

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Minutes of

**VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY COUNCIL**

Meeting

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

Held \_\_\_\_\_ May 18, \_\_\_\_\_ 20 26 \_\_\_\_\_

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dave Kaup called to order the Regular Council Meeting on May 18, 2026, at 7:30 pm in the Village of Fort Recovery Council Chambers to conduct regular business.

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

**Also Present:** Aaron Rengers, Jennifer Schoonover, Bert Staugler, Randy Diller, Erin Abels, Jared Laux, Bailey Call and Abby Miller.

The Mayor led with prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

**Mayor:** Thanked Bert for her 18.5 years as Fiscal Officer for the Village of Fort Recovery and wished her well as she prepares to retire at the end of the month.

**Reports to Council:** VA Report, Income Tax Reports.

**Minutes:** Thobe made the motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for May 4, 2026, this was seconded by Schmitz. Vote, all yes.

**Laux:** April stats are in Share Point. New signs are in, but it may be a month or so until they are placed. Graduation was Sunday and it went well. The Jubilee is coming up next month. Pearson asked who takes care of raccoons? He said there is one hiding out in the sewer at the intersection of Wiggs and Elm. Dave said he has had some complaints about cats recently.

Dave said there is a new shipping container out in the Industrial Park. Aaron said it is going to be the field office for the ODOT Systemic Safety project.

**RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:** None

**Schoonover:** The Bank Reconciliation for April was presented for approval

**Rengers:**

**Utility Improvements**

**Lagoons:** Kleinfelder sent back their new engineer's estimate and it was substantially higher than the original. The original was \$5,751,200. They came back with over \$22 million for the lagoon system. Aaron contacted them about some of the additional items they had added and then they came back around \$9,672,508. Aaron told them we would not spend \$3 million on back fill. Kelly Jutte contacted LEMNA. They said they could sell us \$600,000 worth of equipment that would also eliminate some of Kleinfelder's costs. LEMNA also thought the Kleinfelder quote was ridiculous. Aaron is going to set up another call with Kleinfelder, but he also thinks we may need to get another engineer involved. Dave asked about Choice One and Randy said, typically Choice One would sub it out because this is not their specialty. Shawn asked if there are any other potential people to reach out to. Aaron is looking into another engineering firm that works with water and wastewater systems.

**Water Plant:** Still in EPA review. Aidan talked with Marvin Gnagy, with PMG Consulting, Friday and he is still hopeful the water plant will be ready to bid by September.

**North Wayne Pump Station:** Aaron met with Access Engineering in April. Preliminary design work on the pump station is \$4500. If everyone is okay with that, Aaron will get Access Engineering to start on the design.

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**Water Line and Sanitary Extension:** The engineers estimate is \$241,905. We need a motion to receive bids on this project. Once we have the bids, we will need resolutions to amend appropriations and transfer money from the General Fund. **Knapke made a motion to start the bidding process, this was seconded by Pearson. Vote, all yes.**

**3rd Well Site Study:** A third well is not necessary but, due to the age of our wells, EPA would feel better if we had an additional well. Aidan reached out to Ortman and they gave us a quote of \$31,855 to replace the pump in well #2 and do some preventative maintenance on well #5, which included some items EPA recommended during the last sanitary survey. At this time, it is better to spend the money to keep these wells running, rather than to drill another well. Aidan is also getting quotes on getting VFD controllers for both wells.

**Street Improvements:**

**Systemic Funding:** ODOT has placed their field office on SR49 and work is scheduled to begin this week, weather depending. Choice One is working on getting a bid together for some lighting.

**SAFE Routes to School:** Stage 3 plans have been submitted to ODOT. The next phase is scheduled for November for final tracings. ROW work needs to be finished by October 1 2026.

**Overlays:** The bid opening was May 14<sup>th</sup> for the overlay project on First Street, Center Street and the Milligan Street apron off of SR49. The low bid was Wagner Paving at \$90,472. The engineer's estimate was around \$122,000 so we are glad to see that it came in under the estimate. Wagner paving has been recommended by the engineer. We need a motion to sign the contract. **Knapke made a motion to enter into a contract with Wagner Paving for the street overlay project, this was seconded by Post. Vote, all yes.**

**OPWC Projects – Main Street** has always been a high priority, also Wagner and High. Choice One is working on getting some numbers together. Once we know officially, we can decide which areas to do next. Randy said the Main Street estimate was about \$100,000 less than the Wiggs and Gwendolyn project.

**Legislative Updates: Still Pending**

**HB 503 –** This bill was passed by the Ohio House and is now waiting for the Ohio Senate. If passed, it would require voter approval on any changes to municipal tax reciprocity credits.

**HB 92 – Unpaid utility bills by tenants –** This is currently in Senate Committee. It has had many hearings and some substitute language included. The latest would not allow the village to disallow the service to be on for the owner or future tenants if a previous tenant was delinquent. We will probably need to increase the security deposit and update our Water Ordinance with more strict procedures for water shutoffs.

**Pool Renovation Project** – Aaron will be meeting with Buddenbaum and Moore, after Memorial Day, to see what a splash pad would look like in Fort Recovery. Pearson asked if it would be gated or if people could use it anytime. Aaron said it would likely be accessible anytime as that is what surrounding communities do. Knapke asked about the location of the splash pad. Aaron said it would likely go near the corner of the Cooper Pavilion, but we will see what Buddenbaum and Moore suggests. Pearson asked about the pump system. Aaron is going to check the contractor to see if they can run on the same pump system or if they need to be on their own.

**Community Reinvestment Area:** Waiting on two annexations to finalize the CRA. Hopefully we can enact the CRA by August. Any houses started now and not finished by the time the CRA is enacted, will be eligible. Commercial and industrial properties will not be eligible.

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Aaron would really like to get the CRA submitted this year. We will consider completion as the date residents are moved into their new house.

**PEP Insurance** – Last year our premiums were \$39,719. This year it was \$45,783, which was a 15% increase. We did add the water tower so that is probably some of the increase.

Aaron did put the **draft water and sewer rates** into Share Point for council to review. We need to get our rates so that we do not have to transfer out of General Fund for water and sewer expenses.

**Upcoming Events:**

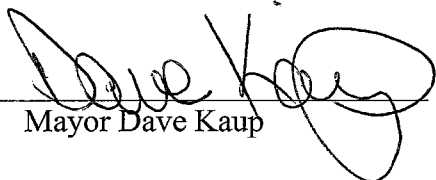
The Taste of the Town will be on Thursday, June 18th and the America 250 Celebration will be Saturday, July 25th.

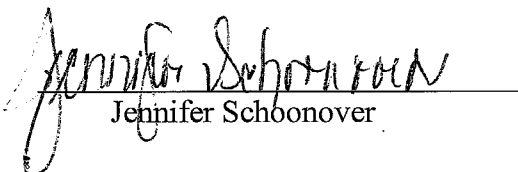
**Poll Council:**

Pearson asked if the Village will be responsible for plowing the new sidewalk installed through the Systemic Safety Project? Aaron said it will be the responsibility of the property owners, just like any other sidewalk.

**Council reviewed invoices for checks 34303 through 34336 including then and now certificates, and electronic payment 306-2026 and inter-departmental transfers and adjustments. Thobe made a motion to approve as presented; this was seconded by Wendel. Vote, all yes.**

**Thobe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Post. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Dave Kaup

  
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Jennifer Schoonover