

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY COUNCIL

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS &amp; SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

|      |         |     |    |    |
|------|---------|-----|----|----|
| Held | January | 05, | 20 | 26 |
|------|---------|-----|----|----|

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dave Kaup called to order the Regular Council Meeting on January 05, 2026, at 7:30 pm in the Village of Fort Recovery Council Chambers to conduct regular business.

Elected Council Representatives Luke Knapke and Greg Schmitz were sworn in for their new 4-year term.

**Roll call** was conducted with the following Council members present: Luke Knapke, Greg Schmitz, Scott Pearson and Al Post.

**Also Present:** Randy Diller, Aaron Rengers, Erin Abels, Jared Laux, Roberta Staugler, Amy Wendel, Bailey Cline, Erin Gardner, Jesse Sibert, Jenn Schoonover, Anna Post and Neal Spencer.

The mayor led with prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

**Knapke made the motion to appoint Shawn Thobe and Amy Wendel to the two open council seats. Schmitz seconded this motion. Vote all yes.**

Amy Wendel newly appointed council member present was sworn in to the open council seat. Shawn Thobe was not present, he will be sworn in at the next council meeting.

**Reports to Council:** VA Report December Tax Report.

**Mayor:** We have some guests tonight. Jessie Sibert I am the pastor Ft Recovery Church of Nazarene. Erin Gardner I'm with the Daily Standard.

**Minutes:** Knapke made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for December 15, 2025, this was seconded by Post. Vote all yes.

**Appointments:** Mayor: we have appointments to make tonight for 2026.

**Pearson made the motion to approve the following mayor appointments which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes.**

**Income Tax Board:** Pat Wendel 2-year term expire 12/31/27 & Deanna Knapke-alternate expire 12/31/27

**Park Board:** Johan Niekamp 5-year term expire 12/31/30

**Zoning Board:** Shawn Thobe Council Rep, Mark Addington-fill unexpired term 12/31/26.

**Planning commission:** Shawn Thobe council Rep, Ryan Heitkamp 6-year term expire 12/31/31

**Design Review:** Luke Knapke-Council Rep, Ken Romer 2-year expire 12/31/27, Jill Andrews 2-year term expires 12/31/27

**Tree Commission:** Aaron Rengers-Advisory Janet McCain 3-year expires 12/31/28, Kevin Wherkamp 3-year expires 12/31/28

**Village Council Committees: Finance:** Al Post, Luke Knapke, Greg Schmitz

**Research:** Scott Pearson, Shawn Thobe and Amy Wendel

**Police:** Luke Knapke

**Zoning Board Rep:** Shawn Thobe

**Planning Commission:** Shawn Thobe

**Design Review Board Rep:** Luke Knapke

**Tree Commission Advisory:** Greg Schmitz.

**Pearson made the motion to approve Al Post as the Council Southwest Mercer Fire District Rep which was seconded by Knapke. Vote all yes.**

**Pearson made the motion to approve Dave Kaup as representative to Southern Mercer County Joint Ambulance District Representative which was seconded by Knapke. Vote all yes.**

**Pearson made the motion to appoint Al Post As Council President which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes.**

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**Knapke made the motion to appoint Jenn Schoonover as Records Training officer for the council which was seconded by Pearson. Vote all yes.**

**Chief:** I will have stats for the next meeting. **Pearson:** Will we use the speed trailer? **Laux:** We will soon it needs charged. **Pearson:** Is it solar? **Chief:** Yes, still needs to be charged due to not having much sun right now.

**Mayor:** We have Angie's tax report. **Diller:** Angie predicted \$1Mil, it's close.

**RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:**

RES 2026-01 A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FROM GENERAL TO FUND ODOT CONSTRUCTION FUND. Pearson made the motion to suspend the rules which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes. Pearson made the motion to pass the resolution which was seconded by Post. Vote all yes

RES 2025-02. A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE 2026 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES. Pearson made the motion to suspend the rules which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes. Post made the motion to pass the resolution which was seconded by Pearson. Vote all yes.

RES 2025-03 A RESOLUTION TO AUTORIZIZE THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH KLEINFELDER ENGINEERING SERVICES. Pearson made the motion to suspend the rules which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes. Post made the motion to pass the resolution which was seconded by Knapke. Vote all yes.

**Staugler:** I received an email from the auditor. The audit report should be ready in the next week.

**Abels:** nothing to report.

**Rengers: Utility:** Lagoons: We will sign with Kleinfelder to complete a 30% plan which is next step in design to be 60% then complete before bidding.

**Water Plant:** We met with Marvin and Rob, they are at a time where the application will need some revision before they can submit. They want to talk to EPA about not needing the 3<sup>rd</sup> well. If it won't produce 191gpm to continuously run the plant. If they need to run two to equalize, it doesn't make sense. They need to revise the original permit before their plan can be initiated. **Diller:** EPA went after their number, now closer and it won't need to be that high, don't need to be based on existing. We know where the well is, just not good. **Rengers:** The third well is yet to be determined.

**Systemic:** We have the Village Share of cost to forward to ODOT. The project will be out to bid due January 26th and set for a March award and follow with summer construction. **Knapke:** Do they get final say on contractors; we don't get to veto? **Diller:** It is certainly confusing, 100% designed by ODOT. ODOT projects need to be prequalified construction companies. **Pearson:** What is the time frame? **Diller:** If they begin in May, it should be done by end of August. With lights and crossing, it shouldn't be a long-term project.

**Rengers: Safe Route to School:** We will be working with Denniz Zicardi

**Annexation:** Ruhenkamp was filled last Friday, waiting on the Fortkamp property.

**Pool:** No new updates

**CRA:** We continue to look at.

**Sidewalk policy.** The last time it was updated was in 2021. Do we want to move forward with the 2021 policy or a new policy requiring them to fill in sidewalks? Someone without a sidewalk, even if both neighbors have one? Depends if people have to put in if neighbors don't have one. **Knapke:** What if the property sells? **Rengers:** Is it something we want to start? **Kaup:** Isn't that something where we would require 4' sidewalk? **Rengers:** Make people that

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don't have sidewalks? Diller: If you think about the town, Caldwell & Harrison are a couple streets that would like to have sidewalks. Trying to figure out whether if we take the next step, if one is missing should we make them fill in? Rengers: Or do we start with 2021 policy? Diller: Only one that may not is Harrison, nothing to tie in at Caldwell which has nothing, do you do 4' and only require 5' when we do a street project? Renger: Policy states we pay, if replaced within 5 years. Pearson: Are we going with zones? Rengers: Yes, one zone a year could be 4 smaller or 3 original. Knapke: I thought 4'? Diller: Was at one time. Kaup: That might be enough. Diller: Now it is 3 zones. Kaup: If want it to be 4. Diller: The ones need now in 4 years. Pearson: Are we going to agree to grinding? Diller: Saw cut, I don't like the look but it's effective and cheaper. Pearson: I would like to have marked up area, then we can visit and look at ourselves. Renger: Brandon and I will look at, take pictures, before accessing. Diller: We would pass a resolution of necessity, based on engineer of local guy, letter with estimate or you can do yourself to village specifications or hire whoever we hire. All notices must be specific. Everyone could be different, it's time consuming. Kaup: First one is the worst. Knapke: It needs to be done. Rengers: Do we want people to fill in gaps? Pearson: Not crazy about that. Schmitz: What is purpose if nowhere to go? Pearson: Go down First Street? Diller: We always had the policy, no sidewalk if no curbs. We are now at the point we need to do sidewalk projects. Pearson: What if sidewalk, no people sue any way. Diller: People still don't use sidewalk. Pearson: We need some type of review. First St gets used a lot. Not sure about Balsam & Alder. Pearson: Can we fix up smaller streets. Kaup. Originally any street with new curbing we keep up with sidewalks. Yes, there's a lot of areas that don't have curbing. Schmitz: How many now need sidewalk? Two blocks of Main, Wagoner & High Street. Schmitz: If no sidewalk there should they have a new sidewalk? Between Faller and I there is one covered in grass. First St never was a sidewalk. Diller: It could be a sidewalk project. Balsam Street has some sidewalks. Schmitz: Make that our last, Diller: It needs to be sidewalk project. As you move forward, see how fits in budget, knowing property owners will pay the assessment, and the Village pay for 1' because put 5' in. Rengers: I am looking for some direction; we can implement 2021 plan and see how that goes. Diller: Only ones Caldwell St. Pearson: How much infrastructure do we need to fix up? Schmitz: What would it take? Diller: The curb sets the elevation, if no curb the existing elevation would be off when curbs are put in. We can't pay to have engineered and not be new street for a long time. Kaup: In my opinion, now is easier time to revise, before we implement, instead of waiting. Diller: Let us work on some language to give you to review.

**Cemetery:** Board met lot prices were adjusted and they also updated rules. Now requiring vaults for cremains, brass or concrete granite urns need to be put inside a vault, not running into risk of probe into plastic urn. Never allowed cardboard, plastic must now be stone or metal.

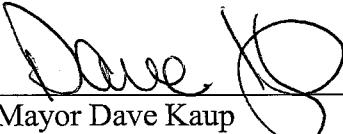
**Knapke made the motion to approve the new prices and updated Cemetery rules, which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes.**

**Zoning:** We have a meeting set for January 21<sup>st</sup>

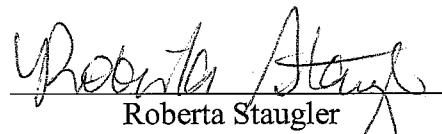
**Poll Council:** Pearson: I noticed the lights at walking trail come on early. Post: Yes, at 4pm. Diller: We will check out. Knapke: We are close to May deadline for the Industrial lot, do we need to give them a reminder? Diller: We had that discussion this week.

**Council reviewed invoices for checks 33995 through 33998 including then and now certificates, and electronic payments 996-2025 to 970-2025 and 01-2026 inter-departmental transfers and adjustments. Knapke made a motion to approve as presented; this was seconded by Wendel. Vote, all yes.**

**Wendel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Pearson. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.**



Mayor Dave Kaup



Roberta Staugler