

OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 4, 2025 7:00 PM

Call to Order – Mayor Thompson

7:00 PM

Village Representatives in Attendance

Mayor Thompson
Councilwoman Heather Phillips
Councilman Dan Wimmers
Councilwoman Wendy Greeley
Clerk/Treasurer Mark Mockensturm

Councilwoman Dana Dunbar
Councilman John Lewis
Councilman Edward Shimborske
Village Administrator April McDonald
Finance Director Troy Dowling

Citizen Attendees

Nasrin Afjeh
Yarko Kuk

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Wimmers to approve the minutes, as amended from July 7, 2025, Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

No comments

Finance & Future Planning – Mr. Lewis

Mr. Lewis reported that, as of July 1st, the village has collected approximately \$3.2 million in income tax revenue, which represents roughly 72% of projected annual revenue. On the expenditure side, the village has spent approximately 48% of the operating budget.

Mr. Lewis also acknowledged and appreciated the Running Projects List created by Ms. Phillips, noting that while it is not strictly a finance item, it plays an important role in future planning. He recommended the list be updated quarterly. In response, Ms. McDonald stated that they are aiming for monthly updates. Mr. Lewis inquired whether the list is available online for public access. Ms. McDonald replied that it is not yet available online, but she hopes to provide a printed copy for Council at each meeting, with updates managed by herself and Mr. Dowling.

Ms. McDonald invited Council members to email any updates or changes they wish to see reflected in the list. Mrs. Dunbar encouraged Council to send in ideas, which can then be discussed during Council meetings. Ms. McDonald further emphasized that if any item is missing or needs clarification, they are open to feedback.

Mayor Thompson emphasized the importance of ensuring the list is refined and complete before making it public. Ms. McDonald concluded by thanking Ms. Phillips for her efforts in creating the document.

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Human Resources – Ms. Phillips

Ms. Phillips announced that there will be a meeting tomorrow morning to discuss the Employee Handbook and Community Engagement Plans for both this year and next year.

She also provided a recap of the ribbon cutting event for the sledding hill, which was held on a rain date in July and although it rained again that day, two out of three food trucks still attended, and residents came out to enjoy the event. TNC (The Nature Conservancy) still conducted their tour as planned. Despite the weather, residents who attended were grateful for the event and interested in learning more about the sled hill. Ms. Phillips also noted that there were lessons learned from hosting the event, which can help inform future planning.

Mayor Thompson remarked that the sledding hill is now a much more engaging and environmentally beneficial space. He recalled that it was previously just a grassy area, but now it serves a greater purpose and is more appealing.

Mrs. Dunbar added that the hill currently has a cover crop of oat grass, and it will take 2 to 3 years to fully establish. She expressed her excitement at seeing such a significant project completed, calling it a massive undertaking.

Mayor Thompson clarified that no Village funds were used for the initial completion of the project. However, Mr. Lewis pointed out that future maintenance or enhancements may require Village funding. Mayor Thompson agreed and highlighted how part of the project includes slowing down stormwater runoff, which improves the local environment.

Mrs. Dunbar expanded on the environmental importance, noting that our area is unique in terms of its mixture of pervious and impervious surfaces, especially near the river. These variations affect water quality and are an important consideration in the Village's Environmental Strategic Plan. She emphasized that the work on the sledding hill supports those broader goals.

Safety – Mrs. Dunbar

Mrs. Dunbar reported that although there has not yet been a formal committee meeting, the Village has received a speed study from TMACOG for the Exmoor neighborhood. However, the report was confusing and lacked an executive summary, which Mrs. Dunbar has formally requested.

She noted that residents of Exmoor are interested in lowering the speed limit to 15 mph. Mr. Wimmers clarified that this was not a recommendation from TMACOG, but rather a request from the Exmoor Homeowners Association (HOA).

Ms. McDonald confirmed this, sharing that she attended the HOA meeting last Monday to clarify the situation. She explained that the results of the initial speed study were skewed, as one section of the neighborhood was inaccessible due to a tree removal, which likely affected traffic patterns. As a result, she has already requested a new speed study from TMACOG and is hoping to receive the revised results within the week.

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Ms. McDonald and Mr. Dowling also visited Exmoor to assess conditions firsthand, noting that even driving 25 mph felt excessive in some areas. The HOA has expressed interest in meeting with the Safety Committee, and possibly the Streets Committee, to further discuss traffic concerns.

Mrs. Dunbar inquired whether the residents were open to installing speed tables, noting their low cost. Ms. McDonald responded that the HOA, at that meeting, were not interested in speed tables. Mrs. Greeley raised a concern about enforcement, noting that lowering the speed limit would require active ticketing and questioning the effectiveness of unenforced limits.

Mr. Lewis expressed skepticism about reducing the speed from 25 to 15 mph, suggesting that driving at 15 mph could feel overly restrictive. Mayor Thompson emphasized that the updated speed study will help guide the decision and acknowledged TMACOG's responsiveness in addressing the issue.

Mrs. Dunbar also highlighted the installation of a new four-way stop and praised Ms. McDonald's and Mr. Pelland's suggestion to add flashing lights to the stop signs. She noted that the addition appears to have been effective, with positive feedback observed on social media.

Ms. McDonald added that officers were present during the first week of the stop's implementation, using their vehicle lights for visibility. While some drivers did initially run through the stop, it is hoped that the signage is now more noticeable, and compliance will improve with time.

Services & Environment – Mrs. Greeley

Mrs. Greeley reported that although no Service and Environment Committee meeting has been held recently, there has been new information regarding the deer management program. The Village received a quote of \$3,500 for a drone-based aerial deer count.

No deer count was conducted last year. Mrs. Greeley noted that the cull two years targeted 20 deer, while this year the number was reduced to 15. Mr. Shimborske commented that a formal deer survey has not been done in a couple of years, though Ms. McDonald clarified that the most recent survey occurred in 2023, fully funded by the Village. The year prior was co-funded by the Metroparks.

Ms. McDonald stated she wanted guidance before scheduling a committee meeting, specifically, whether there is interest in conducting a new deer count. Mr. Wimmers asked whether residents are currently complaining about deer. Mr. Shimborske recalled that the Village only initiated a cull after conducting a deer survey and assessing the damage caused, and questioned whether the Village now culls deer as a routine practice, or whether the effort has already met its goals.

Mrs. Greeley observed that tree damage has visibly decreased, and Mr. Lewis added that large groups of deer (10–20 at a time) are no longer commonly seen, and many of those previously appeared to be unhealthy. He feels the deer are more active now compared to the past year or two. Mrs. Greeley mentioned that this year's smaller cull was completed in two weeks, and Council had already agreed to reassess the situation before next season.

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Mr. Shimborske suggested it would be beneficial to have data showing whether the program has been effective. Mayor Thompson agreed, noting that once a population is reduced, the program may shift to a maintenance level, though it's unclear whether the Village has reached that point. Mrs. Greeley cited visible regrowth of vegetation on trees as anecdotal evidence, though Mr. Shimborske noted that this is not an official measurement. In response, Mrs. Dunbar mentioned that a floristic study could be conducted. Mayor Thompson added that the Metroparks had previously walked the woods to assess overgrazing, though it was an informal arrangement.

Mayor Thompson suggested the Village could ask Metroparks to conduct another informal assessment, which would help evaluate whether the program remains effective. Mrs. Greeley also pointed out that deer-related vehicle accidents have decreased, citing police data.

From a cost perspective, Mayor Thompson stated the deer management program is relatively low-cost around \$1,000 annually, excluding staff time. Ms. McDonald added that background checks for hunters are performed, but fees are waived when the deer are donated, which many hunters do.

Mr. Shimborske inquired about costs associated with Metroparks assistance, and Mayor Thompson confirmed there is no charge for their involvement.

Streets & Bridges – Mr. Shimborske

Mr. Shimborske shared that there is a resolution for approval regarding the OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) grant, which the Village applied for last year but did not receive. The resolution is necessary to reapply for the upcoming grant cycle.

Additionally, there will be a proposal related to Ashborne presented at today's meeting, which a member of Council will introduce for discussion.

Utilities, Equipment, Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Wimmers

Mr. Wimmers noted that while the committee has not yet convened, a concern was raised regarding the brightness of the LED lighting along the walk paths. Ms. McDonald provided a construction update, stating that fencing delivery is expected this week. Once the materials arrive, the current concrete will be removed, temporary fencing will be installed, and new fencing will then be placed. Regarding lighting concerns, Mr. Pelland contacted Brint to inquire about installing dimmer switches. Ms. Phillips asked whether the lights are currently set to their brightest level; Ms. McDonald was unsure, but noted that even the lowest setting appears bright to some residents. While no formal complaints have been received, Ms. Phillips relayed feedback from several individuals at the Hempstead block party, where the brightness of the lights was discussed.

Mr. Wimmers inquired whether the lights are LED, which Ms. McDonald confirmed. Mr. Shimborske mentioned that dimming LED lights may be limited without specialized equipment. Mr. Wimmers asked whether the current brightness is the lowest possible setting, and Ms. McDonald stated that a specification sheet from Brint would help clarify. Ms. Phillips suggested that light caps or shields might be a better alternative to dimmers. Ms. McDonald and Mr. Pelland will follow up with Brint to obtain a formal report for Council review. Mayor Thompson emphasized that both Ms. McDonald and Mr. Pelland are overseeing the project specifically to

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evaluate such options. Ms. McDonald added that her goal last week was to secure approval to proceed with concrete and fencing work on the second walk path, with lighting issues to be addressed prior to installation. Mr. Shimborske asked how many lights are currently in place; Mayor Thompson estimated approximately 8 to 10. Mr. Shimborske noted that all lights may need to be wired together for dimming functionality. Mrs. Dunbar asked if the Mayor had walked the path at night; he replied that while the lights do seem bright, a nearby streetlight also contributes to the overall illumination. He noted the need to balance residential concerns with the safety of those using the path. Mrs. Dunbar suggested vegetation could be used to reduce light spillover onto nearby homes. Mr. Wimmers asked about the timeline for installing lighting on the new path, and Ms. McDonald stated that there is no firm schedule yet. She noted that concrete and fencing work is expected to begin this week and that residents will be notified via social media prior to any path closures. She added that two of the eight nearby residents have already contacted the office expressing enthusiasm for the project. Mr. Wimmers asked if conduit is installed during the concrete pour; Ms. McDonald explained that during the previous path project, it was installed after the pour. Ms. McDonald concluded by publicly thanking Mr. Pelland for his dedication, communication with residents, and leadership as project manager.

Mr. Wimmers also provided an update on the tennis court project. He noted that it appeared to be near completion, and Ms. McDonald confirmed that the final acrylic surfacing was being completed that day. She added that some patching had been necessary to address low areas and that net posts and nets were expected to be installed by Wednesday. While the Village had hoped to hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony, it is unlikely that it will occur before students begin using the courts. Mr. Wimmers inquired about fencing repairs at the equipment access point; Ms. McDonald confirmed repairs are still needed. Although substantial completion was originally expected by the previous Friday, it is now anticipated for Wednesday. This milestone allows the courts to be used by students, though finishing work, such as fencing and sodding, will continue. Ms. McDonald reported an increased presence of moles on the nearby field, an issue also raised by Mr. Hardman. Pest control services have been scheduled, as the mole activity is more extensive than originally believed. Mrs. Greeley mentioned experiencing similar mole problems in her own yard. Mayor Thompson concluded the update by noting that the tennis court project, estimated at \$160,000, has come in significantly under the original budget projections, which reached up to \$500,000. Ms. McDonald confirmed the project remains under budget, with an additional \$450 spent on net and post installation.

Solicitors Report – Mrs. Tharp

Mrs. Tharp reported that the Zoning Commission held its first discussion regarding the zoning code. The group is currently reviewing the existing code to identify provisions that should be retained and others that may require changes. Once the review and revisions are complete, the updated zoning code will be presented to Council for consideration.

Administrator's Report

Ms. McDonald announced that Mr. Dowling has officially started his position, having begun last Thursday. She noted that while there is a lot to learn, he has been a quick study and is already well-versed in finance; his main focus now is becoming familiar with the specific operations and

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procedures of the Village. Ms. McDonald welcomed him to the team and mentioned that he has already met nearly everyone, with the exception of the nighttime officers.

Mayor's Report

No Report

Old Business

Ms. Phillips introduced a proposal to convert Ashborne into a one-way street, inspired by the recent stop sign test at Indian and Orchard. She explained that Ashborne has consistently come up in discussions as a street needing attention, particularly due to ongoing concerns from residents about traffic flow and safety. The current layout does not support simultaneous two-way traffic along with parking especially during school and sporting events when the road becomes congested. Her proposal outlines a plan to convert Ashborne into a one-way road heading eastbound, along the side of the elementary school. This would allow for a standard 11-foot driving lane, a 9-foot parking lane, and a 5-foot dedicated walking path along the school side, which would eliminate the need for pedestrians to cross the street multiple times.

As part of the plan, Ms. Phillips proposed evaluating the traffic circulation for the high school as well. Currently, vehicles enter from Bexford and exit onto Ashborne, which pushes stadium traffic toward pedestrians. Reversing the flow having vehicles enter from Ashborne and exit onto Bexford, could help separate vehicles from foot traffic and improve overall safety. The plan also preserves existing ADA spaces and marks certain zones as no-parking areas. These adjustments are intended to improve safety, particularly for students during arrival and dismissal times. She noted the importance of consulting with both schools and involving the community, while also evaluating whether any changes such as shifting the parking lane, might affect residents' access to their driveways. The walking path could be narrowed slightly if needed to accommodate this.

During the discussion, Mr. Wimmers raised the idea of angled parking, though Ms. Phillips noted that it would take up more space than parallel parking. He also pointed out that one of the current ADA spots near the speed bump is non-compliant and suggested the walkways would require proper ramps. Ms. Phillips confirmed her research indicated that two ADA spaces would be required based on the total number of spots. Mayor Thompson emphasized the need to involve both the Safety and Streets Committees due to the broader implications of the proposal. He expressed appreciation for the work and stressed the importance of transparency and public engagement, especially since the proposal would also impact nearby streets like Bexford.

Mr. Shimborske supported the idea of first reaching out to the school to assess feasibility before incurring engineering costs. He also expressed interest in exploring the possibility of official bus parking zones. Mrs. Dunbar agreed that engaging the schools is essential to understand why the current traffic patterns exist. She proposed presenting residents with multiple options, such as options A, B, and C once initial assessments are complete. She also mentioned the potential to include features like bump-outs in the full reconstruction. Ms. McDonald clarified that any formal analysis by the engineering firm Fishbeck would come at a cost, but she could request an estimate. Mrs. Greeley noted that the proposed no-parking areas could potentially be designated for bus loading. Ms. Phillips responded that while those areas are currently no parking, reconfiguring them

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could make space for parking if needed, which would be important as the school is unlikely to want to lose any spots. She added that buses are currently either parked in the school lot or along Kenwood.

Before moving forward with public engagement or engineering services, the village should first gather traffic data and engage both the elementary and high schools to determine their needs and openness to the proposed changes. Testing the concept before reconstruction will allow the village to evaluate its effectiveness without committing major resources upfront.

Mrs. Dunbar shared that the recent ribbon cutting at the sled hill and the invasive species workshop hosted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have renewed her interest in the landscaped islands around the village. Many of these spaces currently feature non-native bushes, trees, or plants. As the village moves forward with its Environmental Strategic Plan, which runs through 2028, she suggested that these areas could be reimaged with native, drought-tolerant, pollinator-friendly vegetation. Some larger spaces could even be transformed into pocket parks with seating, similar to the donated seating located outside the administration office. She emphasized that there may be opportunities to integrate features like rain gardens in these areas as well, contributing to the broader goals of the Green Ribbon Initiative.

Mrs. Dunbar noted a growing community interest in native landscaping, pointing out that residents are actively transforming their own yards, with many displaying certification signs for their native meadows. Given that the village is located in one of the 300 most biodiverse areas in the world, she believes the village should demonstrate its commitment to biodiversity in prominent public spaces. Ms. Phillips supported the idea and suggested expanding efforts in partnership with TNC, including taking a closer look at the street trees. Mrs. Dunbar recalled that TNC had previously provided a list of recommended trees on the village website, which Mayor Thompson confirmed was being used to guide tree selection.

Mrs. Dunbar also mentioned that some zoning changes were made in line with the 10-year Environmental Strategic Plan, which impact what plants should be used. She shared that during a tour at the sledding hill, a visitor identified a rare type of sedge growing there an example of the unique and valuable plant life the village has and should support. In terms of invasive species, Mrs. Dunbar pointed out the widespread presence of the Tree of Heaven, the host plant of the spotted lanternfly. She recommended seeking input from TNC on how best to remove it from public spaces and questioned whether the village should continue removing invasive species one area at a time, as is being done at the sled hill.

Additionally, Ms. Phillips mentioned that one idea that came out of the invasive species workshop was installing bat houses to help manage insect populations. She suggested this could make a good Eagle Scout project. Ms. McDonald inquired whether bats help control lanternflies, and Mrs. Dunbar confirmed that they do. Overall, the conversation underscored a shared interest in enhancing the ecological health and beauty of the village's public spaces, guided by community engagement, expert collaboration, and long-term environmental planning.

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Mr. Wimmers inquired about the piece of artwork that was donated last year and asked where it is currently located. Ms. McDonald responded that the sculpture is still on-site and being stored in the back service area, as a final location for its installation has not yet been determined. Ms. Phillips noted that she had assumed it was placed at Arrowhead Point, which she believed was the intended location. Mr. Wimmers clarified that while Arrowhead Point had been mentioned as a possible site, along with one of the landscaped islands, there was never a formal decision made. Once the village took possession of the sculpture, there was no further discussion about its placement.

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Mrs. Greeley to approve the payment to Kati Tharp in the amount of \$945, for the period of June 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Thompson shared that a meeting was held on Thursday with Coach Hardman and members of the school foundation regarding potential improvements to Hardman Field. In the past, there had been discussions about installing artificial turf on the field, and the foundation had raised approximately \$200,000 toward that goal. However, since the village previously decided against artificial turf, the foundation is now proposing to use the funds for other improvements to the field, specifically for redoing the infield and other ground areas with new grass, as well as upgrading the bullpens. The current estimate for this work is around \$170,000, but Mayor Thompson emphasized that this is just one quote, and a formal bidding process would be required. He also noted that developing proper specifications for the bids would require the services of an engineering firm, which could be costly and would have to be factored into the overall project budget.

Mr. Wimmers asked whether there is an issue with the current grass. Mayor Thompson responded that while he is not certain of all the details, there are known drainage problems on the field. Ms. McDonald pointed out that with \$170,000 estimated for the new grass and \$20,000 for donor signage, only \$10,000 would remain from the total funds raised, again, based on one rough estimate. Mayor Thompson reiterated that the foundation raised the money for the purpose of improving the field and that they are no longer fundraising for this particular project. Since the village rejected the artificial turf idea, the foundation returned with a natural grass proposal that aligns with the village's preference.

Mrs. Dunbar asked whether the improvements would include the softball field, and Ms. McDonald clarified that they would not. Mr. Wimmers raised additional concerns about the impact of the project on the existing irrigation system. He questioned whether removing soil to install new grass would disrupt the irrigation infrastructure and who would be responsible for maintenance after the upgrades. Mayor Thompson explained that those elements would be addressed as part of the project's design. Ms. Phillips asked if this proposal replaces a previous request involving netting; Mayor Thompson confirmed it does, but also acknowledged that there are other maintenance needs that still need to be addressed separately.

Mrs. Greeley added that she believes the foundation is also currently raising money for improvements at White Field and the Little League field, but not for the softball field. Mr. Shimborske asked what exactly the foundation is asking of the village. Mayor Thompson clarified

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that while the foundation raised the money and is proposing the project, the field is village property, so village involvement is required. Ms. McDonald said she believes Mr. Wimmers primary concern is whether the upgrades would result in additional maintenance costs for the village. Mayor Thompson responded that he does not expect maintenance costs to increase significantly. Mr. Wimmers emphasized the importance of seeing the full scope of the project before approving it, especially if there's a chance the village would incur costs due to potential damage or required maintenance.

Mayor Thompson acknowledged that project specifications would still need to be developed and confirmed that the village would obtain quotes for that work. Mrs. Dunbar asked if the field issues were related to mole activity, and Ms. McDonald clarified that they are not. She also noted that, because the field is village-owned property, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would need to be established before any work could proceed.

Mrs. Tharp summarized the group's concerns, stating that the primary issue is ensuring the project doesn't result in unexpected costs or liabilities for the village matters that could be addressed in a contract. Ms. Phillips asked about the planned signage, and Mayor Thompson explained it would be donor recognition signage mounted on a wall. When asked about the cost of developing engineering specifications, Ms. McDonald estimated that engineering typically accounts for 10 to 15 percent of the overall project cost.

Mayor Thompson added that if the group is not interested in moving forward, it should be stated clearly. In response, Mr. Wimmers said he doesn't believe the issue is a lack of interest, but rather a matter of protecting village assets and doing what's in the best interest of the broader community. He questioned whether it makes sense to potentially spend \$15,000 or more on engineering just to install new grass on the infield. Mr. Shimborske noted that since the field is village property, it's something the village would be responsible for maintaining regardless.

Ms. Phillips noted that throughout the entire summer, she did not observe much use of the field, aside from a few camps that took place in early June. She expressed concern that a fence had been put up that restricted access to the field, preventing people from using the space. She asked for clarification on how such closures are decided. Specifically, she would like to see a comprehensive list of all reserved facilities posted on the village website including tennis courts and baseball fields so that residents know what's available and how to make reservations. Currently, the Joint Recreation Board manages all reservations, but Ms. Phillips feels the process isn't clearly communicated, making it seem as though the rest of the community does not have equal access. While some reservation information is listed on the school district's website, she believes a centralized, accessible schedule on the village website would be more helpful for residents.

Ms. McDonald responded that the Joint Recreation Board recently met but only holds quarterly meetings. Ms. Phillips added that it would be beneficial if Village Life could publish a list of team sign-up dates, as many community members have missed registration deadlines. Ms. McDonald asked Ms. Phillips whether she receives alerts when new classes open. Ms. Phillips replied that she only receives a newsletter, not specific alerts.

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Mayor Thompson shared that he has asked Mr. Lewis to provide an overview based on his experience with the Board of Education and elections. With the upcoming election approximately three months away, and early voting starting in about 60 days, there is a need to ensure that citizens are well-informed. Mr. Lewis noted that, based on previous efforts, the level of seriousness and effort varies depending on the significance of the issue, and this particular income tax issue falls on the more serious end. He suggested organizing a specific campaign to educate voters on the matter, including the pros and cons.

From his experience on the school board, efforts have ranged from distributing basic information to holding numerous public meetings, including smaller neighborhood gatherings hosted in residents' homes. He emphasized the importance of remaining within legal boundaries, noting that the village cannot spend public funds to campaign but can provide neutral, fact-based information. Mrs. Tharp confirmed this, adding that the village may use funds to explain the mechanisms and reasoning behind placing items on the ballot, as long as the information remains neutral and not persuasive.

Mr. Lewis reiterated that advocacy efforts, such as placing signs or producing promotional materials, would need to be organized and funded by a separate citizen-led committee. Mrs. Tharp stated that while the village cannot support or plan such a committee, council members could be involved individually. Mr. Kuk confirmed that a separate committee has previously handled such matters. Ms. McDonald suggested creating a separate social media presence for the campaign, noting that the village logo cannot be used, and a new logo and financial account would be needed for the committee. Mr. Kuk added that any mailings should come from a separate address and not the municipal building.

Mrs. Dunbar emphasized the need for parameters and a neutral assessment of the situation, and Mr. Lewis agreed, stating that at minimum, a clear explanation of how the village arrived at this point is necessary. Mrs. Tharp added that while a neutral committee can be formed to host factual content such as a Facebook page, the village cannot plan or support any pro- or anti-levy committees. Ms. McDonald noted that a neutral Q&A has already been started on the village website, directing users to RITA for tax-related information.

Mr. Wimmers inquired whether council members could serve on the campaign committee. Mrs. Tharp confirmed they could, as long as no more than two members participate to avoid quorum. She added that council members are free to share their opinions on personal social media accounts, provided village funds are not used. Mrs. Dunbar emphasized the value of having a concise pros and cons document to serve as a starting point for communication, whether on social media or through other means. Mrs. Greeley asked about the cost of mailings, and Mr. Lewis explained that neutral informational materials could be funded by the village. Mrs. Tharp reiterated that such mailings can explain the reasons for placing the issue on the ballot, as long as they remain neutral. Mayor Thompson added that this messaging could reflect discussions from Finance Committee meetings. Mrs. Dunbar noted that sharing how the funds would be used if the levy passes would be beneficial. Mr. Shimborske suggested presenting a proposal showing specific uses of the funds. Mr. Lewis added that unlike school levies, which often carry a sense of urgency, this campaign should realistically present what would or would not happen depending on the levy outcome.

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Mr. Lewis also recommended consolidating the information already discussed and formatting it for public consumption. Mrs. Tharp suggested starting with past meeting minutes, and Mayor Thompson confirmed that key decisions were made during Finance and Streets Committee meetings. Mr. Lewis concluded by saying there is a significant amount of data already available, and the next step is to organize and present it in a user-friendly format. Mayor Thompson proposed involving Mr. Shimborske in this effort and emphasized that, as long as advocacy is avoided, the village can proceed using its resources to educate the public.

Mr. Mockensturm asked whether there is any indication of public opinion on the levy. Mayor Thompson responded that while many individuals dislike paying taxes, the role of the village is to ensure the public is informed. He added that it's ultimately up to the citizens to decide what kind of community they want, and making an informed decision is critical. Mrs. Dunbar noted that because the village is small only two square miles many residents directly benefit from infrastructure improvements, and the impact of funding decisions is very personal.

Ordinances & Resolutions

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2025-15:

Resolution 2025-15	Authorizing a contract with Fishbeck for engineering services related to the 2026 street reconstruction project on Edgevale, and declaring an emergency.
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Motion to waive three readings:

Motion –	Mr. Shimborske
Second –	Mr. Lewis
	Unanimous Approval

Motion to declare an emergency:

Motion –	Mr. Shimborske
Second –	Mr. Lewis
	Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion –	Mr. Shimborske
Second –	Mr. Lewis
Yeas (6) –	Mr. Wimmers, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Shimborske, Mrs. Dunbar, Mrs. Greeley, Lewis
Nays (0) –	

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2025-16:

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Resolution 2025-16: Resolution declaring the official intent and reasonable expectation of the Village of Ottawa Hills on behalf of the State of Ohio to reimburse its capital grant fund and/or road levy fund for the Edgevale road and watermain replacement project, OPWC application/project ID CL26AC/CL27AC, with the proceeds of tax exempt debt from the State of Ohio.

Motion to waive three readings:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Lewis
Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Lewis

Yeas (6) – Mr. Wimmers, Ms. Phillips,
Mr. Shimborske, Mrs. Dunbar,
Mrs. Greeley, Mr. Lewis
Nays (0) –

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2025-17:

Resolution 2025-17: Resolution in support of the application by the Lucas County Board of Commissioners to the Ohio Public Works Commission for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance for watermain improvements to Indian road and declaring an emergency.

Motion to waive three readings:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Lewis
Unanimous Approval

Motion to declare an emergency:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Lewis
Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Lewis

Yeas (6) – Mr. Wimmers, Ms. Phillips,

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Mr. Shimborske, Mrs. Dunbar,
Mrs. Greeley, Lewis

Nays (0) –

Executive Session

At 8:37 PM, Mr. Shimborske made a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of conferring with the Village solicitor regarding pending or imminent court action, discussing the potential purchase or sale of real property, and considering the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee and for the purpose of discussing the potential purchase and/or sale of real property Mr. Lewis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:03 PM Council returned to regular session.

Next Meeting Date
September 8, 2025

Adjournment
10:05 PM



Mayor Thompson