



COUNCIL MEETING

VILLAGE OF JACKSON CENTER

REGULAR SESSION

Held: Monday, February 23, 2026

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INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Called To Order By: Jesse Fark	Session Begin: 7:00 PM	Session End: 8:42 PM	Session Location: Council Chambers
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MEMBERS AND VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE/ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Leisha Elchert	Present	Ms. Gina Ludwig	Present
Mr. James DeVine	Present	Mr. Wayne York	Not Present
Mr. Luke Doseck	Present	Mr. Ross Ludwig	Present

Name	Visitor/Employee	Comments
Drew Sosby	Employee	Village Administrator
Bev Wren	Employee	Fiscal Officer
Jim Gooding	Employee	Assistant Fiscal Officer
Ed Maxwell	Employee	ZEO/EDD
Mike Burton	Employee	Solicitor
Lance Symonds	Visitor	Mayor, Village of Botkins
Andy Weaver	Visitor	Jackson Township Trustee
Gary Metz	Visitor	Jackson Township Trustee
Bruce Metz	Visitor	Shelby County Commissioner
Robert Zorn	Visitor	Jackson Township Trustee
Lauren Kilburn	Employee	Police Officer 7:31-7:53 pm
Megan Lewis	Media	Sidney Daily News

MOTION TO EXCUSE FROM ATTENDANCE:

MOTION TO EXCUSE:	Wayne York
MOTION TO EXCUSE BY:	DeVine
MOTION SECONDED BY:	R Ludwig
DISCUSSION:	Mr. York is attending the American Public Power Association Legislative Rally and the Policy Makers Council in Washington, DC.
VOTING ROLL CALL:	VOTE
	Yes 5
	No 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF:	<u>Monday, February 09, 2026</u>
TYPE OF MEETING:	Regular
MOTION TO APPROVE BY:	Elchert
MOTION SECONDED BY:	Doseck
DISCUSSION:	None
VOTING ROLL CALL:	VOTE
	Yes 5
	No 0

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Finance Committee met just prior to this meeting to review the January monthly financial reports.

- For the month of January, month-to-date revenue was greater than month-to-date expenditures by \$212,521.65. When comparing the month-to-date revenues to January of 2025, they are down by 15% and when comparing them to December of 2025 they are down by 66%. Year-to-date revenues are down by 15% compared to last year at this time.



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- When comparing the month-to-date expenditures to January of 2025, they are down by 45% and when comparing them to December of 2025 they are down 80%. Year-to-date expenditures are down by 45% compared to last year at this time.
- The ending cash balance of all funds is up by nearly 13% compared to last year at this time.
- Income tax receipts were \$142,549.01 for the month. When comparing the month-to-date income tax receipts to January of 2025, they are down by 7% and when comparing them to December of 2025 they are down by nearly 29%. Year-to-date income tax receipts are down by nearly 7% when compared to last year at this time. It is important to note that the last three years (2022, 2023, 2024) were extraordinary income tax receipt years for the village with total receipts over two million. Prior to those years the village experienced receipts of 1.5 million, 1.4 million and 1.9 million for 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT OF:	January
MOTION TO APPROVE BY:	G Ludwig
MOTION SECONDED BY:	DeVine
DISCUSSION:	None
VOTING ROLL CALL:	VOTE
	Yes 5
	No 0

PRE-SCHEDULED:

TOPIC:	Status Update NSCJAD (Northern Shelby County Joint Ambulance District)
PRESENTED BY:	Jesse Fark and Lance Symonds
DISCUSSION:	<p>Mayor Fark and Mayor Lance Symonds shared a Power Point presentation with Council members and those in attendance. Fark stated that the questions he wants to answer with this presentation are 1) What is the Northern Shelby County Joint Ambulance District? 2) Why did we need to establish the district? 3) What does the district need? 4) Where is the district headed?</p> <p>The NSJACD Board Members are: Alex Berner – Franklin Township, Mark Pulfer – Village of Anna, Doug Schmerge – Dinsmore Township, Lance Symonds – Village of Botkins, Andy Weaver – Jackson Township, and Jesse Fark – Village of Jackson Center.</p> <p>Why is the district needed: there are three root causes; management, people and funding. Fark stated that we have a problem with a lack of consistent, long-term, locally focused EMS management. There is also insufficient funding to recruit, train, and retain EMS personnel. Then there is the problem of disjointed levies across jurisdictions that cannot support minimum service levels. Fark went on to say that by forming the district we can direct oversight of an EMS contract by your local elected officials. We can increase resources to recruit, train, and retain EMS personnel. By having a district, we will have a single source levy revenue across the entire district.</p> <p>The Northern Shelby County Joint Ambulance District is a partnership of Anna, Botkins, Jackson Center, and Dinsmore, Franklin, and Jackson Townships. The district will provide a sustainable, consistent approach to ambulance services and would hold contracts for EMS services. This district would not operate ambulances; but would replace multiple contracts with one unified district and oversee and fund ambulance service delivery. Again, this district is governed by your locally elected leaders.</p>



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The key benefits of a district wide EMS Contract include; oversight by locally elected officials, clear accountability and performance expectations, consistent EMS service levels across all communities, local decision-making focused solely on EMS needs, and the district can apply for grants to reduce costs.

Fark stated that the current service is with limited in-house staffing, on-call coverage when available and reliance on mutual aid. With the new district they propose to have 24/7 in-house coverage, dedicated on-call staffing and capacity to handle multiple calls. The following reflects the run rates averages from 2022 - 2025. Total runs - 691, mutual aid calls - 59, mutual aid required - 36.

Fark covered the EMS Personnel Hourly Cost Summary based on 2,080 hours per year. The cost to train a Paramedic is \$15,000, with an hourly range of pay of \$22 - \$30 and an average hourly rate of \$26. The cost to train an Advanced is \$2,800, with an hourly range of pay of \$18.50 - \$25 and an average hourly rate of \$21.75. The cost to train an EMT is \$1,800, with an hourly range of pay of \$16.50 - \$21 and an average hourly rate of \$18.75.

The following reflects the current levies that are in place compared to the proposed levy structure that would replace the current levies.

Current & Proposed Levy Structures

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Current Levy Structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinsmore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Levies Totalling 1.02 Mills • 2022 - 0.72 Mill • 2020 - 0.30 Mill • Revenue \$95,622 • Franklin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Levies Totalling 1.0 Mill • 2020 - 0.30 Mill • 2017 - 0.40 Mill • 1982 - 0.30 Mill • Revenue \$85,422 • Jackson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Levies Totalling 1.0 Mill • 2020 - 0.20 Mill • 2020 - 0.30 Mill • 2015 - 0.50 Mill • Revenue \$74,004 <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">Total Revenue \$255,047</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Proposed Levy Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Wide Levy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Levy Totalling 2.7 Mills • Total Revenue \$971,080 <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">If the proposed levy is passed, the current 1-mill levies will be removed. This means the increase is only 1.7 mills.</p>
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Fark then reviewed a Budget Summary reflecting total expenses, total revenue (non-levy) and the levy requirement.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Total Expenses	\$1,071,295.06	\$1,098,077.43	\$1,125,529.37	\$1,153,667.60	\$1,182,509.29
Total Revenue (Non-Levy)	\$246,000.00	\$247,950.00	\$249,919.50	\$251,908.70	\$253,917.78
Levy Requirement	\$825,295.06	\$850,127.43	\$875,609.87	\$901,758.91	\$928,591.51

Budget Summary

Costs rise over time; levy revenue is stable; early surpluses help smooth later years.

Fark and Symonds reviewed with those present how a property tax levy works. Property tax levies are quantified in mills. One mill is equivalent to \$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value. Levies can be placed for a wide number of terms, for ambulance services the standard is five years. The value of properties at the point a levy is enacted is held for the duration of the levy, except for new construction. The district is seeking a 2.7 mill levy to fund EMS Services. Below are the levy examples for single family residential in a village, farm/home property in a township, farm property in township for 138 acres.



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Levy Examples

Single Family Residential, in Village	Farm/Home Property, in Township	Farm Property, in Township - 138 Acres
Property Appraised Value: \$302,630	Property Appraised Value: \$795,760	Property Appraised Value: \$1,103,170
Taxable Value: \$302,630	Taxable Value: \$538,700	Taxable Value: \$344,990
35% Value: \$105,920.50	35% Value: \$188,545	35% Value: \$120,746.50
Current: \$105.93	Current Levy: \$188.54	Current Levy: \$120.75
If Levy Passes: \$285.99 per year Increase \$180.06 per year	If Levy Passes: \$509.07 per year Increase \$320.53 per year	If Levy Passes: \$326.02 per year Increase \$205.27 per year

Fark and Symonds stated that is the proposed levy is passed, the current 1-mill levies will be removed. This means the increase is only 1.7 mills. Why is the levy needed? The current EMS funding is fragmented across multiple levies and jurisdictions. Existing revenue levels cannot support the minimum staffing and coverage needs. Rising costs for personnel and equipment. The district requires stable, predictable funding to plan long-term. The proposed levy will provide 24/7 in-house ambulance coverage across the district. There would be dedicated on-call staffing to handle multiple simultaneous emergencies. There would be local oversight and accountability through the district board. Clear performance standards in EMS contracts and annual public reporting.

The Boards timeline in phase I (2025) was to establish the district and bylaws and organization. Phase II (2026) is to get the levy passed and enter into EMS contracts. Phase III (2027) will be implementation and improvement of services.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. LEGISLATION

NUMBER:	2026-003
TITLE:	<i>AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR THE VILLAGE OF JACKSON CENTER, SHELBY COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.</i>
CLASSIFICATION:	Ordinance
STATUS:	3rd Reading
MOTION TO:	Adopt
MOTION MADE BY:	DeVine
MOTION SECONDED BY:	Elchert
DISCUSSION:	<p>Since 2022, water rates have been increased six percent per year and sewer rates have been increased by three percent each year. This ordinance outlines the water and sewer rates based on usage for years 2026, 2027 and 2028. For 2026 all rates will remain the same with no change in customer charges as well. The water monthly minimum of 0 to 2,000 gallons will increase two percent each year in 2027, 2028 but not the commodity rate, to keep the utility on track with inflationary factors and will be reviewed annually to assess the financial condition of the water fund. The sewer monthly minimum and flow usage will have a zero percent change in 2026, 2027 and 2028 and will be reviewed annually to assess the financial condition of the sewer fund. The rates stated above shall be effective with the March 1, 2026 bills.</p>
VOTING ROLL CALL	VOTE
G Ludwig	Yes
DeVine	Yes
Doseck	Yes



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R Ludwig		Yes
Elchert		Yes
VOTING RESULTS	YES: 5	NO: 0
		ABSTAIN: 0

b. LEGISLATION

NUMBER:	2026-004		
TITLE:	<i>AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS AND RATES FOR ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF JACKSON CENTER, SHELBY COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.</i>		
CLASSIFICATION:	Ordinance		
STATUS:	3rd Reading		
MOTION TO:	Adopt		
MOTION MADE BY:	Doseck		
MOTION SECONDED BY:	R Ludwig		
DISCUSSION:	The Wage and Benefits Committee is recommending the following revisions to the payroll ordinance that was adopted at the last meeting. In Section 4. "Compensation of Part Time Police Officers and Part Time Volunteer Firefighters" increasing the hour pay rate for Part Time Police Officer position from \$20.00 per hour to \$22,00 per hour and to set the maximum amount to be spent on part-time police compensation for 2026 to \$45,760.		
VOTING ROLL CALL	VOTE		
DeVine	Yes		
Doseck	Yes		
R Ludwig	Yes		
Elchert	Yes		
G Ludwig	Yes		
VOTING RESULTS	YES: 5	NO: 0	ABSTAIN: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

a. LEGISLATION

NUMBER:	2026-005		
TITLE:	<i>AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS IN THE 2026 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR THE VILLAGE OF JACKSON CENTER DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.</i>		
CLASSIFICATION:	Ordinance		
STATUS:	Emergency		
MOTION TO:	Suspend The Three Reading Rule		
MOTION MADE BY:	DeVine		
MOTION SECONDED BY:	G Ludwig		
DISCUSSION:	This ordinance proposes to increase appropriations in the JC Water Plant Replacement Fund so that the remaining \$10,000 of CDBG (<i>Community Development Block Grant</i>) Grant monies can be expended towards this project. The revised appropriation budget for the JC Water Plant Replacement Fund is \$10,000 and the revised appropriation budget for all village funds is \$8,044,759.81.		
VOTING ROLL CALL	VOTE		
Doseck	Yes		
R Ludwig	Yes		
Elchert	Yes		
G Ludwig	Yes		



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DeVine	Yes		
VOTING RESULTS	YES: 5	NO: 0	ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION TO:	Adopt		
MOTION MADE BY:	Elchert		
MOTION SECONDED BY:	Doseck		
DISCUSSION:	None		
VOTING ROLL CALL	VOTE		
R Ludwig	Yes		
Elchert	Yes		
G Ludwig	Yes		
DeVine	Yes		
Doseck	Yes		
VOTING RESULTS	YES: 5	NO: 0	ABSTAIN: 0

b. LEGISLATION

NUMBER:	2026-002		
TITLE:	<i>A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONIES FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CEMETERY FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.</i>		
CLASSIFICATION:	Resolution		
STATUS:	Emergency		
MOTION TO:	Suspend The Three Reading Rule		
MOTION MADE BY:	Elchert		
MOTION SECONDED BY:	R Ludwig		
DISCUSSION:	<p>This resolution will authorize the Fiscal Officer to transfer \$15,000 that was appropriated as such in the General Fund to the Cemetery Fund. These appropriations in the Cemetery Fund will be used to pay for the tree removal and other maintenance that has taken place. The Cemetery Fund does not have a continual revenue stream to be able to pay for these expenditures.</p>		
VOTING ROLL CALL	VOTE		
Elchert	Yes		
G Ludwig	Yes		
DeVine	Yes		
Doseck	Yes		
R Ludwig	Yes		
VOTING RESULTS	YES: 5	NO: 0	ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION TO:	Adopt		
MOTION MADE BY:	DeVine		
MOTION SECONDED BY:	G Ludwig		
DISCUSSION:			
VOTING ROLL CALL	VOTE		
G Ludwig	Yes		
DeVine	Yes		
Doseck	Yes		
R Ludwig	Yes		
Elchert	Yes		
VOTING RESULTS	YES: 5	NO: 0	ABSTAIN: 0



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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMITTEE:	Finance
CHAIR NAME:	York
DISCUSSION:	No report

COMMITTEE:	Utility
CHAIR NAME:	York
DISCUSSION:	No report

COMMITTEE:	Wage & Benefits
CHAIR NAME:	G Ludwig
DISCUSSION:	No report

COMMITTEE:	Safety
CHAIR NAME:	Elchert
DISCUSSION:	No report

COMMITTEE:	Public Property
CHAIR NAME:	DeVine
DISCUSSION:	No report

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

DEPARTMENT:	ZEO/EDD
REPORT BY:	Ed Maxwell
DISCUSSION:	No report. However, I was not at the last meeting as I was making a presentation to the American Club regard the Community Improvement Corporation. The presentation went well and I would like to make the same presentation to council members in the near future.

DEPARTMENT:	Village Administrator
REPORT BY:	Drew Sosby
DISCUSSION:	<p><u>Streets Department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow Removal: 217 total hours; 12 total events; 10 ton of salt used this past event. <p><u>Water Department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Plant Start-Up: hopefully we will get some information later this week about a date for start-up. • AOP climbing water tower- new radio install <p><u>Sewer Department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manhole Lining Project- Started 2/16 • Installed a new clean-out in front 507 Davis Street <p><u>Electric Department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing batteries in traffic signal control panels • PCA Review and Update: Feb (usage) March 1st bill <p><u>Parks Department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luthman's removed tree stumps in JC View Cemetery • Snow Removal <p><u>Admin Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawson Const. started construction at 209 W. Pike Street (1/7), just want to point out that the Village and CIC are not running it. It will be run by the Sidney-Shelby County YMCA. If you have any



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	<p>questions regarding waitlist, you will need to get in touch with the YMCA and ask for Tori.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met w/Bill Simon "Efficiency Smart" (2/10) • Attended Choice One Mtg (2/11) - we talked about Carnival Square and a timeline for Robb Street. We are hoping to get the bid out in April and get an award out in May or June for a July start date. • Sent RCAP Shape Files for Sewer Condition Assessment (2/11) • Attended EMA Board Mtg (2/12) • Ed and I met w/Burton (2/12) to discuss pending Purchase Agreements • Filed CRA w/County "100 Tayside" (2/12) • Mtg w/Tori "YMCA" to discuss Grant Application Process (2/17) • Burton & I met w/AMP (2/17) • Attended Growth Association Mtg to discuss upcoming Community Days Festival (2/18) • Met w/CJ Electric to discuss next steps at water tower generator/274 Lift Station Generator (2/18) • Ed & I met w/Mike Hibner "COMSTOR OUTDOOR" (2/20) • Met w/Mayor Fark & Ed to discuss current events in JC (2/20) • Working on CRA reports (Commercial and Residential) • Lifeguard Discussion and Letter of Interests • Continuing to work on great projects for THE Village of JC!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
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CITIZEN COMMENT:

NAME	
COMMENTS	None

OTHER BUSINESS:

NAME	
COMMENTS	None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

PURPOSE:	<i>FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF PROPERTY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS.</i>		
MOTION MADE BY:	Doseck		
MOTION SECONDED BY:	DeVine		
VOTING ROLL CALL	VOTE		
DeVine	Yes		
Doseck	Yes		
R Ludwig	Yes		
Elchert	Yes		
G Ludwig	Yes		
VOTING RESULTS	YES: 5	NO: 0	ABSTAIN: 0

TIME EXECUTIVE SESSION ENTERED INTO:	8:00 PM
INVITED INTO SESSION:	None
TIME EXECUTIVE SESSION CONCLUDED:	8:42 PM



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UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS:

NAME	
COMMENTS	None

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

TYPE OF MEETING	Regular
DATE	<u>Monday, March 09, 2026</u>
TIME	7:00 PM
LOCATION	Council Chambers
COMMENTS	None

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY:	Elchert	
MOTION SECONDED BY:	DeVine	
VOTING ROLL CALL:	VOTE	
	Yes	5
	No	0

MINUTES PREPARED BY

SIGNATURE	TITLE	DATE
	Fiscal Officer	2/24/26

ATTESTED BY

SIGNATURE	TITLE	DATE
	Fiscal Officer	3/9/26

MAYOR/PRESIDENT PRO-TEM CERTIFIED

SIGNATURE	TITLE	DATE
	Mayor	3/9/26

All formal actions of the Council of Village of Jackson Center concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.