

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Perry Village Council
Perry Village Hall 7:00pm

Regular Meeting
February 12, 2026

Mayor James Gessic presiding.
Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBER PRESENT:

Elias Coss
Mike Glover (absent, excused)
Rebecca "Becky" Shimko
Curtis Curd
Brian Farley
Pamela Jenkins

PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE:

Ron Graham	Acting Solicitor (Mr. O'Leary had a prior obligation)
James Gessic	Mayor
John H. Roskos	Clerk/Fiscal Officer
Christian Gray	Zoning Inspector

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Thomas, Erika, Melanie and Nicholle Fulginiti, Hope Gessic, Larry Hackley, Laura Wolkersdorfer, Jean Schonauer, Annette McGonnell, Brandon Wallis, Ashley Hacking, Ed Zigman, Bill DeBus. Others may have been present but did not sign in.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Laura Wolkersdorfer (3860 Green Street)

Laura Wolkersdorfer addressed council with two questions. Her first question concerned updates on the proposed data center project, which she stated she is not happy about. She asked if there would be any updates and where they would be posted if available. The Mayor responded that the Village is still waiting for due diligence on the Village's property to be completed and has not heard anything about the township portion yet. When updates become available, the Village will probably hold a public meeting.

Ms. Wolkersdorfer's second question addressed upcoming infrastructure work on Green Street. She expressed concern about the extensive construction she is witnessing at the end of her street, where Enbridge is replacing gas pipes. She described the situation as an abomination with people

unable to access their driveways and the area being a mess. She noted that many people reported having no warning when this work began and asked if that was true. The Mayor confirmed that the only warning the Village provided was mentioning at every council meeting that Enbridge work was coming, but they did not receive a specific start date from Enbridge and were not notified when the company would actually arrive.

Ms. Wolkersdorfer then pivoted to another concern: the Village knows what is planned for spring on her street, including water line work and gas pipe work. She questioned why gas pipes would need replacement in addition to the water work. The Mayor indicated uncertainty about gas pipe plans but confirmed water line replacement is scheduled. He stated he has not yet had a meeting with the county or Lake County Department of Utilities to determine when work will happen or what day they plan to start. He explained the difficulty of providing specific dates when dealing with contractors, who often call at the last minute to change schedules. The Mayor has a pre-construction meeting scheduled with the county for the Main Manchester Bridge project in middle of March but has not received a start date for that project either.

Ms. Wolkersdorfer expressed concern about how many Green Street residents have gas service. She knows her neighbor and...have gas but is uncertain about others. She asked if there is a way to find out the plans for gas work on her street to avoid a situation where the entire neighborhood is suddenly being excavated without warning. The Mayor stated the county is handling the water project. Ms. Wolkersdorfer asked who she could contact at Lake County Department of Utilities. The Mayor explained he is waiting for his engineer to provide a contact name, noting that the engineer confirmed it is a county project under Lake County Department of Utilities. The engineer is currently dealing with a family emergency.

Ms. Wolkersdorfer emphasized the magnitude of the situation with gas pipes, water lines, and street work all potentially happening. She requested that if possible, the Village could provide advance notice about whether work would affect half the street or the whole street and some kind of projected date instead of workers just showing up. The Mayor expressed hope for receiving that information, stating that is his hope as well.

Pam Jenkins interjected that this situation seems ideal for the new Text My Gov system the Village is implementing. She asked Ms. Wolkersdorfer if she was aware of the system. Ms. Wolkersdorfer confirmed awareness. Jenkins stated this is exactly the kind of communication the system was designed for. The Mayor confirmed the Village did send out a text when they discovered Enbridge was present, but the problem was they did not find out the company was coming in advance. Jenkins clarified that even day-of notification would be helpful, suggesting the Village could use the text system to inform residents as soon as they know, even if it is the same day. She explained residents can sign up for the system via the Village website, and the Village can use it to send messages about road closures and project timelines. The Mayor confirmed the plan is to keep one lane open on Green Street during water line construction, based on information provided a year ago during planning.

Jean Schonauer (4166 Thompson Street)

Jean Schonauer, a Thompson Street resident living in the middle of all construction, provided a detailed account of her experience with the Enbridge gas line replacement project. She explained the contractor hierarchy: when the Village hired a contractor for the storm water project, that contractor is in charge and must notify utilities to ensure no conflicts. When utilities were notified, Enbridge determined their gas lines were in the direct path of the planned storm sewers and had to move their lines first. Despite having intimate knowledge as a council member, she never received notification as a resident about any specific timeframe. She was told the work would likely occur in October or November, but it was delayed.

Ms. Schonauer was told Enbridge would never shut off gas at her house, which she knew was incorrect because gas lines cannot be replaced without shutting off the gas. Her house has a closed boiler system with a gas-operated boiler and copper pipes running underneath. During subzero temperatures, she received notification that she needed to call and schedule an appointment to have her gas shut off. She called the company and spoke extensively with a representative about the project, providing information about problematic issues occurring during construction. The representative was helpful and escalated concerns to management.

The representative explained that Don Wartko Construction was hired by Enbridge to perform the work, while a different company was hired to flag where gas lines were located. The flagging company had to complete their work first before Don Wartko could proceed. Ms. Schonauer was scheduled to have her work completed and gas shut off on a Friday. She took the day off work to be present. At 8:30 that morning, she received a phone call stating they had a problem on Green Street and would not come to her house that day, rescheduling to Monday or Tuesday the following week. She had already taken the day off. The project, supposed to take two hours, kept her off work the entire day waiting for completion.

Ms. Schonauer emphasized this was nothing the Village did wrong. The Village had no more information than she did as a resident or than anyone else on Green and Thompson. The contractors were under the impression this was a quiet neighborhood road with no traffic. She corrected them, explaining they are one of the main thoroughfares to get to the school. The company representative acknowledged seeing this when at her house.

She explained that contractors subcontract to other companies and everyone has their own schedule. When one contractor gets delayed, it delays everyone else. She acknowledged the frustration but suggested residents get out and talk to workers on the street, hold them accountable, and get contact information from them. Since Don Wartko is doing all gas lines, they may continue on the next project. She offered to provide contact information, noting she posted the name and contact information for the helpful representative on the Perry community page. She confirmed receiving the text message from the Village as soon as they knew about the work.

Laura Wolkersdorfer clarified she was not blaming the Village. Jean Schonauer confirmed she did receive the text message about lane closures on her street. Ms. Wolkersdorfer asked what would be done about the disaster in yards. Ms. Schonauer reported her yard has more damage

than anyone else's she observed. She was assured the company will clean it up, but not until April or May. She requested the community not judge her for her house's appearance because it is not her fault.

Curtis Curd recommended that for severe issues, residents should reach out to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), which will hold utilities accountable when they change dates or fail to follow through on commitments. He referenced living through the Main Street sewer project in 2007 when the gas company was involved and recommended this avenue for accountability.

Hope Gessic (3791 Center Rd.)

Hope Gessic requested the Village bring back the "Welcome to Perry" packets for new residents and information about Perry businesses. As it is getting to be springtime, many people will be moving in and out, and she believes this would be a great help to newcomers. The Mayor stated this would be an excellent project for the Communication Committee.

GOOD & WELFARE:

PRESENTATION - LITTLE LIBRARY

Melanie Fulginiti (Resident)

Melanie Fulginiti introduced herself as a new Perry resident. She and her family will have been in Perry for almost a year in March. She proposed adding a Little Library to the community and presented her case to council. She has a background working with kids and wants to have children of her own. She explained that she and her boyfriend Jason thought about the library together and believed it would be a great community addition.

They specifically identified Lee Lydic Park as the ideal location because it is large and spacious. They have a collection of books to contribute. They also noted that Perry schools are approximately five minutes from the park, making it an accessible location for students. She passed out maps showing the proposed location.

Ms. Fulginiti presented research on why children are not reading as much. She identified creativity and imagination as non-existent in the current generation, with older generations having used SparkNotes when she was in high school ten years ago, and current students having access to AI. Another major reason was lack of access to books. She found a college essay study stating that lack of access to books has a negative effect on children, and the home literacy environment of a child impacts their literacy skills as early as kindergarten. She found this quote important to share given her background working with preschool children, where she always enjoyed reading to kids and considered it important.

She cited Scholastic 2022 statistics showing that 70% of six to eight year olds enjoy reading, while only 46% of twelve to seventeen year olds enjoy reading. She found the younger age group percentage high but wondered why it dropped for the older age group. She identified several factors: extensive homework loads that make reading for fun unappealing, social life and time

with friends and family, homework and sports commitments, and social media platforms like TikTok and online challenges that compete for attention.

The reason for the library, she explained, is to help encourage reading and to provide a safe space. She specifically wanted it at the park because it is a safe space and the schools are nearby, allowing students to walk to and from the library on their way home. Families can also visit together. The library is about connections and inclusivity, with no one excluded. It will include textbooks, notebooks, historical books, and fantasy books.

Regarding location, she researched the Little Library map and found currently only one Little Free Library in Perry, operated by Jennifer Leads. There is one about ten minutes away near the Perry/Madison border where the Cleveland Clinic is located, and another at the North Perry/Madison border in Madison. With only one in Perry proper, there are not many options in the immediate area. She also noted that books are expensive, having seen books priced at twenty dollars, so having free access would be beneficial for families.

She presented pictures of the proposed library structure, crediting her boyfriend for the design. The structure is large enough to fit many books of various sizes. While not painted in the images, they planned to paint it yellow because yellow is calming, warm, inviting, and opening.

A resident asked for clarification about the take-a-book, leave-a-book model. Ms. Fulginiti confirmed people can give a book and take a book. Another resident clarified people can borrow a book and bring it back if they want, or just keep it.

Council members asked questions about the installation. A resident asked if it would be on a pole and how it would be positioned off the ground. Ms. Fulginiti had not determined those details yet. Another resident confirmed it would be mounted on a pole like a birdhouse, likely near the pavilion. The Mayor agreed the pavilion would probably be the best location. Residents confirmed they could donate books by simply taking them to the library and placing them inside.

A resident suggested they might need two library structures given the volume of potential donations. Curtis Curd asked about seasonal operation, specifically whether the library would operate year-round or if winter weather could damage books. He inquired about directional placement for weather protection. The Mayor asked if the structure would be completely waterproof. Residents suggested adding weatherproofing to the planning notes. The Mayor added that it should also be critter-proof to prevent squirrels from nesting inside.

The council reception was unanimously positive, with members expressing this was a great idea and excellent community addition.

READING & DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES:

Council reviewed minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of 1/8/2026 (emailed 2/5/2026). Elias Coss moved to approve all minutes. The motion was seconded by Becky Shimko. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Council reviewed minutes from the Special Council Meeting held January 29 (emailed 1/30/2026). A motion was made to approve by Elias Coss, and a second was provided by Brian Farley. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

LEGISLATION:

Council considered the following legislation:

Resolution No. 2-2026 (Second Reading)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to take all actions necessary to participate in the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2026 Community Event Sponsorship Program and declaring an emergency.

Resolution Number 2-2026 was presented on second reading.

Resolution No. 3-2026 (Second Reading)

A resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to encumber and expend five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to fund the Perry Joint Recreation District, including youth recreation and Perry senior center for calendar year 2026.

Resolution Number 3-2026 was presented on second reading.

Resolution No. 7-2026 (Second Reading; Recommendation to suspend the Three-Reading Rule)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract with the Lake County Automatic Data Processing Board for information technology services and declaring an emergency.

The Fiscal Officer presented Resolution Number 7-2026 on second reading with a recommendation to suspend the three-reading rule. A motion was made to suspend the three-reading rule by Elias Coss, and a second was provided by Brian Farley.

Roll call vote on suspension: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Curtis Curd stated for the record that while he does not necessarily agree with suspension of the rules on legislation, he does not think it is appropriate to hold this resolution when the Village IT equipment is outdated and the Village is potentially vulnerable to cyber attack. He wished this proposal had been put on the agenda sooner since the Village received the proposal in June of 2025.

A motion was made to approve the resolution by Elias Coss, and a second was provided by Brian Farley. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Resolution No. 8-2026 (Recommendation to Suspend the Three-Reading Rule due to Statutory Requirements and IRS Tax Regulations)

A resolution declaring the official intent and reasonable expectation of the Village of Perry on behalf of the State of Ohio (the borrower) to reimburse its General Fund for the CT21AC / CG58AC, 2025 Center Road Drainage Improvements with the proceeds of tax exempt debt of the State of Ohio.

A motion was made by Curtis Curd to suspend the three-reading rule, and a second was provided by Elias Coss. Curtis Curd asked for clarification that this resolution enables the Village to receive reimbursement and asked what would happen if they delayed. The Fiscal Officer explained there is a sixty-day time period so we have some wiggle room, but the resolution allows the Village to submit expenditures incurred to date on the 2025 drainage project and receive reimbursement for a portion of construction costs. Passing this resolution of intent is required to maintain tax-exempt status because the Village is requesting reimbursement for part of construction costs.

Roll call vote on suspension: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. A motion was made by Elias Coss to approve the resolution, and a second was provided by Brian Farley. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Resolution No. 9-2026 (Recommendation to Suspend the Three-Reading Rule)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with SBJ Consulting, LLC for Professional Engineering Services for the Year 2026 and declaring an emergency.

A motion was made by Pam Jenkins to suspend the three-reading rule, and a second was provided by Elias Coss. Curtis Curd stated for the record that he will reiterate his disagreement with rule suspension, but emphasized this is the Village's engineer and there is a major project ongoing on Green Street with a potential issue. He stated it is not appropriate to leave Village residents in a lurch and this needs to be passed to protect the residents.

The Mayor praised engineer Bob Parker, noting he has been instrumental in obtaining the stormwater grant, Green Street grant, and pickleball grant. He has accomplished significant work in a short period of time and is also a Perry resident, which the Mayor characterized as a major plus. Becky Shimko agreed, stating Bob Parker is awesome.

Roll call vote on suspension: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. A motion was made to approve the resolution by Elias Coss, and a second was provided by Brian Farley. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Resolution No. 10-2026 (Recommendation to Suspend the Three-Reading Rule)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept a proposal from American Legal Publishing, LLC for the editing and updating of the Village Codified Ordinances and declaring an emergency.

Becky Shimko asked whether the Village has to suspend the rules or if there is a timeline requirement. The Fiscal Officer explained there was a major update to traffic and general offenses code in the State of Ohio in 2023 and 2024. Much of the Village's local ordinances regarding that section have been out of date for almost two years. The main portion of this update addresses those traffic and general offenses sections. The total cost is around \$10,000, with \$8,500 to \$9,000 of that amount specifically for the traffic and general offenses section. The Village could wait, but it would keep the ordinances out of date longer.

Pam Jenkins asked about timing, noting the Village is doing zoning changes and talking about zoning changes with the Planning Commission. She asked when those changes would be incorporated into the codified ordinances. The Fiscal Officer responded the Village could ask American Legal to incorporate changes and that it would be good practice to update ordinances at least annually. If there is a major piece of legislation, the Village can submit it to American Legal at any time and they can incorporate it. Becky Shimko asked if annual updates would cost \$10,000. The Fiscal Officer clarified that most updates are probably \$2,000 to \$3,000. The reason this update is so expensive is the amount of material that must be updated.

The Mayor explained the other portion is all State-driven. The State passed numerous rules, which is why the update costs an extra seven thousand dollars. Pam Jenkins asked when the State passed those rules. The Mayor responded throughout the last few years with many updates. Pam Jenkins suggested the Village is not in a big hurry if they have let it go this far.

Curtis Curd asked for clarification that anything the Village has passed in the recent past within the last two years, including ordinances or resolutions, would also be on the Village website and those would be the correct, accurate versions. The Fiscal Officer confirmed this is correct. Curtis Curd clarified that anything older than that would come from American Legal Publishing, and the discrepancies would be between what the Village houses on its website and what is in the American Legal database. The Fiscal Officer confirmed this is correct.

Pam Jenkins asked if she should make a motion to not suspend the rule and put it on three readings. Brian Farley responded that unfortunately, the problem with something like this is who it affects: people who are not able to see the information online. Right now, if they go online, they cannot see the updated ordinances. He stated that while he shares frustration with suspension of rules, especially with this meeting having multiple suspensions, he thinks council needs to make it clear moving forward that there is a lot the Village needs to catch up on, and then moving forward, they need to give legislation the three reads. However, he feels picking this particular item to require three reads when nobody in the public is going to disagree with it would be a disservice to the public because they do not have access to the information.

Elias Coss seconded Brian Farley's position. He stated that going back a year and a half, his record shows he is not a fan of suspending rules either, but this is not the resolution where he wants to take a stand. There are other things that definitely need multiple readings, but this is not one of them. People need to be able to have access to accurate ordinances. As much as he is against suspending rules, this is not the one to refuse to suspend. He is in agreement that council should suspend it and get the process moving sooner rather than later.

Brian Farley added that moving forward, he thinks everyone is in agreement that council needs to be proactive about doing three reads to the best of their abilities. He believes everyone sitting at the table agrees, but for something like this right now, the people just need the information.

Elias Coss made a motion to suspend the three-readings rule. Brian Farley seconded. Curtis Curd stated he does not think it is fair to tell the Village to go look at what the law says when the law does not read correctly for what it actually is.

The Mayor suggested council could make a blanket statement that if something passes through the state or the Village changes its own ordinances, it could automatically go to American Legal at that time. He asked if that would be permissible. Acting Solicitor Ron Graham responded that the problem is when something new comes, the Village would have to pass something authorizing automatic submission. The Mayor clarified he is asking whether, when the Village passes an ordinance or the state passes a new law, there is a better way to facilitate getting it to American Legal rather than going through three reads each time to authorize submission.

Mr. Graham explained that Village ordinances are different from Ohio Revised Code. The ORC does not need to be put in Village ordinances. He guessed what happened was the Village updated some ordinances to align with state law, but the ORC does not appear in Village ordinances. As a municipality, the Village has the right to pass laws as long as they are not in conflict with the ORC or Ohio Constitution. The Mayor stated he thinks many Village laws refer to the ORC, and if the ORC changes, it is reflected in Village ordinances. Mr. Graham stated they are only present for tonight and that would be their recommendation.

Curtis Curd asked if there could be a pass-through arrangement, like a contract with American Legal stating that as the Village passes ordinances after going through public readings, American Legal automatically updates the codified ordinances. The Fiscal Officer responded they would charge for that every time. The Fiscal Officer stated if the Village had a contract agreeing to that with an associated cost, they could probably do something similar, but would still need a contract explaining the arrangement.

Roll call vote on suspension: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. A motion was made by Becky Shimko to approve the resolution, and a second was provided by Curtis Curd. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Resolution No. 11-2026 (First Reading)

A resolution authorizing all actions necessary to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2026 Energized Community Grant

Resolution No. 11-2026 was presented on First Reading.

Resolution No. 12-2026 (Recommendation to Suspend the Three-Reading Rule)

A resolution amending Resolution No. 51-2025 and approving the Permanent Appropriations Fund for the Village of Perry, Ohio for the Year 2026 and declaring an emergency.

This resolution would move the canine handler stipend from the General Fund Police Department to the K9 Fund. The Fiscal Officer explained that if delayed, the Village would just be paying the stipend out of the General Fund for another couple months.

Elias Coss asked if this is the money that is donated to the Village. The Fiscal Officer confirmed yes, and explained the Village checked and determined the donations to the K9 Fund are of a general nature and are not specifically designated for the care of the dog. Therefore, it is permissible to pay the canine stipend out of the fund.

Elias Coss asked the Fiscal Officer to provide background for newer council members about where the money comes from. The Fiscal Officer explained that most donations in the K9 Fund come from the AmVets Post. There have been some other donors over time, but AmVets is the largest contributor to the fund.

Elias Coss elaborated that the donation process is very specific regarding how AmVets can give the money. The Village is not the only entity that receives donations; the senior center, the School, and the Township also receive checks. In order for AmVets to give the money, it has to be very specific for tax purposes because much of the money they give comes from slot machines or some gambling revenue. The State requires them to make the designation very specific, which then handcuffs the recipient regarding how they receive it and how they can use it.

Curtis Curd asked for clarification that the money arrives earmarked for specific uses. Elias Coss confirmed this is correct. He explained that in order for any recipient, whether the Village, school, or senior center, to use the money, they have to go through this process.

Curtis Curd clarified that the way it currently stands, the Village is spending out of the General Fund to fund the stipend. The Fiscal Officer confirmed, explaining there is a canine stipend that Lieutenant Collins receives each pay period for the care of the dog. The Mayor stated this is something the Village could wait on for a month if council prefers, as it would just come out of the General Fund.

Curtis Curd asked for confirmation that once the stipend is paid out of the General Fund, the Village is not paying it back and is spending money that could be utilized for something else. The Mayor and Fiscal Officer confirmed this is correct.

Elias Coss stated that while they have exhausted discussion about suspension of rules, he wants to be transparently honest. This is another case where, from an accounting perspective and CFO perspective, the money is available but the way the Village receives it creates restrictions. This affects not just the Village but all the other entities receiving AmVets donations. This is a case where suspending the rules provides only benefits and makes for a cleaner process. It allows the Village to avoid handcuffing community tax dollars by paying money that will just be paid back to the Village three or four months down the road. It provides financial wiggle room now as opposed to a situation where, heaven forbid, something major happens and the Village needs that money sooner rather than later. He stated he is in favor of suspending the rules in this case.

Elias Coss made a motion to suspend the three-reading rule. **Becky Shimko** seconded. Roll call vote on suspension: **Elias Coss**, yes; **Brian Farley**, yes; **Pam Jenkins**, yes; **Curtis Curd**, yes; **Becky Shimko**, yes. A motion was made to approve the resolution by **Elias Coss**, and a second was provided by **Becky Shimko**. Roll call vote: **Elias Coss**, yes; **Brian Farley**, yes; **Pam Jenkins**, yes; **Curtis Curd**, yes; **Becky Shimko**, yes. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Resolution No. 65-2025 (Third Reading)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract with Visual Armor for fire and burglary alarm monitoring services and declaring an emergency.

The Village is currently contracted with Gilmore Services. This contract would provide cost savings of approximately \$80 to \$90 per month, which is almost 50% less than the current service.

A motion was made to approve the resolution by **Curtis Curd**, and a second was provided by **Becky Shimko**. Roll call vote: **Elias Coss**, yes; **Brian Farley**, yes; **Pam Jenkins**, yes; **Curtis Curd**, yes; **Becky Shimko**, yes. The resolution was approved unanimously.

REPORTS - MAYOR

Salt Shortage and Delivery Issues

The Mayor reported the Village has been trying to obtain salt, which has been in shortage for quite a while for municipalities around the area. The Village was supposed to receive delivery yesterday or today. The salt company called stating they were making a delivery of 50 tons for the Village and 50 tons for the school. They made the 50-ton delivery to the school and reported they delivered to the Village, but the Village received nothing. The Village is trying to track down where the two loads of salt went. The company still owes the Village approximately 75 tons.

The Village does have some salt and has been using it very sparingly on intersections and areas with no traction for school buses, trying to stretch the supply. The Mayor explained the circumstances: the Canadian salt mine was down for two months and could not get salt out. Canada bought 1.2 million tons of salt, which put the supplier at a deficit. He spoke to one of the company's engineers and learned this is a statewide issue. The company is not selling any salt to private contractors, strictly limiting sales to municipalities and government entities only.

A resident asked why the Canadian mine was closed down. **Elias Coss** clarified it was not that they closed down, but something about a conveyor belt that transports the salt from the mine broke. The lead time on parts is significant. The Mayor added that someone mentioned an "uplift" or some component of the conveyor system broke.

Elias Coss reported that Morton is working weekends and mandatory overtime. Based on conversations he has had with them, they do not anticipate catching up this winter. A resident expressed hope that winter would end soon. **Elias Coss** agreed that would be ideal. He explained this is another reason why the Village has been very conservative and strategic about where salt is used, focusing on main roads. It is not that the Village is ignoring cul-de-sacs and

developments, but when the Village orders salt and the company says it is coming and then says they delivered it but the Village did not receive it, on top of the fact there is a shortage, the Village has to be very mindful about planning and usage.

The Fiscal Officer added that the Village ordered the salt on January 20th and only received half of that order.

Plow Truck Procurement

The Mayor reported the Village has been looking for plow trucks and has received some quotes. He visited a location the other day to look at plow trucks in person. The Village is trying to narrow down the size of the truck and what the truck will look like. One concern that arose is that with one of the trucks initially selected, the driver would not be able to see over the hood to see the plow. The Village wants drivers to be able to actually see the plow and what they are doing versus just guessing where the plow is positioned. The Village is reevaluating what kind of truck to purchase and is still working on this. The process has been lengthy already.

Elias Coss reported that he and the Mayor visited some trucks on Monday or Tuesday and were able to sit in them and examine them. There is a significant difference depending on how the hood is designed. The visibility difference is substantial. Some trucks have huge blind spots. Given how narrow Village streets are, this is not something the Village can afford to compromise on.

He explained there are at least five, six, or seven different truck options available. From a financial standpoint, one will look better than another based on the bottom line number, but this is not a decision the Village can afford to go cheap on. That is not to say the Village should spend top dollar, but the Village cannot simply select the cheapest option.

He provided Ford as an example, stating the Village has learned Ford is not a viable option for these trucks. While there are some savings with Ford, historically and from a longevity perspective, the Village ends up spending the money two to three times over. Additionally, when sitting in Ford trucks, it is very difficult to see over the hood. There were a few trucks they had interest in, and they are waiting for those dealers to provide numbers. The Village has one more dealership to visit to see what they will offer.

Pam Jenkins asked if the Village is looking to purchase in the next few months. Elias Coss responded that the turnaround time so far on average has been six to eight months once the Village orders the chassis. The dealership they visited Monday or Tuesday seems to have about the right turnaround time. If the Village were to purchase one of the trucks they have in stock, that would accelerate the timeline. However, it will come down to the final price.

The Mayor noted this might require suspension of the rules to expedite the purchase. Curtis Curd asked if this would replace the 7400 truck. The Mayor confirmed yes, though he believes they are looking at replacing the 4700 because he thinks that is the one that was wrecked years ago. He stated he needs to verify exactly which truck is the replacement target.

Elias Coss added another consideration: as long as the truck is 26,000 pounds or under, it is not required to have a CDL to drive it. This provides more flexibility for staffing.

Pam Jenkins asked if the Village could sell the old truck when they get a new one. The Mayor responded he is sure they could sell it. It is a diesel engine with only 47,000 miles. Someone will want that engine even if they do not want the whole truck, but they would definitely want the engine. Elias Coss confirmed the truck would definitely go up for sale, and the proceeds could be used toward the new purchase.

Public Works Department Activities

The Mayor reported public works has been busy trying to keep roads clear while using minimal salt. He drove through the Park on a warm day (Monday, Tuesday, or possibly Wednesday) just to see what it looked like. The parking lot was a slushy, awful mess. He plowed the parking lot at 5:30 PM three times to get the heavy slushy material off, and it all went down the drains. The timing was perfect because someone brought their dogs out and they were playing in the freshly cleared lot. Other than that, the department has been primarily repairing equipment and keeping vehicles washed down.

The Mayor plans to take a trip out to Cleveland when he gets back to look at equipment. The department wants to get a Hotsy, which is basically a hot water pressure washer at about 4,000 PSI. They want to make sure equipment stays clean, especially with new equipment coming. Originally, they wanted a fixed unit mounted on a wall. The Mayor told them he would rather have a portable unit that can pressure wash the Village building and facilities at the Park that need cleaning. That is what they are waiting for right now. This was budgeted in this year's budget.

Economic Development and Upcoming Meetings

The Mayor reported the JEDD (Joint Economic Development) meeting was canceled and there was no new business. The Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday. The Mayor will not be present as he has a work trip to San Diego.

REPORTS - FISCAL OFFICER

The Fiscal Officer presented the monthly financial report through January 31st. The General Fund ended with a balance of \$1,951,106. Monthly revenue was \$125,512 versus expenditures of \$259,421, resulting in a net deficit of \$133,909.

The Fiscal Officer noted the Village made its first payment to DB Bentley in the amount of \$81,502.80 for the 2025 Center Road drainage improvements project. This will be submitted for reimbursement to OPWC once the resolution of intent approved by council is submitted with the reimbursement request as the Village is requesting reimbursement of construction-related expenses. The Village is responsible for 40% of the cost of the project. The Village should receive a reimbursement of approximately \$92,958 from OPWC for the first reimbursement

request. This includes \$74,468 in engineering fees incurred in 2025 and 2026 from CEC, which will also be submitted as part of the request.

There was also a significant repair to the 7400 truck to fix the power steering and other failed parts. This bill was \$10,940. By comparison, revenue in January of 2025 was \$112,031.44 and expenses were \$209,092.96. Net income tax revenues in January 2026 were \$93,161 versus \$87,239 for January of 2025.

Regarding activity in other funds, the Village paid \$3,874 to the Illuminating Company for electricity for streetlights out of Fund 2902 during the month of December. During the month, the Village spent \$15,489 towards the School Resource Officer personnel out of Fund 2904. The Village received \$8,006 from the Ohio Attorney General for continuing education for the Law Enforcement Professional Training Fund 2908.

Additionally, the Village made biannual debt payments to OPWC for past sewer and road projects in the Village, particularly Center Street and Manchester Road. The total remitted was \$6,156 for the sewer project, \$2,500 for Center Street reconstruction, and \$1,773 for a past Manchester Road project. Finally, \$29,614 of income tax and net profits tax for the JED was remitted for the month.

The Village is still awaiting a final report from the auditors for 2023 and 2024. The Fiscal Officer has nothing new on that status. Elias Coss noted the Village is not the only entity waiting; the Senior center and Fire Department are also waiting on audit reports.

Pam Jenkins asked about the truck that needed all the repairs, questioning whether it was the salt and plow truck. The Mayor confirmed yes, explaining the Village has a 7400 and a 4700, both plow trucks. The 4700 also needed work, which was completed one and a half to two weeks ago. The Fiscal Officer confirmed that repair was not as significant as the 7400 but still cost several thousand dollars.

REPORTS - ZONING

Christian Gray, Zoning Inspector, reported that for the year to date through February 12th, there have been 24 total permits issued. The major numbers are 14 new homes and six right-of-way permits related to Enbridge gas line work.

The upcoming Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for February 18th, next Wednesday. He emphasized that going forward, Planning Commission will meet every third Wednesday of the month on a recurring basis. Pam Jenkins confirmed the meeting time is 6:00 PM, which Gray confirmed.

The agenda for February 18th includes looking at increasing the fees for abandoned homes or vacant homes and potentially leaving the meeting with a recommendation for council. The commission will be reviewing how to approve the status of vacant homes and will be dealing with some zoning and district changes related to Hidden Village and Village Development.

Regarding developments in the area, Booth Farms and Hidden Village are still continuing. Booth Farms should be in their final phase with 25 lots remaining. Hidden Village has somewhere in the area of 90 lots remaining. The Hidden Village Storage Unit on Maple Street is still currently ongoing.

REPORTS - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Elias Coss - Perry Area Joint Recreation District

Before proceeding to individual council member reports, Elias Coss reminded council about committees and stated he wanted to provide an update on the Perry Area Joint Recreation District. He explained he sent out an email to everybody on Council and to all the entities and will be doing that moving forward so everyone is up to date with what is happening at PAJRD. He noted this has historically never been done.

For the Senior Center, he provided a short version for community members present. The Senior Center is having a Casino Night on May 8th as a fundraiser. They are still looking for sponsors, and if anyone is willing to donate a gift basket or something for their raffle, it would be greatly appreciated.

For the recreation department, youth basketball has had four strong weeks so far this year. Concessions at Manchester have brought in \$1,077 for the rec department. Middle school concessions have brought in \$1,040. The rec department hosted three basketball tournaments at the Perry High School on behalf of the rec department. All concessions from those tournaments are money the rec department gets to keep 100%, but admissions are split between the schools and rec department on a percentage basis. The rec department received \$3,306.50 and the school received \$2,956.50.

Regarding the Fire Board, there are three new board members. Each Perry entity has two representatives. North Perry replaced both of their representatives. Perry Township also chose a new member.

There is a fire station alerting maintenance cost that is shared between all of Lake County. Coss stated the way it is set up is so complex you almost need a PhD to understand it, but it was not really fair. Perry was being charged exactly the same amount as a municipality like Mentor, which has quadruple the number of calls and stations. The fire chiefs requested some elected officials get involved. Coss attended and met with them. There was renegotiating, and there was consensus between the larger cities like Mentor, who agreed that the previous arrangement was very unfair. The Village was able to reduce Perry's cost by 50%.

The Perry Fire Department also conducted a CPR class at the high school. Regarding the police department, Officer Malcolm Battiato's three-year anniversary with Perry Village will be this coming Sunday. Coss believes Officer Malcolm has been an officer for four or five years total. Lieutenant Collins posted something on Facebook today acknowledging the anniversary. Officer Darin Beckstead's one-year anniversary with Perry will be tomorrow. He has been an officer for two years total.

Coss stated that one thing he wants to do a much better job with moving forward is acknowledging the accomplishments that the Village's officers are having. He noted that if you just watch the news, you only see the bad side of policing, so celebrating their anniversaries and accomplishments is important.

Within the past three weeks, there has been collaboration between North Perry and Perry Village, completely on their own initiative, where they back each other up. In two incidents, which Coss cannot provide specifics about because they are open cases, there were significant examples of inter-agency cooperation. In January, one of Perry Village's officers was in need of assistance on Main Street. An officer from North Perry, a seasoned officer, came and assisted. The situation involved a gentleman with a suspended license, possible OVI, who spoke zero English whatsoever. The officers became creative and used Google Translate to handle the situation and get it taken care of. There was significant assistance by North Perry, so the Village acknowledged that and notified them and appreciated them for their help.

On the flip side, about a week or two ago, one of Perry Village's officers assisted North Perry with another OVI situation. They worked in unison together because you never know what you are walking into when approaching a car where there is an OVI situation. This demonstrated very good teamwork by two different communities working together for the betterment of Perry as a whole.

Finally, Coss stated he will be posting something by tomorrow or Saturday at the latest about the Fall Festival. The first meeting is going to be on the 23rd. Each entity is required to appoint two committee members to the Fall Festival, but anybody from the community can be a part of the Fall Festival committee. If anyone is interested in being part of the planning for 2026, he encourages them to attend. It will be February 23rd at 4:00 PM and will be held either at Village Hall or Township Hall, which he will specify in the posting. If anyone is interested, it is a good way to get involved in the community and help put together an event that is very well accepted by the community as a whole.

Curtis Curd

Curtis Curd first thanked the road department and the police for their work during all the snow the Village has had. The Village has finally gotten some reprieve in the last couple of days with some melting, which is fabulous and means the Village will not need as much salt, hopefully.

He then stated he talked with the Mayor about committees going forward and is looking at doing a consolidation of some of the Village's committees, specifically the Beautification Committee, Neighborhood Revitalization, and PITCH-IN, folding them all into one and potentially renaming it the "Revive and Thrive Committee" because the scope is kind of the same for most of them. He hopes to have the full scope and responsibilities for the committee ready by the next meeting.

Brian Farley

Brian Farley reported that Laura Wolkersdorfer touched on the question about the data center, and he is still getting a lot of folks asking about it. However, the Mayor covered the summary that the Village is in a holding pattern right now.

The Mayor informed him this week he has an Owl system on order. This means it will actually be a reality that the Village will live stream the meetings. This is something Farley has been pushing for, and he knows all council members stated during the meet-the-candidates night that they wanted anybody who wanted access to these meetings to have access. This includes people who cannot make it due to cold weather, people who just had hip surgery or knee surgery, people with the flu, people with sick kids, or any other reason. Everybody in the Village will hopefully soon have access to these meetings. He is looking forward to that and thanked the Mayor for ordering the system.

One thing he wanted to touch on today is to start the dialogue about the 250th birthday of the United States on July 4th. Fireworks are a hot topic. Some people really like fireworks and some people really do not like fireworks. It is always a big issue in Perry and is actually why he got interested in local government to begin with.

He wanted to start the dialogue and encourage everybody in the community as well as all members of council and whoever else wants to give feedback, possibly at the next meeting, regarding everybody's thoughts as to when the community can set off fireworks. It was a big hot topic last year because Ohio now has a law for fireworks which has a list of permissible days. Last year it was limited to three or four days in the Village.

He is looking forward to working with everybody to come up with a common-sense solution that all parties will be happy with. There are some folks who do not want fireworks at all, and there are other folks on the other side who are okay with fireworks all day every day. He is interested in hearing from the community, and council will work together to come up with something that everybody can come to the table and agree on. That is why he wanted to put it out there. He will probably put it out there that anybody who wants to come talk about it at the next meeting can do so, and at the next meeting council can all discuss it as well.

Pam Jenkins

Pam Jenkins reported that this past Saturday, she drove to Cincinnati and went to the new council members seminar. It was just a one-day seminar with four or five different speakers. Some were really good and some were just okay, but it was really interesting. She learned a lot, got a lot of information to go over, and made some contacts, so that was a good thing.

Today she got a last-minute invite to a seminar about data centers titled "Technology Growth and Community Impact." It was put on by Lake County and was held at Lakeland. They had four people on a panel who spoke about the different pros and cons. One panelist was the brother of Darin's wife. He actually works with farmers all over the state. Jenkins thought it was interesting to learn that Ohio has lost 1 million acres of land to data centers already. Ohio is a hot place for data centers because of the climate, the water, and the power plants. It was interesting to hear what the panelists had to say and different points of view, though the seminar was short.

Moving on to Village business, she brought up the vacant house issue and the Champion house specifically. She asked if the Champion house has been inspected yet. The Mayor stated he does not know because he does not get reports on inspections. In order for the property owner to get

migrant workers, he has to comply with the fire department and health department and receives his letter from the USDA.

Jenkins stated she drove by today and noticed that part of the plastic from the roof, a big long sheet of plastic, has blown off and is hanging on the wires going to the pole. She thought about calling someone to look at that but did not know if the Village should. She stated it looks a little dangerous.

Regarding committees, she thought maybe by this meeting the Village would have some committees put together, especially the Park Committee, because they need to get together with summer coming up and plan events. Events take time to plan and dates need to be set. She has the new copy of the NatureWorks Grant 32 that the Village used to get the pickleball courts. They just put the updated version online for this year. The Village needs to get started working on that. She and the Mayor talked a little bit about some projects, nothing as big as pickleball courts, but they would have to get it in the budget quickly if they decide to do it and decide what to do. The sooner they get the park committee together, the sooner they can discuss it, bring it to council, and decide what they want to fill the grant out for. She feels some urgency to getting the committees together.

She stated she likes Curtis's idea of committee consolidation. She went through the 22 committees and thinks there are a few they could probably do away with. The Mayor clarified they are not filling 22 committees. He has a very selective core committee approach they are going to pursue. Jenkins acknowledged she read his proposal. The Mayor explained that as they go, they will fill what is most needed in the community, and those will be prioritized. Other committees will be addressed maybe in a year or two based on priority. There are some committees the Village is required by statute to have.

Jenkins stated she would like to at least have the committee assignments wrapped up by next meeting, expressing urgency particularly with the park committee. The Mayor stated he was going to appoint committees today but wanted to wait until later in the meeting. Elias Coss clarified the Mayor is going to cover committee appointments today and is not done with his report yet.

Jenkins stated she was curious about the Champion house and what is going on with it. They talked about vacant houses, and that was about all she had for today.

Becky Shimko

Becky Shimko stated that Christian Gray probably pretty much gave her report since she serves on Planning Commission, so she really does not have anything else other than to say thanks for cleaning the roads.

The Mayor responded it was touch and go for a little bit, especially with equipment being down as much as it was during storms. A resident stated they were very upset Saturday morning at 8:00 AM because Saturday was terrible and they could not even get up the hill. The Mayor acknowledged the difficulty and apologized. The resident clarified it was not just Perry; the weather was terrible everywhere that day.

The Mayor explained the Village's equipment situation: one plow truck is from 1999 and the other is from 2004. They are 20 and 25 years old and have exceeded their useful life. The Village is working on getting new equipment and hopes to have one truck purchased by fall. That is the goal.

PURCHASES & APPROVALS (January 2 through February 5)

The Mayor called for purchases and approvals. A motion was made to approve by Curtis Curd, and a second was provided by Elias Coss. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Purchase approvals were approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Mayor stated they had talked about committees and he was going to present all the committee appointments in one motion. He announced the following appointments:

Mike Glover will be on the Finance Committee. Brian Farley will serve on the Police Committee, and the Communication Committee. Curtis Curd will serve on Communication and will lead the newly renamed committee (Revive and Thrive, consolidating previous committees). The Mayor asked Curtis to confirm the name was "Thrive and Revive" or "Revive and Thrive." Curtis confirmed "Revive and Thrive" and stated he will have a full proposal at the next meeting.

Pam Jenkins will serve on the Park Committee. Becky Shimko will serve on Police Committee and is appointed to Planning Commission, which the Mayor noted is a different type of appointment process. Elias Coss is already on the Fire Board, so that continues. The Mayor asked for confirmation about police and rec assignments. Elias Coss confirmed yes, he serves on both.

The Village also needs two Fall Festival committee members. Pam Jenkins has been on the committee as a community member for the past several years. Elias Coss stated he spoke with her within the past 48 to 72 hours and she expressed interest in coming back as a committee member as well, unless she has changed her mind. Jenkins confirmed she is good with that.

Elias Coss announced that as he stated last year, he will not be coming back to the Fall Festival committee. He is going to facilitate the first meeting to get them going, but at that point he will just be a community member and assist the day of the event and in any way they need throughout the year. He thinks the committee is ready for new energy, a new vision, and new leadership. Outside of facilitating the next meeting, he will step back.

Coss also wanted to make a comment specific to Curtis regarding one of the committees he is taking over. He encouraged Curtis to make PITCH-IN his own, noting Curtis will have to have conversations with different Perry entities and the community as a whole. Speaking to the community members present, Coss explained PITCH-IN is a great program. It is a program the Village started several years ago that Jean spearheaded with Rick back around 2019 when the

idea came about. In the midst of COVID is when it came to life, but it has lost its identity and its purpose.

One of the biggest things Curtis is going to really need is the buy-in of the community. Pam Jenkins, Elias Coss, and maybe two or three other people, including Jean, have been the backbone of running the project. It is a phenomenal program, but if it does not have volunteers, then it is only on the backs of a half dozen people. A resident asked for clarification, initially mishearing the program name. Coss clarified it is "PITCH-IN" and provided an example: the program helps community members pitch in to assist neighbors who need help.

Coss stated that having Curtis on the committee is phenomenal and he encourages Curtis to make it his own. But speaking to the community, the program is phenomenal and if they can get volunteers outside of the half dozen people, three of whom are present (Jean, Pam, and Elias), to assist, it would make a significant difference. If anyone is interested, Curtis is the person to contact.

The Mayor asked if anyone else is interested in the Fall Festival committee. There was some discussion, and the Mayor stated they could appoint at least one person right now. Elias Coss clarified that technically every Perry entity, including the school, has to appoint two committee members. He wanted to give council the opportunity to decide if they wanted to be part of it. However, the Village has representatives within the community, so if nobody else on council wants to participate, they can appoint one of the community members. He just needs to reach out to the other Perry entities to get their appointed members.

The Mayor stated that with his selection of committee members as discussed, they need a motion to approve. **Elias Coss made a motion** to approve. A second was provided. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. The committee appointments were approved unanimously.

The Mayor stated they will review the other committees next month, mentioning there are committees like tax review and public comment. Curtis Curd referenced Ordinance 2025-13, which contains the entire committee list with specific requirements for each committee.

Public Comment (comments may be directed to the Mayor or Council members only, may pertain to any topic specifically discussed at this meeting, and will be limited to 3 minutes):

Resident - Railroad Crossing Concern

Laura Wolkersdorfer- She stated it just dawned on them halfway through the meeting and they wanted to bring attention to an issue they are sure most everybody knows about: the railroad crossings are very bad on Davis Street and on Maple Street. They wanted to bring it up and see if there are any thoughts about that or what can be done.

The Mayor responded that Davis is in the Township, so the Village has no control over Davis Street. The resident asked if somebody can contact someone about it because it is very bad. The

Mayor acknowledged he knows it is terrible. The resident stated they go over the crossing at minimal speed. The Mayor agreed it is terrible.

The resident noted the Maple Street crossing is really bad too and has been bad for a while. The Mayor stated this is something he wants to address with the railroad company in the spring, but they are not going to do any work on it until June or July most likely. The resident expressed concern about losing their car's undercarriage. The Mayor acknowledged the Village has to get on the railroad company's radar. He noted they are hard to deal with, but he has one contact he can call.

Jean Schonauer

Jean Schonauer stated she wanted to offer a suggestion, especially with Pam Jenkins mentioning the grant application to enhance the park. Her suggestion is that as council is thinking about amenities they want to put into the park, they should come up with some type of master plan of what that park is going to look like. As they are putting structures in, they will want to be thinking down the road about what they might want to have in the future to make sure everything is located in the right spots to facilitate parking, safety of children in the playground area, or whatever other considerations are relevant.

She really thinks that as council starts working on these additional grants and projects, they should have some type of master plan of what they want that park to look like when it is completely built out. This will prevent having to move things or put things where they are not necessarily in the ideal location because they did not think ahead. That is her suggestion.

Annette McGonnell (4290 Manchester)

The resident from 4290 Manchester asked if this has been discussed in the past, but wondered if there is any way the different Perry entities could cooperate and share a sidewalk clearing machine in the winter, particularly for Manchester Street around the school. They acknowledged it is the homeowner's responsibility but noted there are houses on Manchester and kids are trying to get back to school by walking down the middle of the street because sidewalks are not cleared.

The Mayor responded that he drove to the Mentor border the other day and it was atrocious because there is still significant snow and ice on the sidewalks all the way down. The resident noted North Perry's sidewalks are nice and clear.

The Mayor responded he could probably ask to borrow equipment from North Perry, but he doubts they are going to lend it given how many sidewalks the Village would need to plow. The Village would have to plow all its sidewalks and then give the equipment to North Perry to plow all their sidewalks. He highly doubts North Perry would agree. The cost of sidewalk clearing equipment the Village looked at before is \$60,000 to \$80,000, and then the Village would need someone to operate it. Additionally, the Village would have to put rules in place for personal plow truck drivers not to pile snow in the sidewalk area. It would be challenging, but the Mayor is not saying no. It is something they could look at.

The resident acknowledged the Mayor's points and thanked council. Another resident mentioned people with four-wheelers in developments who could potentially help. The Mayor mentioned he watched a snowmobile go through his yard the other day. The resident clarified that is how they used to clear sidewalks, with a snowmobile.

Elias Coss clarified that the Village had a resident a couple years ago attempt to clear sidewalks with a four-wheeler, and that lasted maybe an hour and a half. A four-wheeler or utility vehicle is not strong enough to push snow effectively.

Jean Schonauer raised a legal issue with sidewalk clearing. If she has sidewalks at her house and she shovels them and somebody falls and gets hurt, she is responsible because she changed Mother Nature's natural condition. As long as snow is sitting there naturally and someone falls or hurts themselves, they cannot sue her. But if she shovels her sidewalk, they can sue her. Therefore, her sidewalks will never be shoveled.

Bill DeBus (News-Herald)

Bill DeBus asked the Mayor about committees, noting the Mayor appointed some people but asking if there is a master list showing other committee members. The Mayor responded not yet, as they just appointed the chairs and the committees are still in development. DeBus asked if eventually there will be a full roster. The Mayor confirmed yes, explaining that the Park Committee could be anywhere from three to five people. The Tax Review Board has three members. There are certain statutes requiring specific numbers on different committees, but other committees have more flexibility. For example, the Fall Festival requires two representatives per entity, and the JEDD requires one representative.

Curtis Curd referenced Ordinance 2025-13, which contains the entire committee list with specific requirements for each committee.

DeBus then asked about the email Elias Coss mentioned that goes out to council about everything happening in recreation, asking if he could possibly receive that to know more about it. Elias Coss confirmed yes, explaining it is not just council but all three Perry entities and the Schools. It is a summary of what has happened the prior month with both the Senior Center and the Youth Recreation Department. He acknowledged the first version is not very appealing to the eye but stated he will get better with formatting. DeBus confirmed that if he can receive it, that would be helpful.

DeBus then asked Brian Farley about the video system he mentioned, asking what it is called, Owl or something. Farley confirmed it is an Owl system, spelled like the bird. It is the same system the School Board uses. DeBus confirmed he has seen that system and asked if it will be implemented at Village council. Farley confirmed that is the goal and the Mayor said he ordered it.

DeBus asked if there are plans to archive meetings so people who cannot watch live can go back and watch them later. Farley responded that would be the ultimate goal. It is a matter of starting from zero and seeing how it goes, but yes, that should be possible. The plan is also to incorporate

it with TextM Gov, where residents would receive a notification that the meeting is about to happen with a link, trying to make it as easy as possible for residents.

DeBus stated that will be a nice addition for transparency. People who cannot make the meeting can go back and review it, actually hear what was said, and review the content. Farley agreed, stating that is the goal and whatever they can do to get there, they will pursue. DeBus thanked council and stated he is feeling better after being knocked out for about two weeks with illness. He finally had to go to the doctor and get medicine, and it was rough.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.

The Mayor stated he needs a motion to go to executive session to discuss personnel and employment matters. A motion was made by Elias Coss, and Becky Shimko provided the second. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. The motion to enter executive session was approved unanimously. Council entered Executive Session at 8:38 PM.

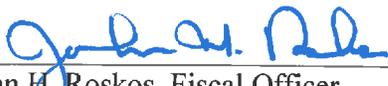
Council returned to Regular Session at approximately 9:10 PM.

Pam Jenkins made a motion to accept the Retirement of Chief Steve Williams; Becky Shimko seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM by Elias Coss; Brian Farley seconded the motion. All voted in favor of adjournment.

Next regular meeting is Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 PM.



John H. Roskos, Fiscal Officer



James Gessic, Mayor

Posted 3/11/2026