

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY COUNCIL

Meeting

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

Held June 16, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Dave Kaup called to order the Regular Council Meeting on June 16, 2025 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: Cliff Wendel, Greg Schmitz, Scott Pearson and Al Post. Absent: Erik Fiely and Luke Knapke,

Also Present: Randy Diller, Roberta Staugler, Erin Abels, Aaron Rengers, Neal Spencer, Bailey Cline, Bill Kincaid and Danielle Pottkotter.

The mayor led with prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Reports to Council: VA Report

Minutes: Wendel made a motion to approve the June 02, 2025 Regular meeting minutes. This was seconded by Post. Vote all yes.

Mayor: I would like to congratulate the Jubilee Committee on another good community event. Danielle Pottkotter was present to observe the meeting.

Erin Abels: Nothing to report

Diller: Wastewater: Kleinfelder is waiting on numbers from company for dredging. They need numbers to prepare the cost estimate.

Water Plant Study: We were to receive at the end of May.

Water Tower: The seeding was the poorest job I have seen in my life. It was a subcontractor from Indiana hired by VTF. I called Aaron Bath from VTF, he came down to look at it. The only way to take care of it is to take it back down and redo all the dirt work. Kaup: I can't imagine spreading straw over that. Diller: I told him it must be redone. If all goes well this week, they should disinfect next Tuesday and we can then take the required bacteria samples 24 hours apart with hopefully both passing. We hope it will be up in service by the end of July. Pearson: Will the tank filling be gradual? Diller, I don't know, Aidan might do over a couple of days.

Third Well: Quinter plan on week of July 7th to drill test wells. Then we should receive a siting plan. The May bill from Eagon was \$486.75. Schmitz made the motion to pay Eagon bill of \$486.75 which was seconded by Pearson. Vote all yes. **Knapke arrived at 7:37.**

Systemic Funding: Received the signed Right-of-Way easement from Dollar General property owner. This will finish up the R-O-W so we can move into final design stage. Project will be bid out first of year with construction next summer. This is a 90% ODOT /10% Village share project.

Safe Routes to Schools: We met with Tony Stahl and discussed the preliminary plans. This is a proposed 2027 project.

Butler Street: We are down to the traffic signal. The 4-way is working. Kaup: The barrel, do we plan to keep it up? Diller: Yes, for now. Mostly the truck drivers ask. Knapke: I saw a tanker going down 119 he made it through. Diller: Todd Homan told me: we just want to make it safe. I did see one person run it. We do have legislation for Butler Street levying assessments. Letters are out and they have until the end of July to pay. Then must submit to the County by Aug 31st.

Real Estate: I had a meeting scheduled with property owner on the East side, they didn't make it.

Legislative: Right now, it is crazy. HB 355 which Angie King lead will require some local levies to pass by 60%. We have not connected yet to discuss. Not sure why levies need to pass

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY COUNCIL

Meeting

Minutes of

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

Held June 16, 2025

at 60%. They think it is a brilliant idea to lower RE tax and eliminate inside milage. We get 1.7 Mil, if we don't get, it will not bankrupt us. It will lower tax burden but not cost the state any money. Easy, let's let them figure it out. They stated we all have other ways to raise money, really saving or shifting to another method. Where it will really hit home is the schools, I don't understand why they can think this is good and the schools will be in trouble, if they try to replace it and people vote no. HB 113 would authorize the county commissioners to deny annexations, if not in the "general good" of the county. Type 2 every property owner has signed, so why do the commissioners get the power to stop. SB 118: Limitation on recovery of unpaid utility bills. My concern is they introduce the budget with no hearing never to see the light of day until it is voted on. We would receive an increase from 1.7% to 1.75% in our LGF payments which is based on the State's general revenue. What they don't tell you is if they take income tax to a 2.75% flat tax their general revenue will drop by 8 million. 1.7% less, any savings or increase and allow commissioners to reduce millage if they can see carryovers, they can reduce. They don't see what we are working on and budgeting for. These will be the people in charge of making decisions on our collections which doesn't make sense. We have a Resolution opposing HB 335 for consideration.

PEP Insurance: The final village insurance renewal was \$600 higher than our original quote because we added the water tower and a vehicle which made the final the total \$39,719. The policy took effect last week.

Discussion: We had a Tax Levy discussion at our last meeting. I have included additional information and broke down other communities. Fort Recovery, Ansonia, Rockford are the only communities at 1.0% in this area. Anna is at 1.75%. Others: St Henry, Coldwater, New Breman, New Knoxville and Versailles are at 1.5%. The other question you had was our ability to cancel or appeal levies. You can't repeal them but you can choose not to collect them. You submit at 0 mills on the annual budget submission, but you can't cancel - just allow to run out. We would want to inform residents that we will eliminate all RE tax levies if we pass an income tax increase. Won't put 0 onto budget in July for next year. Can't put 0 on, asked if we can amend the budget at end of year. Other option is to not collect until 2027, then next year put 0 on. Where would majority come from because every other community is charging 1.5%, some wont impact those working in most other communities. Payments we get from W2's is 62% residents and 37% nonresidents.

Kaup: If we renew levies, instead of tax? Diller: It won't change. Kaup: What if you run a new levy? Diller: I did not get that number. Can't run it as a replacement. Wendel: The ones that are 1.5% or higher, are those recent? Diller: St Henry was in 2024, Coldwater this year. Some have been in place for years. Wendel: 14 locals are higher, 3 at 1%. Diller The other two are smaller communities than we are. It will eliminate, anyone retired as we do not tax retirement monies. If increase .5% and eliminate RE levies, it would give them a break. Wendel: Is the legislation a 3-meeting process? Diller: Probably need special meetings. I have to do some checking, not familiar with income tax levy process, will not need to send a first resolution to the Auditor like we do with RE levies. Will still need to pass two separate levies – one with our intent and one to approve submitting the request to the Board of Elections. Wendel: Do you recall how the vote in Coldwater and St Henry went? Diller: St Henry went down the first time then it passed on the second try.

Wendel: I am in favor of drafting legislation, to generate the discussion ahead of time. Diller: Some of what we do will allow us to amend our budget. We can go ahead and try to have something by our next meeting. Wendel: Taking levies out at least when they expire? Diller: We will not collect Real Estate tax if it passes. Making it both first of year. That is a promise we have to make. If want something in writing I guess we could provide that. Pearson, I agree with Cliff. Schmitz: I agree as well. Diller: Rockford has 1% but don't allow any credit for payments to other towns. That certainly increases the value of the 1%. I don't want to tell the people paying 1.5%, like Crown in New Breman, that they have to pay 1% here too. I think this is a sensible thing to do. Might behoove us to schedule a public meeting to voice opinions.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY COUNCIL

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-8338 FORM NO. 10148

Held June 16, 20 25

Park Board: Leagues are done this week. Swim Team has two more meets then they are done at end of the month. Swim lessons are going well.

Community Reinvestment Area:

Aaron: We met with Tony Stahl. We are allowed to go up to 75% and up to 15 years without school approval. Research committee asked us to meet with Tony. We are looking at 10 year on new properties and 15 years on renovations and 8 years on commercial/industrial.

Tony will meet tomorrow night with the School Board. We met with him, will bring it up he does not see them having an issue with it. The Draft form of language is for 75% for remodels. With this it is on the dwelling not out buildings, just on residence. We can set our own limits, have to be adding square footage. It is for new money coming in and won't affect what is being collected now. If a remodel, which is an add on, it can be abated up to 25%. We talked to Jared Ebbing and he is a big proponent. Coldwater passed one year ago at 50% and 100% with school approval. Can review yearly and continue to do it at 75%. Decide how far we want to do. If new home. Kaup: How long is the process? Aaron: You need to run it in the paper for two weeks and pass an ordinance with three readings. We are thinking for simplicity it should be effective January 1st. We can have it effective as long as we send to Ohio Department of Development. Knapke: Is it better than have them come for an abatement as we currently have in place. Aaron: Enterprise agreement is for up to 10 years. Knapke: If a new build for manufacturing do we need to bump it up? Diller: New builds must create jobs. Enterprise is tied to Dept of Development and can trigger training grants. If building new manufacturing use if adding on to existing, you want more square footage on increased value for 8 years. I don't think they will conflict.

Aaron: Are you ok with entire incorporated area? Kaup: Why exclude anything? We can set those rules, Celina got in trouble. Trying, before and after. Also must be contracted before construction starts its cleaner. Diller: If school would choose not to be involved it is a streamlined process, send a copy to school and ODOT. If choose 100% I don't think the process is complicated, just another step.

Aaron. Who is signing? Village Administrator in charge of Zoning, must be in favor before contract starts? Council agrees this makes sense. Diller: We will put together a draft, and highlight ones that have options. If try to target end of year, we have time. Aaron: ODOT website has drafts with blanks. 75% are done without School Board. Diller: How complicated if we annex? Aaron: SB 33 says anytime you amend the map it will create some additional work and may be limited in scope. Old law allowed one amendment before new ordinance. If Annexation must submit maps even if it stays the same. Kaup: Existing and future? Aaron: I would have to ask. Kaup: Each individual would be a form or it won't pass? Diller: Enterprise, all individual. HB has a clause CRA process, require School Board power to deny any CRA. Diller: Aaron will put together as he has a draft. Knapke: Pass or readings on it? Diller: Getting started now would give us 6 months. Put together and have read by Aug 1st.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

RES 2025-17 RESOLUTION OPPOSING HB 335 TO ELIMINATE INSIDE MILLAGE. 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.

ORD 2025-09 ORDINANCE TO LEVY ASSESSMENT ON PROPERTIES ABUTTING W BUTLER STREET 100 BLOCK AND E BUTLER ST 100-200 BLOCK FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS AND CURBING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Pearson made the motion to suspend the rules which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes by roll call vote. Post made the motion to pass the ordinance which was seconded by Wendel. Vote all yes by roll call vote.

Poll Council: Schmitz: Junk on porches? Anything we can do? Diller: Potentially. Schmitz: I vote we do that. Diller: You walk a fine line, we know what we think is junk, anything like that

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY COUNCIL

Minutes of

Meeting

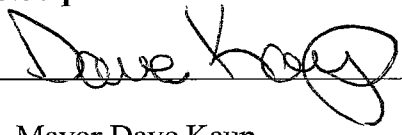
GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held _____ June 16, 20 25 _____

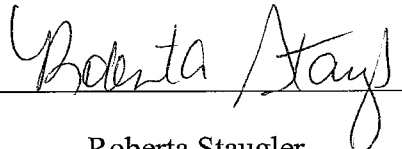
is possible, if you want us to pursue, other communities went thru to strengthen their rules.
Schmitz: Can we eliminate stuff on front porch.

Council reviewed invoices for checks 33598 thru 33639 including then and now certificates, and electronic payments 333-2025 to 379 -2025 inter-departmental transfers and adjustments. **Knapke made a motion to approve as presented, this was seconded by Wendel. Vote all yes.**

Knapke made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Wendel. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.



Mayor Dave Kaup



Roberta Staugler