

Village of Bolivar

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 7, 2026

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Bolivar Village Council met in a regular session at 121 Canal Street SE on Thursday, May 7, 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.

II. Approval of Minutes & Financial Reports

- **Minutes:** A motion was made by Lawver and seconded by Strauss to approve the regular council meeting minutes from March 5, 2026. **Roll Call:** Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes
- **Payment of Bills:** Council reviewed the April bills totaling **\$63,794.00**. A motion to approve payment was made by White, seconded by Lawver. **Roll Call:** Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.
- **Receipts:** April receipts totaled **\$171,579.96**, which included **\$1,690.72** in total interest (\$268.71 from Huntington and \$1,422.01 from Star Ohio).
- **Additions/Correction to the Agenda.** None

The Fiscal Officer respectfully requested, on behalf of council member Conley, to move the ordinances under the legislation section in the agenda up so she can be excused early due to illness. All voting members were in agreement.

The Solicitor presented two pieces of legislation as follows:

- **AN ORDINANCE TO COMBINE THE POSITIONS OF VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR & WATER CLERK AND TO APPOINT MIRANDA SENTY TO THE COMBINED POSITION OF VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR/WATER CLERK; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** White moved, seconded by Yonally to approve the Ordinance as an emergency. **Roll Call:** Conley yes, Lawver abstained, Oberlin no, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes. **ORDINANCE O-15-2026**

- **AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE UTILITY PAYMENTS BY CUSTOMERS USING AUTOMATED CLEARINGHOUSE WITHDRAWALS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Lawver moved, seconded by Strauss to approve the ordinance as an emergency. **Roll Call:** Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes **(ORDINANCE O-16-2026)**

Conley was not in attendance the remainder of the meeting.

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

- Chris Berens: Expressed ongoing safety concerns regarding children riding bikes and multiple passengers on scooters, especially at night due to a lack of police presence. Requested a "Children Playing" or "Watch for Children" sign. Noted that trucks are still traveling back to Hennis, posing a hazard. Reported that the park pergola is being erected to the left of the monument in the grass, angled, with a picnic table underneath. Mentioned that a little over \$600 remains from the grant funding, which will be used to purchase red, white, and blue flowers for the 250th anniversary decorations.
- Courtney Wallace (Librarian, Tuscarawas County Bolivar Library): Thanked Council for their continued support and for finalizing the recent contract. Praised Scott and Nate for their exceptional work on snow removal and grounds maintenance. Shared library data from 2025: 22,128 visitors, over 5,000 program attendees, and 57 items checked out. Announced upcoming summer library events: Summer Reading Kickoff on May 30th featuring antique carriages; an Ohio History Connection presentation on the Fort Laurens archaeological dig on June 15th; and an Akron Zoo event featuring animal ambassadors on Saturday, July 18th.
- Michelle Ramsell (Director, Tuscarawas County Bolivar Library): Echoed Courtney's gratitude regarding the completed contract and looked forward to the continued partnership. Distributed a flyer regarding the upcoming "Axe the Tax" educational panel on property taxes scheduled for November, with a January 1 effective date if passed. Noted that the organization has until the end of July to gather enough signatures and emphasized the need to clear up public disconnect and misinformation surrounding property tax funding.

IV. Committee & Officer Reports

Finance Committee (Fiscal Officer presented in Conley's absence)

- **Cost of Survey** – Oberlin moved, seconded by Lawver to approve the cost of a survey for the former school property. This needs approved in order to finalize the Quit Claim Deed. **Roll Call:** Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.
- **Water Forgiveness** - A landlord submitted a request for water forgiveness; they have two properties that had a leak. One request is for \$124.70 and the other property is 184.69.

White moved, seconded by Yonally to honor the forgiveness (per the water rules policy). **Roll Call:** Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

- **Flooring quotes** - Discussed (3) flooring quotes; recommend authorizing up to \$7,020.00 for the police department and up to \$7,260.00 for the municipal building. Either split project or do all at same time. White moved, seconded by Lawver to approve the flooring up to the specified amounts. **Roll Call:** Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.
- **Discount club membership** – Lawver moved, seconded by Yonally to authorized the Fiscal Officer to obtain a club membership at Sam's, BJ's or Costco for tax exempt purchases. The cost ranges from 60-120.00 depending on membership type. **Roll Call:** Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.
- **Remote capture bank policy** – The Fiscal Officer is seeking Council's approve to comply with the Huntington Banks policy to shred all original remote capture checks after ninety (90) days. The Village will continue to maintain its copies and comply with our policies. Oberlin Moved, seconded by Strauss to approve the request. **Roll Call:** Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.
- **Printer for Police Department** – Yonally moved, seconded by White to authorize the purchase of a new color laser printer for police department; needs to have fax feature due to sensitive data; current printer is over 10 years old. **Roll Call:** Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.
- **Fence at Reservoir** – White moved, seconded by Yonally to approve up to 2700.00 to replace the fencing at the water reservoir that was removed last year during repairs. **Roll Call:** Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Safety Committee & Chief's Report

- The Police Department logged **67 total calls for service** during the month of April. Safety business matters were discussed during committee. Still advertising for both full and part time openings
- The committee discussed having the Solicitor prepare an Ordinance for the lower parking lot

Street & Alley Committee (Presented by Member White)

- Solar lights for the sign at the 3 way stop near Bellstores.
- Weed Eater needed.
- Manhole on top of the hill of Tuscarawas Street fixed.
- Picnic table and bench in the old school playground.

Shade Tree Committee - none

Parks and Recreation Committee

- **Liability Insurance:** Received the remaining certificates of liability insurance from the associations that use the ballfields which is the Tusky Valley Baseball & Softball Association. There are different age groups but all are under the same insurance umbrella. In July, soccer and football will be beginning. It was noted the soccer league practices on a private field. youth soccer league
- Strauss Added there will be an Arbor Day dedication next week on May 13 at 10:00a.m (weather permitting). A crab apple tree was delivered to Brian at the nursing home so he could dig the hole.
- Strauss recognized the service project with Scott,Nate, Ann and the Tusky Valley students that was on April 14. The students did a great job

Street Superintendent (the Mayor reported on behalf of Scott)

- There was a water leak that was fixed today by the Fire Department
- Council voted on a Village Administrator this evening; nothing else to report

Fiscal Officer Report

- The Fiscal Officer entered a management statement into the minutes:
"All of council received management reports at the beginning of the meeting to include the fund status report, a payment listing, revenue status, investment report, and cash flow. The finance committee also reviewed and signed off on the monthly bank statement and the reconciliation report."
- Reported working with Water Operator to complete the annual Metrics for the Ohio EPA.
- The Fiscal Officer has been reporting mosquito issues to the health dept by submitting a list of over 30 homes, covering all "four corners" of the village. They have been responding to complaints; setting traps and treating standing water to kill mosquitos and it's larvae. If you are experiencing a high volume of mosquitos, the health department encourages residents to either call or visit their website to provide your address. Their number is 330-343-5550 or visit their website at www.tchdnow.org

- Encouraged residents to sign up for Reach Alert; the public alert service available to our residents in the event of an emergency or urgent message needing to go out. Current rate of participation is approximately 31%.
- Please watch for important announcements in the May water billing. The Village will now be offering ACH debit payments for the monthly water billing effective in June.

Legal Counsel / Solicitor Report (Steve)

Legislation was moved to the beginning of the meeting; no further topics for discussion

V. Executive Session

White made a Motion: To enter into Executive Session pursuant to **Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(3)** for a conference with the Village Attorney to discuss a dispute involving the public body that is the subject of a pending or imminent court action. **Roll Call:** Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Prior to dismissing the public, the Mayor provided a reminder. The regular June 4th 2026 Council meeting will be on May 28 due to the Strawberry Festival on the 4th. This was previously approved by Council in February.

(The public portion of the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:32 pm)

Came out of executive session at 7:43 PM; no action was taken

VI. Adjournment

Adjournment until the next regularly scheduled council meeting on **Thursday, May 28, 2026**, at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held at **121 Canal Street SE, Bolivar, OH (formerly the American Legion)** White moved, seconded by Lawver to adjourn. **Roll Call:** Lawver yes, Oberlin No, Strauss yes, Yonally yes, and White yes.

Adjourned at 7:44 pm

Mayor, Curtis Strauss

Fiscal Officer, Maria App