Special Council Minutes

October 14, 2026

Council Members in attendance: Council President: Sue Schroeder, Dave Heitmeyer and Jason Goodwin. Mayor Rick Recker, Village Administrator Kevin Siferd, Fiscal Officer/Tax Administrator Renee Spangler, Village Administrator from Bluffton Jesse Blackburn, Bluffton Fiscal Officer Kevin Nickel and Paulette Mills from Kleinfelder. Sue Christman, Rick Moyer and Barry Schroeder were absent.

The Special Meeting began at the Bluffton water plant where Bluffton's Village Administrator gave the council and mayor of Leipsic a tour of the water plant and answered any questions the council or mayor had regarding the water plant.

Jesse Blackburn told the council that they control everything from a building in Bluffton but not without communication with Ottawa. He said they use about 420,000 gallons a day. Jason Goodwin asked who decided where the master meter went and Mr. Blackburn said that was before he started working for Bluffton, Jsaon Goodwin asked if that were something you would change to more responsibility on their end. Mr. Blackburn said then line between their master meter and Ottawa they maintain it, we have had two leaks in it. He said the last one was a gasket. He said it was fixed promptly; Bluffton didn't have to go out and help, he said they have had a good partnership with Ottawa. He said we pay for the water we use and the percentage of percentage based on the usage. Mr. Blackburn showed the water building to the council. While looking at the water plant Mr. Blackburn said as far as maintenance the hardest thing to maintain is the floor, Sherry Valdez asked if there was anything they would change if they could with the water plant, don't put a steel floor in a corrosive environment. Sue Schroeder asked how big of a staff do you have for water and Wastewater, he said we have one operator of record and four other class 1's. Rick Recker asked but of those four are they distribution too. He said yes and they cross trains into the different departments. He said one of the advantages of regionalization is that the infrastructure that you maintain is very minimal. He said we would probably have to put in a TRS removal system if you purchase water from Ottawa, he thought it cost $450,000.00 to put in.

The meeting then ended at Bluffton's village hall. Sherry Valdez asked what Bluffton's breaking point was to make them connect to Ottawa. Both the Village Administrator and Fiscal Officer said neither of them was there when this took place, but they said that the previous Fiscal Officer laid it out for the board showing the cost of what it would be to own their own or connecting to Ottawa. Jason Goodwin asked if they sell water to another town or anyone outside of town, they said they don't do anything like that but said that would be something we would need to be sure we talked to Ottawa about. Sherry Valdez asked if there was anything they would change in the years to come, they said to see that they weren't paying on debt service within their contract because they are currently paying that and if any future business comes, they wouldn't think they should have to pay that since they are paying now. Jason Goodwin asked if there has ever been a time that a resident or a business went without water, they said no they are guaranteed 1.2 million gallons a day.

With no further business to come before the council, a motion for adjournment was made by Dave Heitmeyer and seconded by Sue Schroeder. Roll call on the motion, Jason Goodwin yea, Sue Christman absent, Sue Schroeder yea, Dave Heitmeyer yea, Sherry Valdez yea, Rick Moyer absent. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M. The next council meeting will be on October 19, 2026, at 7:30 P.M.

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____