Village of Van Buren

Record of Proceedings
Held: August 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Council met in regular session with Mayor Ed May presiding. Roll call was answered by:

☒Ashley Little ☒Boston Beitzel

☐Don Wills ☒Natalie Walters

☒Eric Heitkamp ☒Eric Coleman

Minutes of the June meeting were presented and reviewed by council. Motion made by Natalie Walters, second by Ashley Little to dispense with reading of minutes and pass as written. Roll call taken; motion passed 5-0

Treasurer report, credit card statement and Bank reconciliation were presented to council.

The following bills were reviewed by Council:

Date	Account	Description	Amount	Total
8/16/2026	ED MAY ZONING	PAYROLL	$ 266.67	$ 266.67
8/16/2026	ED MAY MAYOR	PAYROLL	$ 200.00	$ 200.00
8/16/2026	GREG AYERS	PAYROLL	$ 350.00	$ 350.00
8/16/2026	ASHLEY LITTLE	PAYROLL	$ 50.00	$ 50.00
8/16/2026	BOSTON BEITZEL	PAYROLL	$ 50.00	$ 50.00
8/16/2026	DON WILLS	PAYROLL	$ 50.00	$ 50.00
8/16/2026	ERIC HEITKAMP	PAYROLL	$ 66.67	$ 66.67
8/16/2026	NATALIE WALTERS	PAYROLL	$ 50.00	$ 50.00
8/16/2026	ERIC COLEMAN	PAYROLL	$ 50.00	$ 50.00
8/16/2026	AEP	STREET LIGHTS		$ -
8/16/2026	AEP	ELECTRICITY		$ -
8/16/2026	HANCOCK COUNTY SHERIFF	PATROL	$ 715.00	$ 715.00
8/16/2026	KERSHNER	STREET SWEEP	$ 600.00	$ 600.00
8/16/2026	KERSHNER	BASIN CLEAN OUT	$ 3,600.00	$ 3,600.00
8/16/2026	M&JS LANDSCAPE	LAWN CARE	$ 1,815.00	$ 1,815.00
8/16/2026	JB WALTER	PORTA JOHN	$ 125.00	$ 125.00
8/16/2026	TRUE GREEN	LAWN CARE	$ 199.60	$ 199.60
8/16/2026	CITY OF FINDLAY	WATER	$ 63.16	$ 63.16
8/16/2026	ALLTREE	TREE REMOVAL	$ 300.00	$ 300.00
				$ -
				$ 8,551.10

Motion made by Eric Heitkamp to pay bills, second by Boston Beitzel. Roll call taken; motion passed 5-0.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- Mia Haunstien, Hancock County Dog Warden, introduced herself as the new Dog Warden and answered questions from Council regarding animal control operations, enforcement procedures, and current dog-related concerns within the Village

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS/OLD BUSINESS

Marshall – LAW AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE: Provides legal advice to the Village Council, the Mayor, and Village's various committees. Additionally, discuss revisions to correct out-of-date ordinances, address requests for changes from the public and Village Administration, and create new ordinances to address new issues as needed:

- ***COMMITTEE UPDATE***
  - Citation has been issued by the Hancock County Dog Warden against the dog at large owner located at 205 North Main Street
  - Village filed charges against 304 South Main Street for harboring more than 3 dogs.

ERIC C. – RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Provides the mayor if any issues communicated from the Village Residents or issues that needs to be address by Council such as abandoned vehicles, tall grass, trash, nuisances, dilapidated structures, and junk on premises:

- ***COMMITTEE UPDATE***
  - Property owner at 305 E. Market Street has addressed the junk-related concerns on the property; however, a couple of inoperable vehicles remain.
  - Property owner at 109 South Main Street has begun to address high grass/weeds and junk related concerns on this property.

GREG – FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE: Provides recommendations and reviews the Village's Revenue and Expenditure reports against the annual budget estimates and reports this information to the Council, seek grants, responsible for the compliance of the Village's records policy, and issues Solicitation Permits:

- ***COMMITTEE UPDATE***
  - A THIRD reading for Ordinance 2026-14, AN ORDINANCE IN THE VILLAGE OF VAN BUREN, OHIO, REGULATING VACANT BUILDINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was heard. Natalie Walters moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-14, with a second from Ashley Little. Roll call taken; motion passed 5-0.

ASHLEY and BOSTON - BEAUTIFICATIONS AND COMMUNITY EVENT COMMITTEE: Provides opportunities to build relationships between neighbors through engagements in beautification projects and entertainment/festival events that showcases the Village as well as making our Village the best it can be:

- ***COMMITTEE UPDATE***

- No Report

ERIC –PUBILIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Provides and maintains public relations for the Village Council through advocacy, transparency and improvement of communications, media, and policies:

- ***COMMITTEE UPDATE***
  - Continuing to update the Village website.

DON – INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE: Provides the mayor recommendations or concerns with any trees, streets including striping and signage, sidewalks, curbs deteriorations, water, sanitary, storm water collection systems including manhole/catch basins, street lights and weather siren are malfunctioning, and lane/street vacation:

- ***COMMITTEE UPDATE***
  - 2026 South Main paving is projected to begin on November 1, 2026.

NATALIE – ASSET COMMITTEE: Provides the mayor with improvements or reports of any damages to Hoadley Park, Village Square, Post Office, and Acquisitions:

- ***COMMITTEE UPDATE***
  - Mayor informed Council that the Village has been awarded a $25,000 grant from the Hancock County Community Foundation. The grant funds will be used to establish grass on the western portion of Hoadley Park and to construct a concrete pad around the park's storage shed.

ED – PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE: Provides recommendations to the Village Council on all issues related to the Village's zoning code and subdivision regs including changes to the code and requests to rezone lots:

- ***COMMITTEE UPDATE***
  - Van Buren Local Schools will soon begin installing the new digital signage and removing trees. The school has agreed to plant two maple trees on the west side of the north parking lot along South Main Street to replace those being removed.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2026 – 05, A resolution authorizing Douglas E. Cade, PE, PS Hancock County Engineer, to prepare submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) State Capital Improvement and /or local transportation improvement Programs(s) and to execute contracts as required. Eric Heitkamp moved to accept Resolution 2026 – 05 with a second from Ashley Little. Roll call taken; motion passed 5-0.

Resolution 2026 – 06, A resolution accepting the amounts and rates and determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. Natalie Walters moved to accept Resolution 2026 – 06 with a second from Boston Beitzel. Roll call taken; motion passed 5-0.

With no further items on the agenda, Eric Heitkamp moved to adjourn, a second from Ashley Little. All votes yea, meeting adjourned.

Ed May, Mayor

Greg Ayers, Village Clerk