

**Village of Russells Point
March 16, 2026
Council Meeting**

Mayor John Huffman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Council members Anne Elleman, Liz Gibson, Joan Hinterschied, Greg Iiams, Steve Reid, and Rebekah Smith were present. Village Administrator Deanna Roe and Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire were also present.

Guests: Chief of Police Joe Freyhof, Dianne Gauder, AshLee Hullinger, David Wallace, Sharon DeVault, April King, Gretchen Stolzenburg, James Metzger

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the council meeting minutes dated March 2, 2026. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Reports:

Administrator:

- Village Administrator Deanna Roe submitted the Administrator report to council.

Fiscal:

- The presentation of the February 28, 2026 bank reconciliation and financials was reviewed. The ending bank balance as of February 28, 2026 totaled \$5,698,675.32. Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the bank reconciliation and financials as presented. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Police/Code Enforcement:

- Chief Freyhof appreciated and thanked the village staff, mayor and the police officers for their work during the recent wind storms.
- Chief Freyhof made note of a kindness email received from Karen Torrez in regard to Sergeant Morgan Styles. The email outlined Sergeant Styles empathetic professionalism during a recent situation at Indian Lake Villa.
- Chief Freyhof thanked Village Administrator Deanna Roe for her role in bringing in a new IT support team (Storm7 Labs LLC) and their professionalism and support during the recent wind storms.
- Chief Freyhof introduced Patrick Stolzenburg to council. Mr. Stolzenburg was sworn in as a Full-Time Police Officer by Mayor Huffman with the reading of the Oath of Office.

Mayor's Court:

- The February 2026 statement for Mayor's Court showing total receipts of \$1,625.00 was presented to council. Motion was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Gibson to approve the February 2026 Mayor's Court statement as submitted. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-1, with Councilor Iiams voting against. Motion passed.

Zoning:

- Dianne Gauder, Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator, submitted the zoning report to council.

Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District:

- Councilor Reid submitted the Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District meeting report to council.

Logan-Union-Champaign (LUC) Regional Planning Commission:

- Councilor Iiams submitted the LUC Executive Committee report council.

Indian Joint Fire District:

- Councilor Gibson submitted the Indian Joint Fire District meeting report to council.

Gray Fox Broadcasting (WRPO Radio):

- Gray Fox Broadcasting submitted the February 2026 financial report to council.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

- Resolution 26-1067, 2nd reading— Assessing and Certifying to County Auditor Unpaid Charges for Weed and Litter Removal. Mayor Huffman conducted the second reading of Resolution 26-1067. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the 2nd reading of Resolution 26-1067. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. The third and final reading will be held at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.
- Ordinance 26-1273 – Creating Special Assessment Debt Service Fund. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Gibson to waive the 3-reading rule on Ordinance 26-1273 and declare it an emergency. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve Ordinance 26-1273 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Resolution 26-1068 – Authorizing Supplemental Appropriations. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 26-1068 and declare it an emergency. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve Resolution 26-1068 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Citizen Comments:

- Sharon DeVault stated that the wind storms caused a lot of damage in her neighborhood and was appreciative of the effort to quickly restore electricity.

Old Business:

- Administrator Roe provided council with a cost analysis of providing a Mayor's Court for the village. It was noted that Village Solicitor Daniel Bey is working on a resolution to address Mayor's Court. Mayor Huffman stated that he would like to continue with Mayor's Court for the remaining 2026 year before making a decision to possibly close Mayor's Court. Councilor Iiams noted that there are personal liability concerns for Mayor Huffman in conducting Mayor's Court. Councilor Smith is interested in understanding the risks involved in having Mayor's Court. Council agreed to invite Solicitor Bey to the next meeting to discuss the pros and cons of conducting Mayor's Court.
- Councilor Smith inquired about the presentation of council rules for a council vote. It was noted that council rules should be presented at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

New Business:

- The Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) is having a meeting on Wednesday, March 18th, at 9:30 AM. Mayor Huffman stated that 2 council members must be appointed to represent the village at the meeting. Mayor Huffman requests that Councilor Reid and Councilor Iiams be appointed to the TIRC with the appointment being a 1-year term. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to appoint Councilor Reid and Councilor Iiams to a 1-year term serving the TIRC. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Mayor Huffman discussed the need to appoint members to the Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council (CRA Housing Council). The members include 2 members appointed by Mayor Huffman, 2 members appointed by Council and 1 member appointment by the Village Planning Commission. Members will be appointed at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.
- Councilor Hinterschied asked if council members have heard any information regarding how well the Cobblestone Hotel & Suites is doing. Councilor Iiams noted that the hotel will have submitted information which will be reviewed by the Tax Incentive Review Council.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to adjourn at 7:44 PM. Motion passed.

John Huffman, Mayor

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Date Passed