

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026– 7:00 P.M.
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bell, Canton, Cavanagh, Porter, Rensel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Berger

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Police Chief Rizzo, Street Commissioner Young, Engineer Haibach, Solicitor Matheney

VISITORS: Rob Darner and Max Wright-USGS, Kate Jacob-103 Foxhall, Carmen Insana-5084 Chillicothe, Amanda Meitz-7040 Cedar

Mayor Koons called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Fiscal Officer read the roll. Council reviewed the minutes of the March 16, 2026, meeting, with no corrections or amendments offered. **Porter made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Cavanagh Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried**

VISITORS: Max Wright (Hydrologist) and Rob Garner (Groundwater Specialist) from U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) presented a comprehensive update on the Village’s long-term groundwater monitoring program which has been in place since 2000. They provided historical context dating back to 1979, explaining that earlier studies identified localized groundwater level declines, particularly in higher-density residential areas reliant on private wells. This led to the establishment of the current monitoring network.

The Village’s groundwater system consists of four primary aquifers: Glacial deposits (shallowest), Pottsville Formation, Cuyahoga Formation, Berea Sandstone (deepest). The current monitoring network includes six wells across these aquifers, with both quarterly (discrete) and continuous (hourly) data collection. Two wells provide continuous monitoring, offering long-term trend analysis.

It was reported most water levels remain within normal or above-normal ranges, seasonal fluctuations are expected due to rainfall and water usage, recent drought conditions (2024–2025) caused declines, but levels remain higher than historic lows, and the value of the dataset lies in its 26-year record, allowing meaningful long-term interpretation.

The current agreement expires September 30, 2026. A proposed 5-year continuation would cost approximately \$85,000 total, reduced to \$60,000 with a 30% USGS contribution and required agreement execution before September 30, 2026.

USGS emphasized that current work focuses only on water levels, not quality. Past countywide studies (2015) found some exceedances (arsenic, coliform bacteria, sodium), generally low levels of nitrates, pesticides, and VOCs and only one South Russell well was included in that study. They suggested that additional sampling could provide localized data, incorporate modern testing (e.g., PFAS), and address emerging concerns. Estimated cost would be \$15,000 for sampling six wells (data only) and additional cost for full analysis/reporting.

There was brief discussion about remediation methods (reverse osmosis and activated carbon noted), sources of contaminants (natural vs. septic systems vs. road salt), fertilizer impacts (generally minimal in groundwater), iron content in wells (common regional issue), and injection wells (regulated and located far below aquifers). Council referred this issue to the Public Utilities Committee for further review.

Carmen Insanna introduced himself as the new owner of Rickelman Farm. He outlined plans to revitalize agricultural use (herbs, tomatoes, grapes), and potentially include chickens, a boutique, a winery tasting room, as well as employment for individuals with disabilities. He is proceeding through Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals processes.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor first discussed information related to Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, (NOACA). He reported that, upon reviewing NOACA materials, he found that the Village of South Russell and the Village of Chagrin Falls were associated with approximately \$2.5 million in trail-related funding. He expressed uncertainty as to how this allocation was determined, noting that it appeared inconsistent with his understanding of prior projects and funding structures. He indicated that further investigation is needed, including coordination with Chagrin Falls officials, and that he will report back to Council once additional details are clarified.

The Mayor reported that the Village's cleaning person who is out on medical leave is expected to return to work in mid-April. However, he will be absent again later in the year (October) and is currently evaluating the possibility of retirement.

The Mayor referenced materials from Geauga Growth Partnership, specifically highlighting information related to playgrounds and community amenities. He circulated this information to Council for consideration, noting that it may be useful as the Village continues discussions regarding park improvements and recreational planning.

He also discussed a potential opportunity involving Ideastream and the Chagrin River Watershed Partners. As a member of the advisory board, he was approached regarding the possibility of creating informational or promotional segments, (like public service features), highlighting watershed initiatives in Geauga County. He noted that South Russell has been identified as a potential participant. The intent would be to showcase positive environmental and watershed-related efforts. Further details will be discussed at an upcoming meeting scheduled for April 28th. He indicated that the project would likely require minimal to no Village staff involvement, as coordination would primarily occur through the watershed organization.

There was discussion about items within the Mayor's Report regarding planning for the Village's 250th anniversary celebrations. This included consideration of the need for legislation authorizing expenditures for food and beverages at public events, ensuring compliance with Auditor of State guidance requiring a defined "public purpose" for such expenditures, and whether to amend existing ordinances or adopt a new, event-specific legislation covering all 250th-related activities. The Mayor supported the approach of bringing forward a dedicated ordinance at a future meeting to clearly authorize and define the public purpose of these events.

The Mayor discussed community engagement efforts, including the “Coffee with the Mayor” initiative. He emphasized the importance of improving communication with residents, noting concerns about low public awareness and attendance at meetings. He indicated that these informal gatherings are intended to increase transparency, provide residents with opportunities to ask questions and improve dissemination of Village information. Council discussed whether such events should also be formally included in ordinance language when Village funds are used for refreshments.

Road Program prioritization under NOACA guidelines, including criteria related to pavement condition ratings (PCR) and project eligibility was discussed. The Mayor acknowledged the need to evaluate timelines and priorities, particularly for identified roads requiring attention.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT: The Fiscal Officer addressed the new resident welcome letter, noting that it had been circulated to Council for review. Receiving no objections, she indicated that the letter would be finalized and distributed to all residents who have moved into the Village thus far in 2026, with the process continuing on a rolling basis for future new residents. This initiative is intended to improve communication and ensure that new community members are informed about Village services, operations, and key contacts.

The Fiscal Officer inquired whether the Parks Committee had selected a date for the Fall Festival, as the administration needs to reserve the park facility in advance. Based on discussion, Council expressed a preference to avoid Labor Day weekend and instead tentatively hold the event on one of the remaining Sundays in September (September 13, 20, or 27). To support event logistics, she confirmed that park reservations would be blocked for those Saturdays and Sundays, to allow for setup time, ensuring flexibility once a final date is selected.

The Fiscal Officer reported the need to begin preparation of the Village’s tax budget, signaling the start of the annual budgeting cycle. As part of this process, she will attend upcoming committee meetings, when possible, to offer guidance. Departments will begin completing budget worksheets and financial planning discussions will commence across all committees.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Porter provided the Finance Committee report on behalf of Berger noting that Council had proposed legislation related to the Road and Bridge Levy renewal, as well as continued discussion of a Bike and Trail Levy, both of which had been reviewed during the committee’s March meeting. He referenced that the minutes from that meeting were included in Council packets, and that these levy discussions are part of broader long-term infrastructure and capital planning considerations for the Village.

The committee also reviewed a proposed amendment to Codified Ordinance 235.02, which would abolish the Treasury Investment Board. Porter explained that the intent of this change is to streamline the Village’s investment oversight process. Under the proposed structure the Fiscal Officer would continue to provide regular financial and investment reporting, which is already occurring in practice. The Finance Committee would assume a more active oversight role, effectively replacing the function of the Treasury Investment Board. The revised process would better align with statutory requirements and current administrative practices. The Solicitor clarified that under state law, the Fiscal Officer is responsible for recommending investment strategies, with additional input from the Mayor and Solicitor, along with consideration of

independent financial guidance as appropriate. The proposed change is intended to eliminate redundancy and improve efficiency in financial governance.

Porter reported that there is currently no clear record of the contents of the Village's safety deposit box and access is limited due to outdated authorization records. The committee discussed the need to update authorized access individuals to reflect current officeholders. These individuals should gain access to the box in the near future and conduct an inventory of its contents. It was noted that the bank requires specific individuals (not titles) to be listed for access, necessitating formal Council action to update authorization.

SOLICITOR REPORT: No report.

ENGINEER REPORT: The Engineer expressed appreciation to the Village for organizing the USGS groundwater presentation, noting that it had been many years since such a presentation had been made to Council. He described the information as valuable and informative, and indicated that continued collaboration with USGS would be beneficial for long-term planning and understanding of the Village's groundwater resources.

At the joint Public Utilities and Streets Committee meeting scheduled for April 16th, he will look to discuss the 2026 Road Program, noting that prior budget discrepancies ("budget snafu") require alignment between engineering recommendations and available funding. He indicated that, once direction is confirmed, he can expedite project planning and implementation.

The Engineer noted that settling has been observed at the recently completed Hemlock Culvert project site, which is not unexpected given the timing of construction and ground conditions. The issue is being monitored and adjustments or remediation may be required. He confirmed that he has assigned staff to evaluate whether guardrail installation is warranted in the vicinity of the Hemlock Culvert. This evaluation will include applicable safety criteria such as speed, sight distance, and roadway conditions. He noted that any guardrail installation would likely be limited to the Village's jurisdiction, with coordination provided to the county if conditions extend beyond Village limits.

The Engineer reported that work on the salt storage facility is underway, though progress remains weather dependent. He is working with the contractor to develop a more detailed schedule and indicated that he will provide Council with a timeline once it becomes available.

At the Mayor's request, the Engineer plans to conduct a site visit to The Family Life Center retention pond to evaluate stormwater conditions and retention capacity.

The Engineer noted that he has engaged planning resources to begin developing conceptual ideas for improvements to the Village's central/corner property, including potential design and layout considerations.

He is working with the Village's traffic resources to evaluate the process and requirements for modifying the speed limit on Bell Road, including applicable studies and regulatory considerations.

STREET COMMISSIONER: The Street Commissioner reported that work has begun on the salt storage facility project with crews currently engaged in topsoil stripping and site preparation. This phase of work is nearing completion, with approximately 95% of the topsoil removed and stockpiled. The material will later be redistributed to create berms around the site, which will serve to reduce noise, light, and visual impact on surrounding properties. The project is progressing as expected at this stage.

The Street Commissioner also provided an update on Village signage improvements, confirming that corporation limit signs have been installed. The department is awaiting delivery of upgraded steel posts, which will replace existing supports and provide improved durability. Once received, Service Department employees will install the posts using concrete footings to ensure long-term stability. In response to Council inquiry, he addressed the status of applying the Village logo to the administrative vehicle, noting that he has reached out to a vendor but has not yet received a response. He will continue to follow up to complete this project.

The Street Commissioner also reported on seasonal maintenance activities, including the condition of Village flags. Due to recent weather conditions, many flags have become worn or damaged. New flags have been procured and replacement is underway, with installation being coordinated around favorable weather conditions to ensure longevity.

He shared observations regarding increased daytime use of the south park, noting that residents utilize the space during lunch hours and for short breaks. Based on these observations, he introduced a concept for a small pavilion or shelter structure to provide shaded seating. The proposed structure would be modest in size and cost-effective, with an estimated total cost of approximately \$6,000, including materials and concrete work. He indicated that the Service Department staff could complete the project in-house, making it a feasible improvement. This item was presented for discussion only, with no formal action taken.

He further noted that the Service Department personnel can complete additional small capital projects, such as park improvements, during periods when weather conditions limit other work. This includes projects like the proposed bocce court, which could be constructed internally with available staff. Additionally, he referenced coordination with community partners, including an upcoming Eagle Scout project supported by the Rotary Club, which will involve landscaping improvements at Village park facilities.

STREET COMMITTEE REPORT: Bell reported the next meeting scheduled for April 16th at 5:30 p.m. in the Street Commissioner's office.

Bell made a motion go out to bid for a 2026 F-600 Chassis 4x4 SD Regular Cab 205" WB DRW XL (F6L) and hook lift and related snow and ice control equipment to be installed on a new single axle, cab and chassis, seconded by Rensel. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Bell made a motion to approved Construction Progress Payment application No. 2-Final in the amount of \$12,989.92 to Specialized Construction, Inc. for the 2025 Road Program, seconded by Rensel. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

The Village's current policy regarding resident participation in culvert replacement allows residents to replace culverts at material cost and the Village will restore the driveway apron as part of the paving process when coordinated with the Road Program. However, if residents decline participation during the scheduled project and later request replacement, they are responsible for pavement replacement. The committee emphasized that this policy has generally been well received and serves as an effective incentive to encourage timely participation and avoid disruptions to newly paved roads.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT: Cavanagh reported the committee met on April 2, 2026. The primary focus continues to be personnel and administrative operations within the Building Department. Discussion centered on the administrative position and review of the existing job description. The Mayor discussed the ongoing recruitment process for a replacement, acknowledging that responses to the position posting have been limited and have not yet yielded strong candidates. In response, additional outreach efforts have been initiated by him, including contacting neighboring municipalities to identify individuals with relevant experience who may be interested in the role. The search remains active.

A significant topic of discussion involved the potential reorganization of administrative office space within Village Hall. The committee is considering whether it would be beneficial to relocate administrative staff to a centralized area in the lower level of the building, rather than maintaining the current separation of offices. This concept would involve creating a more cohesive administrative workspace, improving communication and workflow efficiency, and potentially reconfiguring existing space with minimal structural changes. It was noted that this idea is in the exploratory stage only, and no formal decisions have been made. Further evaluation and coordination with other committees will be required before any action is taken.

The committee tentatively agreed to meet May 14, subject to final confirmation.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT: No report.

SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT: Canton reported that the Police Department continues to have one full-time position vacancy which remains unfilled. Efforts to address staffing needs are ongoing.

Several equipment and technology upgrades were highlighted as recently completed, reflecting continued investment in public safety infrastructure. These included installation of school zone beacon upgrades, completion of body-worn camera upgrades and completion of in-car video camera system upgrades. These improvements are intended to enhance both officer safety and operational effectiveness, as well as support transparency and accountability.

The committee also reported on upcoming community engagement initiatives, including the annual Cops and Kids Fishing event, scheduled for May 31st from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Lake Louise. This event is designed to foster positive relationships between law enforcement and the community.

Looking ahead, the committee announced its next meeting will be held on April 23rd at 3:15 p.m. at the Police Station.

In terms of new business, the committee discussed a request from the Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport Committee regarding the use of a portable speed monitoring device (“speed box”), which is planned for deployment in the fall to support traffic safety initiatives. Additionally, the committee noted plans for a future open house at the Police Department, tentatively anticipated for the fall, though a specific date has not yet been determined. The committee also emphasized the importance of advanced planning for public safety logistics associated with the Village’s upcoming 250th anniversary events. It was recommended that future Safety Committee meetings include discussions on event staffing and coordination, traffic and crowd management and emergency preparedness.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT: Bell discussed the organizational structure of administrative staff, including the concept of consolidating administrative functions into a single location. This discussion aligned with similar considerations raised by the Building Committee. The goal of such consolidation would be to improve communication and coordination among staff, establish clearer lines of supervision and responsibility, and enhance overall operational efficiency. It was reiterated that, under the current structure, the Building Department administrative position would report directly to the Fiscal Officer, reinforcing a centralized administrative framework. Additionally, the committee emphasized the importance of maintaining clear management boundaries and adherence to established roles. It was noted that both staff and elected officials should respect defined lines of authority to ensure consistent and effective operations.

Bell also reviewed the Village’s recently adopted hiring policy, which outlines a structured process for recruitment, including required steps such as public advertisement of positions and standardized evaluation procedures. He stressed the importance of strict adherence to this policy, noting that deviations from the process could undermine consistency and transparency in hiring practices.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE REPORT: Cavanagh addressed ongoing concerns at the Rarick Cemetery, specifically along the south boundary, where fallen trees from adjacent private property have caused damage to the split rail fence. It was noted that the trees have remained in place for an extended period, and the fence continues to be in a deteriorated and unsightly condition. The committee discussed the need to determine property ownership and responsibility for removal of the trees and repair of the fence. Coordination with the property owner will be necessary to resolve the issue, and further follow-up will occur.

A significant issue discussed was the condition of the sanitary sewer line at Village Hall. The existing cast iron pipe has developed a “belly” and structural deterioration, resulting in repeated backups and increasingly frequent maintenance. The committee reported that the line currently requires regular jetting to remain operational. The condition is worsening, making replacement necessary. Failure of the system can temporarily render restroom facilities unusable. Two estimates have been obtained for the project: approximately \$14,000 from one contractor and approximately \$16,200 from another. The scope of work includes excavation, pipe replacement, and restoration, including reconstruction of impacted steps and surrounding areas. The committee discussed the possibility of reducing costs by having the Service Department perform certain restoration work in-house, such as grading and surface repair. In accordance with Village policy, the committee agreed that a third quote should be obtained before proceeding.

Additionally, the committee raised the possibility of evaluating ADA accessibility improvements, such as installing a ramp in place of or in conjunction with the existing steps, given that the area will already be disturbed during construction. This option will be further reviewed in coordination with the Engineer. The committee also briefly discussed the condition and long-term outlook of the Village Hall lift (elevator). It was noted that the lift is over 20 years old, and replacement parts are becoming difficult to obtain, indicating that the system may be approaching the end of its useful life. While no immediate action was taken, the committee acknowledged that this will likely require future planning and budgeting.

PARKS COMMITTEE: Cavanagh reported that a wide range of topics related to park use, improvements, and future planning were discussed. One of the primary areas of discussion involved planning for the Village's 250th anniversary celebrations, specifically the potential use of park space for events. As part of this, the committee expressed interest in incorporating a K-9 demonstration ("drum shell"/demonstration event) as a community attraction. Coordination with the Police Department will be necessary to determine feasibility and appropriate logistics.

The committee also explored opportunities for expanding and enhancing the park trail system. Discussion focused on the possibility of creating an additional trail segment in the wooded area on the west side of south park, including areas that currently lack formal access but are used informally. The intent would be to improve connectivity within the park, provide clearly marked and accessible trails, and enhance overall recreational use of the park. This concept would be evaluated in conjunction with the existing Park Master Plan to ensure consistency with long-term planning goals.

There was discussion of the potential installation of a bocce court. The committee reviewed possible locations within the park, dimensions (approximately 12 feet by 60 feet) and construction options and materials. It was determined that the project could potentially be completed in-house by the Service Department, resulting in substantial cost savings. Estimated costs were approximately \$3,800 using limestone dust and up to approximately \$5,000 using a more durable hard-surface material. The committee expressed strong support for the project and recommended that a formal proposal, including detailed cost breakdowns, be prepared for Council consideration at a future meeting. It was noted that funding may require a budget amendment or reallocation, potentially tied to park or anniversary-related funds.

There was discussion about the layout of a potential future trail along Bell Road, referencing preliminary markings that had been placed in the park to help visualize width and alignment. This effort is intended to assist in evaluating feasibility and community impact.

There was discussion of a prescribed burn to reduce invasive species, promote the growth of native vegetation and improve overall ecological health of the park. The proposed burn would cover approximately 7 acres on the south side of the park. Although there was some discussion regarding current site conditions and timing, it was noted that the burn would ultimately be conducted based on appropriate weather and environmental conditions, with coordination from qualified professionals.

Cavanagh made a motion to approve the Prescribed Fire Burn, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT: Porter reported the committee discussed the Hazelwood stormwater project, which continues to move forward in the planning phase. The Engineer reported that the project is currently in line for survey work, which is necessary to identify existing drainage infrastructure, including inlets and piping, develop a detailed topographic analysis, determine the extent of improvements required, including the number and placement of additional inlets. At this time, survey work has not yet begun, and no definitive timeline has been provided. The project remains a significant capital undertaking, with an estimated total cost of approximately \$750,000, of which the Village's share is expected to be approximately \$375,000. The committee emphasized the importance of incorporating this expense into broader budget planning discussions, particularly as the Village prepares for the upcoming fiscal cycle. With respect to scheduling, the committee discussed a tentative plan to begin construction later in 2026, likely in the fall or early winter. This timing is considered advantageous because underground work can be performed more efficiently in cooler months, contractors may offer more competitive pricing during off-peak periods and final roadway restoration, and paving can be completed in the following spring.

The committee also addressed the Hemlock Road Culvert Project, noting that final disbursement, including OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission), is complete. The committee intends to follow up with Russell Township officials to provide a project update and ensure coordination on any remaining concerns.

Additionally, the committee discussed broader revenue considerations, particularly the Village's reliance on property tax income. It was noted that property taxes generate approximately \$1.6 million annually, representing a significant portion of Village funding. The committee acknowledged ongoing discussions at the state level regarding potential changes to property tax structures and emphasized that any such changes could have substantial implications for Village operations and service levels.

SAFE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORT COMMITTEE REPORT: Bell reported the next meeting is scheduled for May 1st at 7:30 a.m. and noted continued progress in reviewing both short-term and long-term transportation initiatives. They discussed the potential development of a bike and pedestrian trail system, including evaluation of funding options. The committee reviewed preliminary financial estimates obtained from the Auditor's office, which indicated that a potential levy to support trail construction would cost residents approximately \$28 per \$100,000 of property valuation (approximately 0.81 mills) over a five-year period. It was noted that this estimate would cover initial construction costs only and would not include ongoing maintenance expenses.

Given the financial implications, the committee expressed interest in coordinating more closely with the Finance Committee and recommended holding a joint committee meeting to further evaluate the feasibility, cost structure, and funding strategy for such a levy. This joint discussion is expected to occur after the return of the Finance Committee Chair.

The committee also reviewed historical planning efforts, including a previously completed regional trail study conducted in collaboration with surrounding communities. This study, which included extensive data collection, public engagement, and route analysis, identified potential trail corridors, including: a route along Bell Road to connect South Russell to Chagrin Falls and a

potential trail utilizing FirstEnergy utility corridors to link areas such as Washington Street to Westwoods. Although the study demonstrated significant planning and community involvement, it was noted that the initiative ultimately did not move forward due to factors such as cost concerns and resident opposition. However, the committee recognized that the study remains a valuable resource, as it contains detailed information on easements, feasibility, and design considerations that could inform future efforts.

In addition to long-term trail planning, the committee discussed near-term safety improvements. These included installation and use of a portable speed monitoring device (“speed box”), coordinated with the Safety Committee, to address speeding concerns near park areas and evaluation of roadway design strategies, such as lane narrowing (“road diet”), to reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Preliminary field markings were placed in the park area to help visualize potential trail alignments and widths, providing a practical reference for future planning discussions.

The committee also explored engineering considerations, including minimum lane widths and their impact on traffic behavior, opportunities to reallocate roadway space to accommodate bicycle lanes and balancing safety improvements with cost-effective implementation. Throughout its discussion, the committee emphasized a phased and practical approach, recognizing that large-scale trail construction may require significant funding and community support, while smaller improvements could be implemented incrementally to enhance safety in the near term.

ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE: Porter reported the committee discussed administrative processes, transparency, and governance improvements. The first matter addressed was the Village safety deposit box authorization. The committee recommended updating access to reflect current officeholders, as existing authorization was outdated and limited access to former officials.

Porter made a motion to approve changing the contacts on the Village’s safety deposit box to Danielle Romanowski, (Fiscal Officer), and Christopher Berger, (Chair of Finance), seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

The Transparency– Council/committee minutes process policy was discussed. It is intended to improve consistency and accessibility of meeting records. Key elements of the process include encouraging the use of audio recordings of committee meetings, standardizing how minutes are prepared and reviewed and establishing clearer expectations for committee chairs and members in the approval process. It was emphasized that draft minutes remain subject to review and revision by committee members prior to approval, ensuring accuracy and appropriateness of the official record.

Porter made a motion to approve the Transparency – Council / committee Minutes process, seconded by Rensel. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

The committee recommended holding a Council retreat on Saturday, May 30th, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Village Hall with the intent of providing dedicated time for strategic planning and discussion outside of regular meetings. It was noted that the date may be revisited if scheduling conflicts arise.

Porter made a motion to approve a Council retreat for Saturday, May 30th from 8 – 11 a.m. at Village Hall, seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

The committee also referenced a draft of an Event Statement form for Council’s review, related to upcoming Village activities, including the 250th anniversary celebrations. Further discussion and refinement of this document is expected at a future meeting.

The committee will continue with the ongoing discussion regarding the potential consolidation of administrative functions within Village Hall, aligning with similar discussions in the Building and HR Committees. The goal of this effort is to improve organizational efficiency, communication, and workflow among administrative staff.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Bell provided a second reading of a Resolution of Appreciation for Dennis M. Galicki.

Cavanagh introduced an ordinance approving the performance agreement between the Village of South Russell and Hillcrest Concert Band for the July 14, 2026 concert in the amount not to exceed \$700 for [400 Honorarium + dinner and nonalcoholic beverages for performers only] and declaring an emergency. Cavanagh made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll Call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Cavanagh made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2026-25**

Porter provided a first reading of an ordinance declaring it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation and declaring an emergency (Road and Bridge renewal).

Porter introduced an ordinance approving the Master Service Agreement, as amended, between the Village of South Russell and First Communications, LLC for the new Gateway in an amount not to exceed \$7,299, authorizing the Mayor to execute the Master Service Agreement on behalf of the Village and declaring an emergency. Porter made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Cavanagh. Roll Call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Porter made a motion to adopt, seconded by Bell. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2026-26**

Porter introduced an ordinance approving the Service Agreement between the Village of South Russell and Uniti Solutions for upgrade to the internet service for Village Hall in the amount of \$2,640, authorizing the Mayor to execute the service agreement on behalf of the Village, and declaring an emergency. Porter made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Bell. Roll Call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Porter made a motion to adopt, seconded by Bell. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2026-27**

Cavanagh introduced an ordinance approving the operating agreement with Geauga Fresh Farmers’ Market, Inc. for a license to use a designated portion of the parking areas and driveways of the Village of South Russell municipal property at Chillicothe Road and Bell Road as a farmers’ and artisans’ market for the period of May 9, 2026 to October 10, 2026, authorizing the Mayor to execute the Operating Agreement on behalf of the Village and declaring an emergency. Cavanagh made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll Call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Cavanagh made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

ORD 2026-28

Porter introduced an ordinance amending the 2026 Annual Appropriations increasing Building Department expenses \$27,500 for miscellaneous expenses and \$20,000 for salary and benefits and declaring an emergency. Porter made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Cavanagh. Roll Call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Bell made a motion to adopt, seconded by Cavanagh. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2026-29**

Bell introduced an ordinance approving the renewal of the Workers' Compensation Service Agency Agreement and Addendum between the Village of South Russell and Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Inc. in the amount of \$490 for the services for the annual contract period beginning July 1, 2026 for the Ohio Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program and policy year for Group Rating enrollment for January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2027, authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to execute the agreement and addendum on behalf of the Village, and declaring an emergency. Bell made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Cavanagh. Roll Call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Bell made a motion to adopt, seconded by Cavanagh. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2026-30**

PAYMENTS REGISTER: Porter made a motion to ratify the payment register of 3-30-26 in the amount of \$46,474.85, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

NEW & OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council, Bell made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m., seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.



William G. Koons, Mayor



Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by: Christy Troyer