

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY COUNCIL

Minutes of

Meeting

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

Held July 07 , 20 25

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dave Kaup called to order the Regular Council Meeting on July 07, 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: Luke Knapke Greg Schmitz, Scott Pearson and Al Post. Absent: Erik Fiely and Cliff Wendel

**Also Present:** Randy Diller, Roberta Staugler, Erin Abels, Aaron Rengers, Neal Spencer, Bailey Cline, Bill Kincaid, Jared Laux and Eric Albers.

The mayor led with prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

**Reports to Council:** VA Report, May Finance, June Income Tax

**Minutes:** Knapke made a motion to approve the June 16, 2025 Regular meeting which was seconded by Pearson. Vote all yes. Knapke made a motion to approve July 4, 2025 Special meeting minutes which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes.

**Mayor:** I had a chance to talk to Erik Fiely. I stopped and talked with him, he was in good spirits and we had a good conversation. We have an Ambulance district meeting on Wednesday. The June Tax report from Angie was down as expected.

**Chief:** Fort Recovery Night Out will be Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm. Tractor pulls will be the last weekend of this month.

**Diller:** The Legislation we have tonight is the same as was passed Friday. The latest update on tax levy includes projects we are working on. Some of those are to replace the North Wayne pump station, water, sanitary and street lighting conversion. We would love to purchase land for an industrial park soon, new housing which we would not pay for but will have utility extension costs. Street projects, some utility projects, water lines which are limited but we do have a few short pieces to replace. We have a lot of old fire hydrants with internal parts that can be changed. As we discussed at the last meeting we have had these four levies forever, one at 2.3Mil and the rest at 2.5Mil. One for Streets, one for Storm Water which assisted with sewer separation and infiltration. The other two are General Fund at 2.5 & 2.3Mil. Could we commit some of that money back to those two funds? This would be a legal village expenditure. If important enough to commit, love to get feedback from community. No matter how much the income tax increases, we won't have enough to do it all in 10-15 years. As I said, our intent is if you agree to increase the income tax from 1% to 1.5% we would also in the same legislation agree to zero out all the real estate levies, in exchange for an increase in income tax collections of \$500 and \$700K. We could be getting \$200K to \$400K more than we are getting now after the RE tax levies are not collected. Some of the Projects listed are \$3-\$4M. Kaup: I was having a conversation with my neighbors. They questioned if .5% increase was enough to do what we need to do. They are questioning as a lot of towns are in that range for a long time. Should it be 1.75% or 2%? Diller: It adds another layer for collections; other communities are at 1.5% so our residents would have to pay them and us both.

St Henry people working in Fort Recovery pay 1% to us and pay .5% back to St Henry. Kaup: Just a discussion that they had. Diller: It's a good question, my opinion, I don't want to go more than 1.5% until we get to a point we can justify. Majority are enterprise projects, as a rule those funds cover debt paid from money coming into those funds; which are water for water and sanitary for sanitary. Also, likely to look at an increase in savings on operating costs which may help pay for itself. Kaup: Will 2026 be our next increase in rates? Diller: Right now, we had an increase for 2025/26. We have been doing those small increases every two years; has it kept up with cost? We are doing ok as we are conservative on our expenses. To pay for new sanitary plant we will have to raise rates to cover a loan. I personally don't think we want anything greater. Do the people you talk to understand why we are doing this? Kaup: They know it will come off property tax could be a savings for some people; it was a good conversation. Is it justifiable to go to 1.75%, someone will go to 2.0, will we follow or jump ahead and be in first place. Diller: No one local is at 2% and the closest is Piqua, while Anna is at 1.75%. Kaup:

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That's what I explained. Diller: I hope most will look at it like that. Kaup: If that keeps us from having to do it down the road, they wouldn't miss that .35 per \$100, just wanted to bring it up. Diller: Will not be final until July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Should we schedule an informational forum so they can get information out and answer questions? Kaup: Has anyone said anything to you? Knapke: I think it would be a savings for most people. Kaup: Have you heard anything negative? Diller: Some of my conversations were, but after I explained it, they liked it. It will come out of their check, not have to budget for twice a year tax bill. What do you think about forum? Council was for this. It was decided to hold at the pavilion on Tuesday July 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00PM. We will come up with a presentation on what, why and a handout for them. Possibly something we can pull up to calculate their savings. The tax is on earned income. Do we want to listen to the people's ideas on where it should go? Kaup: We need it for streets and sidewalks.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

RES 2025-19 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT TO PROCEED WITH ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF APPROVING THE PASSAGE OF AN INCREASE OF THE VILLAGE'S MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX RATE FROM 1.0% TO 1.5%, FOR AN INDEFINITE TIME PERIOD, AND FOR PURPOSES OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS. NEW EQUIPMENT, MAINTENANCE, EXTENSION AND ENLARGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES, PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS, DISCHARGE OF PRINCIPAL, PAYMENT OF INTEREST, AND ALL OTHER MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS PERMITTED BY LAW; AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION TO ELECTORS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Pearson made the motion to pass the resolution on to the third reading which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes.

RES 2025-20 A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE FISCAL OFFICER FOR THE VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY TO FILE A CERTIFIED COPY OF NECESSARY RESOLUTIONS WITH THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; DIRECTING THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PUT THE ISSUE OF AN INCREASE OF THE EXISTING MUNICIPALITY OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY, OHIO INCOME TAX BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY ON THE November 4, 2025 BALLOT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Pearson made the motion to pass the resolution to the third reading which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes

Staugler Presented May Bank Reconciliation

**Budget:** Staugler reviewed the 2026 Budget to be forwarded to the Mercer County Auditor by July 16, 2025. Post made a motion to approve the 2026 budget as presented which was seconded by Knapke. Vote all yes.

**Erin Abels:** Nothing to report

**Diller: Street:** We are working on replacing the downtown speaker system. We will have time in the project but likely no village funds. Community Foundation granted money for the project. Our guys will hang, get off the buildings and utilize the wire in the light poles which will be an easy transition. Brandon and Vore's came up with a bracket system, which they delivered to Scott at J&M to powder coat.

**Grants:** Jenn is working on a law enforcement equipment grant, including computer items for our office.

**Lagoons:** Kleinfelder had questions back from OEPA. Keep indicating final dredging numbers will be here soon. They will be forwarding bid documents, working on legalese and continue to move forward. On the Water and sanitary side, we have Kelly Jutte, who is no longer working for St Mary's, has her class III license and is very sharp. We are intending to bring her on as a consultant. We will rely on her to ask the questions we don't know to ask. She comes with no personal agenda, doesn't sell anything, no ties to anyone. She is giving us honest questions with

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didn't include inside millage elimination. They increased the LGF from 1.7 to 1.75%, but the state revenue will reduce \$8M because they went to a 2.75% flat tax. It was passed to eliminate replacement levies but was vetoed. I have a feeling that one will get overridden. The one that said school could not keep more than 40% as carryover was vetoed but thinks they will look at it again. HB 113: There is a forum coming up in Auglaize and Mercer County, regarding commissioners to determine if Type 2 annexations can be turned down if not in the "general good" of the county. Aaron or Randy will attend the meeting.

**Park Board:** Pool renovation: Aaron: We have a company coming next week from Carmel Indiana. The other company that offered to look at it, wanted to charge \$2,200. This company will do it for free. Hopefully should hear back in a week or so. Diller: The swim team is done; banquet is tonight they should finish swim lessons up next week. We received funding for a second batting cage this fall. We are installing two permanent pickle ball nets and the other tennis court will have two temporary courts. We have received positive feedback, and they are not yet completed.

**Expiring Terms:** Greg, Luke, Erik, and Cliff. If you intend to run again you need to visit the Board of Elections and file your petition prior to August 6<sup>th</sup>.

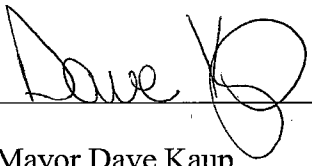
**Events:** Sunday Evening Events at Amphitheatre, St Clair Run July 19<sup>th</sup>, Tractor Pull will be two weekends after.

**Community Reinvestment Area:** Rengers: We will meet with the school board July 21<sup>st</sup>, to see if they have any kind of questions. We are first on their agenda. We will begin to draft legislation. This was in drop box and will be for the entire incorporated area of Fort Recovery. First, we will ask the school for the full 100% if they don't like that we will change to 75%. We can change terms, if school is more comfortable with a lesser amount. Diller: With the annexation out on 119 going east we may wait until those are completed so they can be included. Rengers: Another thing we found out is that commercial and industrial lots must have agreement signed before construction begins, if after, don't matter when construction started. As the ordinance reads, what is completed? Grass, running water? If it is completed after the area is approved, then they are eligible. Diller: We might get Erin involved. Rengers: What is complete? We could have some issues, it only affects two houses now, the Westgerdes and Hull house.


**Poll Council:** Nothing to report.

Council reviewed invoices for checks 33640 thru 33673 including then and now certificates, and electronic payments 384-2025 to 437-2025 inter-departmental transfers and adjustments. **Knapke made a motion to approve as presented, this was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes.**

**Knapke made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Pearson. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.**



Mayor Dave Kaup



Roberta Staugler