

VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR

COUNCIL MEETING

February 5, 2026

The Bolivar Village Council met in a regular session at 121 Canal Street SE on Thursday February 5, 2026. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance and was called to order by Mayor Curtis Strauss at 7:00 pm. White opened with prayer.

Conley, Lawver, Oberlin, Strauss, Yonally, and White all answered yes to roll call.

A motion to accept and approve January 8, 2026, regular meeting minutes as written was made by White and seconded by Conley. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

A motion to approve the bills for the month of January 2026 totaling **\$117,380.33** was made by Lawver and seconded by Conley. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Receipts for the month of January 2026 totaled \$60,672.29 which includes interest of \$1,739.77 from Huntington (268.53) and Star Ohio (1,471.24).

Additions/Correction to the Agenda. None

Public Speaks –

A resident, Chris Berens, expressed concern about what sounded like gunshots going off on a Saturday at 7:12am, is concerned about no police coverage at that time. Chief Hilty stated there was a response, that the Sheriff's Office responded. They drove around for about 15-20 minutes, never heard anything more.

Marla Akridge, the Director of Tuscarawas County Economic Development Director wanted to come and meet Council and introduce herself. She said she knows of one developer right now who is potentially interested in the old school property. She said they are free of service that works off of state & federal grants along with the port authority. Marla provided a brief snapshot of services they perform.

A resident, Loretta Dively referenced a friend who visits the Tusc County website; The Fiscal Officer asked if she is referring to the fact the former school property is still listed under the schools name? Dively said, yes. App explained it was just brought to the Village's attention approximately two (2) weeks ago. She went on to state it's currently at the maps office; they are reviewing the Quit Claim Deed. App further explained the sequential steps for approval. The Fiscal Officer reiterated she wasn't sure why or how this happened; but when we found out, we immediately addressed it and its currently in the works to resolve

Kyle Alough, the founder with the Iron Resistance Foundation introduced himself to Council. They briefly presented about their foundation along with their interest in the former school property. Kyle proceeded to read their mission statement, "To enhance and maintain the physical and mental health of America's veterans and first responders". He continued to share

their mission and the services they offer at no cost to the individual. Their goal is to build a state of the art facility that encompasses holistic care for veterans and first responders that's completely free of charge. That would include a three phase plan. They would like Bolivar Ohio to be the epicenter of this project. He provided an overview of the brochure he handed out.

Kyle provided a list of its board members to Council. They would love to discuss this opportunity further. There would also be an limited opportunity for community members to workout as well.

Jake Patton accompanied Kyle and introduced himself as well.

Alyssa Wallace – Introduced herself; stated her husband is Justin Wallace, long time business owner. They now own 124 Water Street; dubbed as Coopers Hall – the main business that runs out of there. She wanted to introduce herself to Council and give an explanation of what their business is. “We operate as a cooperative”. Vagabond is the coffee shop that operates within the hall space. There is also a yoga studio upstairs. She said she is here today because she is running into some issues with Zoning. She stated she met with Matt Bailey in the initial conceptualization of their space. She said he was currently employed as the zoning officer. Alyssa said she went over her permanent plan for the sign plans for the building. Due to changes with zoning officers, Alyssa said she chose to erect a temporary sign in the process. She understands now that may not have been the correct process. An application was submitted and subsequently denied due to technical issues such as it not being the primary sign on the front of the building. Currently the zoning inspector has the appeal form; she would like to sit down with her to discuss.

The reason for attending the meeting is to share that she would like to be a resource for the community. Alyssa stated, although not a citizen in the Village, she is a business owner. “I appreciate the traffic coming downtown and patronizing all of the businesses that are down here. My goal is to create some sort of clear communication in the interim process of the old zoning code vs the incoming new zoning code. The process seems to be confusing for the businesses downtown. Alyssa recapped, that she is here as a resource but looking for a little bit of clarity.

Old Business – None.

MAYOR –

White moved; Conley seconded to accept Patty Smith's retirement effective 1/22/26.
Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

There is still a vacancy on zoning board; for those interested, send letter of intent to Mayor@villageofbolivar.com

A Committee needs established to discuss uses for the former school property. It will consist of two (2) council members. Both Oberlin and Lawver volunteered on behalf of Council. Loretta Dively and Will Bellinger have also expressed interest, as residents, to be on the committee. The Fiscal Officer suggested having it put in the paper that the Village is seeking community involvement to be part of the committee; the Mayor would

be the primary point of contact. A first meeting date will be announced at the next (or upcoming) Council meeting.

The Mayor issued a few reminders to all residents. “The Village does not plow or maintain the sidewalks in front of your home; nor do we shovel around your mailbox; that is the responsibility of the homeowner”. White added, if anyone has a fire hydrant in their yard, to leave a trail around it so it can be easily seen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE –

Conley moved, seconded by White to authorize paying AOS \$630.00 for an IPA Quality review; Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Conley moved, seconded by Yonally to authorize the purchase of a remote deposit capture scanner for the office at a cost of 545.00 plus 44/month. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Conley moved, seconded by White to increase the tax Admin from 19.00 to 20.00 per hour; approximately 600.00 per year. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Conley moved, seconded by Lawver to approve a water forgiveness request of \$271.15 due to a waterline leak as permitted in the water rules and regulations. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

The Fiscal Officer asked for the reporter to include in the paper, for everyone to be aware of their water bill on a monthly basis and watch if there is a sharp increase in usage. Don't wait months to report it; let the Village know right away.

Conley moved, seconded by Yonally to retroactively collect on an account that was not previously charged for water for several months during 2025. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Conley moved, seconded by Yonally to approve the purchase of a Stihl HT-135 Pole Saw for the street department at a cost ranging between \$635.00-700.00. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Conley moved, seconded by White to approve the cost of a survey of Village property at a cost of \$1,696.20. In Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

In Attendance: Chair: Conley, Lawver, Yonally

Planning & Zoning – Oberlin provided a recap of what was discussed in Zoning relating to a lot split request from Carl Beatty. He further explained details of the split. The zoning issue will be addressed as an Ordinance under the legal section.

Safety – Yonally – reported there were 66 calls in the month of January; Yonally added we need to post for a full time and part time position.

Yonally moved, seconded by White to Dispose of outdated, old equipment that serves no public purpose. In Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Yonally reminded there is a snow ban in town to be aware of when we get a lot of snow.

The Safety committee also discussed posting signage in the lower parking lot. The Chief interjected there are commercial vehicles and other vehicles using the lot for personal storage. The solicitor will work on some language for signage.

In Attendance: Chair: Yonally, Conley, Lawver

Chief – Chief Hilty read a resignation letter from Eric minor requesting to step down from full time to part time; his last day would be March 11. Lawver motioned, seconded by Yonally to accept the resignation from full time and dropping down to part time. In Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Street & Alley – White

Items discussed during street & alley included, tree trimming on Ladyne, cleaning the shop, removing trees in the cemetery, contracting with the county to clean catch basins and lighting on Delaware.

In Attendance: Chair: White, Oberlin, Strauss; Baker

Shade Tree – none

Parks & Rec – Strauss reported certificates of insurance will need obtained from the Baseball, Soccer and football associations in advance of the start of their season before they start using the fields in March.

In Attendance: Chair: Oberlin, Strauss, White

Street Superintendent – Baker

Village Administrator – TBD – Council needs to determine a job description prior to advertising.

Fiscal Officer – App - None

Law Director – Babik referenced there will be an executive session later in the meeting.

Babik also mentioned, as committees are being formed with respect to the school property, he wanted to remind everyone that there are statutes that govern disposition of real property belonging to a village such as ours; specifically Revised Code 721.03 Indicates that the sale or lease of property belonging to a municipal corporation must be done by public advertising and bidding. Whereas there is discretion in some laws where it says lowest and best or highest and best, that statute says, “to the highest”. So it doesn’t allow for the subjective, who would be best suited. There may be exceptions for non-profits. Babik went on to give scenarios of what exceptions could look like. He also wanted to remind, as a general rule, if it’s a private developer, then you would probably be in a market contract that would need to go out for competitive bid.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS VILLAGE PROPERTY BY INTERNET AUCTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY White moved, seconded by Yonally to approve the Resolution. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **Resolution R-3-2026**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE AND REMOVAL OF ON-STREET PARKING FOR SPECIAL EVENTS; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY. Yonally moved, seconded by White to approve the Resolution. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **Resolution R-4-2026**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY Strauss moved, seconded by Yonally to approve the Ordinance. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **Ordinance O-4-2026**

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CREATION OF A TEMPORARY, PART-TIME, POSITION FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Yonally moved, seconded by White to approve the Ordinance. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **Ordinance O-5-2026**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR FISCAL OFFICER TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC BID THE 2026 GARBAGE DISPOSAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY. Strauss moved, seconded by Lawver to approve the Ordinance. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. – **Ordinance O-6-2026**

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR AND THE FISCAL OFFICER OF THE VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. White moved, seconded by Conley to approve the ordinance. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Ordinance O-7-2026

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A LOT SPLIT/REPLAT APPLICATION FOR PARCEL 37-00144-000 AND PARCEL 37-00007-000; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Oberlin moved, seconded by Yonally to approve the Ordinance. In Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **Ordinance O-8-2026**

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE HIRING OF AN ASSISTANT FISCAL OFFICER FOR THE VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; Conley moved, seconded by White to approve the Ordinance. In Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **Ordinance O-9-2026.**

3rd READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AND ADOPT THE VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR'S POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR VACATION OF UNIMPROVED STREETS & ALLEYS. White moved, seconded by Yonally to approved the Ordinance. In Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **Ordinance O-10-2026**

The rules will need suspended; as the legislation doesn't currently reflect emergency language. The Solicitor read the full title of the Ordinance from ODOT.

APPROVAL AND GRANTING CONSENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TO, APPLY, MAINTAIN AND REPAIR STANDARD LONGITUDINAL PAVEMENT MARKINGS AND ERECT REGULATORY AND WARNING SIGNS ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE VILLAGE CORPORATE LIMITS, AND

GIVING CONSENT OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REMOVE SNOW AND ICE AND USE SNOW AND ICE CONTROL MATERIAL ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE VILLAGE CORPORATE LIMITS, AND

GIVING CONSENT OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE AND/OR REPAIR ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE VILLAGE CORPORATION.

White moved, seconded by Strauss to suspend the rules. In Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

White moved, seconded by Yonally to approve the Ordinance. In a Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **Ordinance O-11-2026**

News Reporter – Barb Limbacher – addressed clarification questions prior to exec session to include contact info for Lyss Wallace and Iron Resistance.

Motion to enter executive session pursuant to R.C. 121.22(G)(3) for a conference with our attorney concerning a dispute involving the Village that is the subject of pending litigation. Action may be taken.

- a. Whited moved, seconded by Conley to enter into an executive session. In a roll call vote: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.
- b. Dismissed public at 7:41 PM;
- c. Record time of going into exec session – 7:44 PM
- d. Came out of exec session / no vote needed to come out (record time) 7:52 PM

Oberlin moved, seconded by Strauss to authorize the dismissal of case number 2025-C09 1046. TO AUTHORIZE THE DISMISSAL OF CASE NUMBER 2025 CV 09 1046. In a Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Adjournment until the next regularly scheduled council meeting on **Thursday, March 5, 2026**, at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held at **121 Canal Street SE, Bolivar, OH (formerly the American Legion)**

Oberlin moved, seconded by white to Adjourn until Thursday, March 5, 2026. In Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Adjourned at: 7:54 pm

Mayor, Curtis Strauss

Fiscal Officer, Maria App