Village of Russells Point
September 21, 2026
Council Meeting

Mayor John Huffman called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 and Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire were also present.

Guests: AshLee Hullinger, Katie Houser, Dianne Gauder, Chief of Police Joe Freyhof, David Wallace, Sharon DeVault, Mary Jo Forgione, William Forgione, Chief of Police Joe Freyhof, Gabie Hengle (RCAP), Melanie St. Clair (RCAP), Alex Wolf, Melanie Braga, Jeff Patten, Jim Reed, J.D. Filkins, Rae Brown, Fiona Cleveland, Robert Stroebel, Judy Andrews, Kurt Andrews

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Gibson to approve the council meeting minutes dated September 8, 2026. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

RCAP (Rural Communities Assistance Partnership) Presentation:

- Melanie St. Clair and Gabie Hengle (representatives from RCAP) gave a presentation on the need to increase the village's water rates. The rate analysis process involved analyzing the water fund's revenues and expenditures, reviewing current and future debt payment obligations, and reviewing short-lived assets and future equipment replacement purchases. From the analysis, RCAP developed a 5-year budget and rate recommendations. The rate recommendation includes a substantial increase in year 1 with minimal increases the following years which would allow the water fund to become financially self-sufficient and sustainable, be fair and equitable to each water customer classification, and allow revenue sufficiency for infrastructure reinvestment. After the presentation, the public in attendance expressed concern on the large rate increase on commercial water accounts with water lines up to 2" and what defines a commercial account. Administrator Roe will reevaluate the definition of a commercial account and determine a water rate classification better suited for the seasonal and small businesses located within the village.

Reports:

Fiscal:

- The presentation of the August 31, 2026 bank reconciliation and financials was reviewed. The ending bank balance as of August 31, 2026 totaled $5,667,919.75. **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. The presentation of the August water account adjustments was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the August water account adjustments as presented. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Police/Code Enforcement:

- Chief of Police Joe Freyhof submitted the police department report to council. In August, there were 733 calls for service.
- The new radar signs have given the police department information about the number of vehicles passing the signs as well as information on trends of when speeding is most abundant.
- There are still several non-compliance issues with code enforcement ranging from trash/litter, tall grass and the parking/storage of certain vehicles.
- Chief Freyhof distributed a letter addressed to the mayor and council regarding the need to review the firearm discharge ordinance and whether additional village regulation is legally permissible. Chief Freyhof asked that the Village Solicitor review Ohio Revised Code and determine if a village ordinance can address issues such as a firearm being discharged inside a residence.
- Safety Town started last week at the Indian Lake School District.
- The Indian Lake School's homecoming parade is on September 24, 2026, beginning at 6:30 PM.

Zoning:

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

Indian Joint Fire District:

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

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

- Councilor Iiams submitted the LUC Executive Committee report to council.
- The LUC annual banquet will be held on November 19, 2026 and Councilor Iiams has tickets to purchase if anyone wants to attend.

Tree Commission:

- The Tree Commission report was submitted to council.

Parks:

- Councilor Hinterschied noted that Pheasants Forever requests a letter from the Village to allow the removal of noxious weeds at the John & Mary Rudolph Nature Reserve. Council agreed to have Administrator Roe draft the letter addressed to Pheasant Forever.
- The splash pad is closed for the season.

Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District:

- Councilor Reid noted that there was no meeting conducted by the Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District due to the tragic loss of a township trustee.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

- Resolution 26-1085 – Certifying Unpaid Charges for Services Performed by the Village of Russells Point under ORC No. 731.51 and Authorizing the Logan County Auditor to Place the Delinquent Amounts on the 2026 Tax Duplicates for Collection and Declaring an Emergency. Mayor Huffman read Resolution 26-1085 by title. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 26-1085 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 adopt Resolution 26-1085 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Citizen Comments: none

Old Business:

- Village clean-up day is scheduled for November 4, 2026.
- Administrator Roe has received the revised employee handbook from the Village Solicitor with comments. Administrator Roe will review the solicitor's comments.
- Administrator Roe provided an update regarding the radio station stating that the FCC does not require the village to specifically hold the radio licensing. It was noted that a group of people within the community wants to keep the radio station and is willing to have the village transfer the FCC license to them. The citizens have individuals willing to operate the radio station as well as having a location to operate the station from as it will be moved out of the municipal building.

New Business:

- In regard to the Cobblestone Hotel sign request, Dianne Gauder, Zoning Officer, noted that Jim Reed, from Cobblestone Hotel, asked permission for a temporary, portable 5'x9' LED sign to be placed at the hotel. The sign would be used for 30 days. It was noted that the existing temporary sign ordinance does not address these new style portable signs, as requested by Cobblestone Hotel. Jim Reed stated that the sign would be used to promote the hotel and community events and not for off-site business advertising. Mr. Reed believes the sign would promote the Indian Lake community and generate more traffic which could possibly increase the hotel customer base. Mr. Reed explained that the use of a temporary sign would help the hotel determine if a permanent sign is needed. Mr. Reed asked council to make an exclusion to the zoning requirements to allow for this unique temporary sign. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Smith to allow Cobblestone Hotel to place a temporary 5'x9' sign for 30 days beginning when the sign is placed onsite at the hotel. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to adjourn at 7:43 PM. Motion passed.

John Huffman, Mayor	Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer	Date Passed