

VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 5, 2026

The Bolivar Village Council met in a regular session at 121 Canal Street SE on Thursday March 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 approve the bills for the month of February 2026 totaling \$68,976.06 was made by White and seconded by Lawver. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Receipts for the month of February 2026 totaled \$70,508.06 which includes interest of \$1,555.83 (236.53 from Huntington and 1,319.30 from Star Ohio).

Additions/Correction to the Agenda. None

Public Speaks (limited to 3 mins per guest unless otherwise approved in advance)

Dale Watson stated he is at the meeting in response to the article he read in the paper. He referenced the Iron Resistance Foundation who attended our last meeting. He stated he wants to put in his two cents. Mr. Watson presented a screen capture of the tax map from the Tusc County recorders office. He distributed a color rendering to all of Council and officials.

He referenced there are eleven (11) parcels for this property; ten (10) are from Tusky Valley but he believes the other one belongs to the Village. When Iron Resistance came down; they asked the Village to sell them lot #1. He said, they are a company. He referenced their mission /purpose. Mr. Watson went on to reference lot number one (1) is an R2 property. He said he came down to express there should be no other conversations about selling. He continued to show a second rendering to include mapped properties that he drew. He said to get the most out of the lot, it could be subdivided into three (3) lots. Mr. Watson provided a lot of information over the course of 10-12 mins. He gave a lot of insight as to how the property could be utilized. He went on to cross reference Holly Heights and what they are selling their lots for. Watson stated King Street was vacated in 1968. There is also infrastructure to install. Mr. Watson provided tax map values of the property. The only other talk for this property was a property. He has a vision of a revenue generating parks such as a pool; or pickleball. He said the Village could be the pickleball capital. He wants to know what it will take to get some action from the Village.

He also wanted to know if the Village would be sending out a newsletter to generate interest in what to do with these lots. He closed by respectfully asking Council how to generate suggestions and ideas from the village.

The Fiscal Officer asked if she could speak. She addressed Mr. Watson by stating this is very preliminary. There is a focus group being formed to get feedback from the community; there have been no decisions at this point. She reiterated, Iron Resistance was a guest last month. The Village Council hasn't made any decisions of any kind at this point. There will be a committee formed to include two council members and three or four residents. This will be well thought out. There will be no quick, rash decisions where the Village jumps into anything. "I'm only the Fiscal Officer but I wanted to offer some peace of mind". Mr. Watson concluded by thanking Council for their time.

Dick Harvey – a resident in the community referenced what happened in East Palestine a few years ago could easily happen here. His thought is, we need a warning siren there is a disaster before it happens. He said there could also be a call number. There is no evacuation plan in this town. He also brought this to Lawrence Twp a couple times. Mr. Ackerman is looking into it. There has to be a method to alert the residents. He went on to reference the fire at the landfill. He would like to see some sort of warning in the area. The Mayor said we actually have it on the agenda tonight to discuss an alert service. Several members of council interjected that we have Reach Alert on the agenda tonight to vote on.

Old Business – None.

MAYOR –

- Still have a vacancy on zoning board; for those interested, send letter of intent to Mayor@villageofbolivar.com
- Initially we were going to announce first committee meeting for former school property; but in light of some recent developments and other action that needs taken, the committee meetings are temporarily on hold.
- Addressed the rumor circulating on social media regarding the playground equipment; there is no merit to the rumors. We aren't taking out any equipment at this time. The insurance company made some recommendations but no action has been taken
- Establish Arbor Day for April 24
- Discuss June Council meeting since festival is on 6/4/26; Council agreed to move the June meeting to May 28, 2026.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE –

The first item on the agenda was the trash contract. The bids were opened in Finance. Kimble was the only bidder. Since Gary Adkins, representing Kimble Companies, was present, Council moved the Ordinance up instead of waiting until the end of the meeting. Solicitor Babik

proceeded to state, It's **AN ORDINANCE** AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER FOR THE 2026 GARBAGE DISPOSAL SERVICES CONTRACT; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY. Motion made by Yonally, seconded by Lawver to approve the Ordinance as an emergency. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, A Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **O-12-2026.**

Authorize paying Kinsey Excavating \$3,278.27 for water line break at Canal and Cherry St
Conley moved, seconded by Lawver to approve the expense. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Strauss moved, seconded by White to authorize the purchase of a second remote capture scanner for tax deposits. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Conley moved, Lawver seconded to authorize purchasing one load of mulch for a delivered cost of \$673.80. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Strauss moved, seconded by White to purchase a second remote capture scanner for the tax admin at a one time cost of \$545.00 plus shipping; and a monthly negotiated fee. Tax admin will also be assuming all tax related duties; the scanner will help streamline the process. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Yonally moved, seconded by Lawver to authorize a contribution of 2,575.00 to Lawrence Township for the annual composting fee. The Village utilized a contribution from this past fall to be used towards a community purpose. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Lawver moved, seconded by Yonally to increase the part time patrol from 19.50 to 21.00 per hour and to approve 22.00 per hour to hire a full time officer plus a 1.00 probationary raise. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Yonally moved, seconded by Conley to purchase Trickle chargers for the cruisers for \$59.99. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Yonally moved, seconded by Strauss to update the IT contract to include enhanced security and compliance with House Bill 96. The net monthly increase is 119.80 per month. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Yonally moved, seconded by White to authorize the paving repair of a hole at the intersection of Cherry and Canal at a cost of 1200.00. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Planning & Zoning – Oberlin reported the zoning meeting was cancelled for March.

Safety – Yonally stated there were 54 calls in the month of February. The other items discussed by the committee were already covered under finance.

Chief – Hilty - absent

Street & Alley – White reported the street committee met on Thursday, February 19, 2026 and discussed the following items:

- Composting in 2026;
- Fixed a water leak on Cherry Street; quotes to fix a hole on Cherry Street
- Crack sealing by the end of March.
- Quote for East Street Painting.
- Possible 2 hour parking ordinance on Canal Street.
- Arbor Day – Tusky Valley planting at bump outs and Library. Tree planting on Friday, April 24, at 4PM at Hennis.

Shade Tree – Strauss said there may still be trees to be cut down.

Parks & Rec –Strauss said the school sent her two flyers; TV Baseball Softball Association contacted Ann to state their liability insurance is good through this March; they will be renewing their insurance and getting us a copy. Ann would like to see in the BH that all clubs that plan on using our ballfields must submit proof of liability before they start using the fields by emailing her. The soccer association no longer uses our fields. Ann went on to state, when clubs go down to use the ballfields to clean up after they are done in an effort to not have our personnel clean the fields.

Street Superintendent – Baker

Village Administrator – TBD

Fiscal Officer – App –

- Reminder to all committee chairs – please turn in committee reports to me; include date, time, talking points and who attended

Law Director –

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR THEIR GRASS REMOVAL AND ASSISTANCE SUPPORT AND SAFETY PROGRAM FOR STATE FISCAL YEARS 2026 AND 2027;

AND GIVING CONSENT OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL MOWING, PRUNING, TRIMMING

AND/OR CUTTING ON THE RIGHTS OF WAY OF STATE HIGHWAY ROADAS WITHIN THE VILLAGE CORPORATE LIMITS; A motion was made by Oberlin, seconded by White to suspend the rules. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, A Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

A motion made by White, seconded by Lawver to approve the Ordinance as an emergency. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, A Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **O-13-2026**

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR TO EXECUTE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR CONTRACT SERVICES WITH THE TUSCARAWAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Motion made by White, seconded by Strauss to approve the Ordinance as an emergency. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, A Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **O-14-2026.**

A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING THE 2026 ANNUAL PERMANENT APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY Motion made by Oberlin, seconded by White to approve the Resolution as an emergency. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, A Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **R-5-2026.**

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF INVOICE NUMBER 4514 FROM REACH ALERT, LLC IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$786.00; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY. Motion made by Yonally, seconded by Lawver to approve the Resolution as an emergency. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, A Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **R-6-2026.**

Motion to enter executive session pursuant to R.C. 121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment of a public official and a separate matter to discuss personnel; specifically the compensation of a public employee.

- a. Motion made by Lawver, seconded by White; roll call vote: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, A Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.
- b. Dismissed public at 7:42 pm
- c. Record time of going into exec session – 7:44pm
- d. Came out of exec session at 8:06 pm
- e. No action was taken

Adjournment until the next regularly scheduled council meeting on **Thursday, April 2, 2026**, at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held at **121 Canal Street SE, Bolivar, OH (formerly the American Legion)**

White moved, seconded by Oberlin to Adjourn until Thursday, April 2, 2026. In Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Adjourned at: 8:08 pm

Mayor, Curtis Strauss

Fiscal Officer, Maria App