

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY COUNCIL

Minutes of

Meeting

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

Held June 15, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Dave Kaup called to order the Regular Council Meeting on June 15, 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, Erin Abels, Jared Laux, Bailey Call, Abby Miller, Karen & Claire Grube

The Mayor led with prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor: Dave met with some local property owners to inquire about making some land purchases to keep a local factory here in town. He asked if anyone knows of anyone who may be interested in selling, to let Dave or Aaron know. At this point we aren't having much luck but we are not giving up.

Reports to Council: VA Report, Income Tax Reports.

Minutes: Thobe made the motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for June 1, 2026, this was seconded by Schmitz. Vote, all yes.

Visitors – Karen and Claire Grube – Clair is here for her 4H Project which is Government. Clair asked why people wanted to be on council. Dave said it is to keep our town running smoothly. It is somewhat of an honor to be the Mayor or on council. Most people do it because they love the community and want to keep it going in the right direction.

Clair asked if there were other ways to help the community. Aaron mentioned volunteering is a great way to help the community.

Laux: Catching up from vacation and have Jubilee coming up this weekend.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

2026-19: A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A FUND FOR OWDA WASTEWATER LOANS: 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.

2026-20: A RESOLUTION TO AMEND APPROPRIATIONS: Pearson made the motion to suspend the rules which was seconded by Thobe Vote all yes. Post made the motion to pass the resolution which was seconded by Schmitz Vote all yes.

2026-21: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR A NATUREWORKS GRANT: 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 Thobe. Vote all yes.

Schoonover:

Muni-Link, our utility billing software provider, is eliminating ACH processing. Muni-Link has contracted with Global Payments, which is a third-party collection source. We currently have 300 utility accounts using ACH. They are hoping to create a file so all of our customer information can be directly transferred to Global Payments system, however worse case scenario is that our residents will have to re-enroll into ACH. With this there are a couple changes. One is that through Global Payments, residents can choose to have their ACH automatically set up to charge their credit card monthly, however there is a \$2 charge for this;

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or they can sign up for E-check which is similar to ACH they have now through their checking / savings accounts. For this option there is a \$1 monthly charge. We are putting a note in the utility bills this month, to inform residents of the upcoming change, that will go into effect mid-August. **There is some information on this in Share Point.**

Nature Works Grant – We just passed a resolution to apply for a Nature Works grant. With that, there is only so much money allocated per county. This year the allocation for Mercer County is \$33,904. There is a 25% match so we are looking at doing a few pool upgrades for around \$45,000. We are hopeful, this would get us a new liner and possibly another type of pool maintenance. I have reached out to Jill Kaup and Mark Addington to see if they would be willing to write a support letter to include with the grant application. Kari is checking with Mindy Bubp about writing a letter for us also.

The **May Bank Reconciliation** and financial reports are in Share Point for your review.

I have also reviewed our tax receipts as of the end of May and we are still a little over where we would have been last year at 1.5%.

Rengers:

Utility Improvements –Aaron talked to Marvin. He is still working on responses to EPA. Everything else in limbo as well.

Lagoons:

Wastewater Plant: – Aaron had a meeting with Kleinfelder June 2nd. The meeting was very productive. Aaron recommended a flow study. They had our flow estimated at 3.2 million gallons of water, which is way too high. Aaron thinks our max flow should be around 750,000 gallons. The North Wayne Pump Station only handles residential and the downtown businesses. It runs all the time because it is inefficient. We need a new pump station. Kleinfelder was only looking at run time. Dave asked if we are looking at replacing the pump station this year. Aaron said it will likely be next year, as we need to know a rough cost of replacing the pump station so we can budget for it. Preliminary talks with EPA have discussed the new permit and getting an extension on the limits. Ecoli has to be met by the new permit, but other limits could be pushed back. Luke asked who does that study. Aaron said he would check with EPA to see if they have anyone they recommend, but we would need an engineer to do it. Council believes the study is something that should have been done at the beginning. Dave said we have paid a lot of money to do our wells and gotten nothing and he has not been impressed with Kleinfelder. Aaron met with another engineer and they pretty much said the same thing. Dave said it is frustrating to spend \$50,000 on wells and get nothing.

North Wayne Pump Station:

Water Line and Sanitary Extension: EPA has approved the plans. The next step is getting it out to bid. We may only be extending the water line as Nate Ruhenkamp does not want sanitary to go in front of his house. He is willing to absorb the cost of taking it through the back of his property.

Street Improvements:

Systemic Funding: Jutte Excavating has moved most of the structures out of the way. There was one structure that was not needed for the job. Aaron is working with Choice One as it was in their plans, but it was not needed. The grant will not pay for anything that is not used

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and Aaron does not feel like the Village should be financially responsible for it since Choice One put it in the plans.

Choice One is still working on getting a bid together for some lighting.

Scott asked if the project is on schedule. Aaron said it is to be completed by October, but they are anticipating having it finished before school starts. Luke asked if there would be curb lawn between the street and sidewalk and Aaron said there will be.

SAFE Routes to School: Right of Way work is ongoing as is final engineering. Still waiting on the third-party appraiser for the school right-of-way.

Paving Overlay Project – Wagner paving was awarded the contract for \$90,472.75. The contract and notice to proceed have been signed and we are just waiting for them to tell us when they can start.

Legislative Updates: - Nothing new to report, 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 met with a different splash pad builder, from Coldwater, last Thursday. A recirculating system will cost around \$791,000. A domestic system, which dumps water down the drain is approximately \$350,000. A domestic system might be a hard sell when we are raising water rates next year. We do have a \$441,000 Capital Budget grant to put toward the splashpad. If we had the splashpad running an average of 8 hours a day through the summer, the cost of the water would be about \$44,000. For the recirculating system, it would cost around \$11,000 in chemicals. Shawn and council said they have heard we were closing the pool. Aaron said we are not closing the pool.

Community Reinvestment Area: Still 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. Aaron would really like to get the CRA submitted this year.

Opera House – H.A. Dorsten wants to close down the brick street in front of the Opera House because some steel beams. They want to close it from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM through the week, for approximately 3 weeks. Aaron said they will be bringing a telehandler in. Dave said we need to find out for sure what the time frame is. H.A. Dorsten is thinking it will only take 2 weeks, but they are asking for three weeks just to be safe. Aaron said he can meet with them tomorrow and get more information. Dave said it is a lot, to ask us to close our main street for three weeks in the summer. We can tell them we can not close the brick street during the summer. Don't want to slow the project down, but don't want the road closed for three weeks in the summer. Aaron and Jared will talk with H.A. Dorsten tomorrow. Al asked if they could do interval shut downs. Council is not in favor of closing our brick street down 5 days a week for three weeks, as this seems excessive for one beam.

Upcoming Events:
The Taste of the Town will be on Thursday, June 18th and the America 250 Celebration will be July 25th

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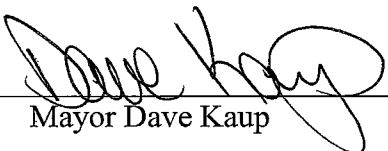
Held _____ June 15, 20 26 _____

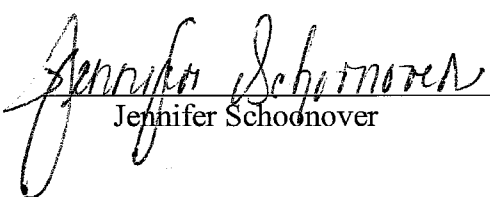
Poll Council: Greg Schmitz asked about the water in the street in front of 206 South Wayne Street. Aaron said there is a water leak and Aidan is working on it.

Council reviewed invoices for checks 34366 through 34408 including then and now certificates, and electronic payment 360-2026 – 406-2026 and inter-departmental transfers and adjustments. Pearson made a motion to approve as presented; this was seconded by Knapke. Vote, all yes.

Clair would like a picture with Council for her scrapbook. Karen took a picture.

Thobe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Wendel. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.


Mayor Dave Kaup


Jennifer Schoonover