removed. Jason Williams asked about it.
9. There was a wasp nest that needed to be sprayed at the park over the weekend at the caboose. Council discussed buying and putting up fake bee hives to put up as wasps are territorial, and they will not make a nest around bee hives.
10. Mayor Lyons brought up fish skeletons being found at the pond. Council discussed whether it was potentially from a bird getting to the fish or if someone is catching the fish and not releasing the fish. There are signs up already at the pond that says it is catch and release only.
11. Officer Shuherk brought to councils’ attention that there are still ongoing problems with the girls bathroom at the park. Every other week, he has to go out there and unclog the toilet. Council thought it might be from someone specific using the toilet because of it only being the womens, but they are now wondering if the sewer line isn’t hooked up properly.

**BPA: Mayor Lyons** reported the following to Council:

1. Mayor Lyons discussed the WWTP.TP.
2. Mayor Lyons brought up the EPA coming and having a surprise inspection. There is a water drinking source protection plan that Brant is currently working on. Brant has never heard of this plan, but he found out about it during the water rate study in January.
3. Mayor Lyons and the BPA brought up the approval of the 2024-W Amended for the correct water rates. The BPA approved the resolution before discussion for Council’s approval. The correct water rate was being charged, but on the initial resolution, the wrong rate was listed, so an amended resolution needed made and approved.
4. Council discussed Ethan Crosby for working on the landscape in the village. The initial budget was $5,000, but he is estimating around $2,677 for work at the Fire Department, Buckeye Park, and the Depot. Councilwoman Kadolph approved with Councilman Bohland seconding the motion. Motion was approved.

**Good and Welfare:**

Mayor Lyons and Council would like to thank the local residents for the fireworks shows that they put on.

Mayor Lyons would also like to thank the police for catching the individual that was breaking into people’s vehicles.

Mayor Lyons would like to think Steve and Donna Crowley for their fund donation for the Rock the Block.

Councilwoman Kadolph motioned to approve the financial reports from the Fiscal Officer. Councilman Bohland seconded the approval. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Kadolph motioned to approve the payment of bills presented. Councilman Bohland seconded the motion. Motion passed.

With no further matters to discuss, Councilwoman Kadolph made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Hower second the motion, and the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Mayor Lora Lyons Fiscal Officer Cassie Wright