

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

June 2, 2026 7:00 PM

Call to Order – Mayor Thompson

7:00 PM

Village Representatives in Attendance

Mayor Thompson

Councilwoman Wendy Greeley

Councilman Mark Mockensturm

Councilman Edward Shimborske III

Councilwoman Heather Phillips

Councilman Dan Wimmers

Councilman Darren Moore

Village Administrator April McDonald

Solicitor Kati Tharp

Citizen Attendees

Nasrin Afjeh

Matthew Holdship

Vernon Chapman

Krista Schneider

Austin Cho

Tim Cummins

Elena Stelmaszak

Acting Clerk

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Mr. Mockensturm to appoint Ms. McDonald as acting clerk for the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Mockensturm to approve the minutes from May 4, 2026, Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

Mr. Chapman, Mr. Cho, and Mr. Holdship addressed Council regarding e-bikes. The speakers expressed support for the continued legality of e-bikes and emphasized the positive impacts they have experienced through their use, including increased outdoor activity, social interaction, community engagement, and accessibility. They encouraged the promotion of safe and responsible riding practices and suggested that education on proper e-bike use would be more beneficial than prohibiting their use.

Mr. Cummins introduced himself and stated that he would be reading comments on behalf of Ms. Goodman, an instructor with the Ottawa Hills School District, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Mrs. Afjeh addressed council regarding a concern about the Mayor.

Finance & Future Planning – Mr. Mockensturm

Mr. Mockensturm reported on the May municipal income tax collections of \$895,928, with year-to-date collections totaling \$2,160,045 against an annual budget of \$4,534,117. He noted that approximately half of anticipated revenues remain to be received, with additional collections expected in the coming months due to delayed filings.

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He further reported year-to-date expenditures at 32% of budget and 23% of overall appropriations, stating that expenditures are consistent with expectations and that road improvement spending has not yet commenced.

In response to Mr. Wimmers' inquiry regarding the percentage of residents filing extensions, Mr. Mockensturm stated that he did not know, Ms. McDonald indicated she would consult RITA for additional data. Mayor Thompson noted that October is typically a significant month for tax collections.

Human Resources – Ms. Phillips

No Report

Safety – Mr. Moore

Mr. Moore reported that the committee met in mid-May and discussed three primary items.

First, the committee reviewed parking fines and noted concerns that current fines may not be a sufficient deterrent for illegal parking, including repeat offenses such as double parking. It was stated that staff will review comparable municipalities to determine appropriate rate adjustments and may bring forward a recommendation for consideration.

Second, the committee discussed establishing a formal event permit process. It was noted that the current process is informal and can create challenges for planning and coordination with safety forces, including review of insurance coverage and adequate lead time for emergency preparedness. A 30-day application submission window was discussed as a potential standard.

Third, the committee reviewed a no-parking request for Boshart Way, which remains under review by law enforcement to determine appropriate handling and enforcement options.

Services & Environment – Mrs. Greeley

No report

Streets & Bridges – Mr. Shimborske

Mr. Shimborske shared that we will be authorizing two contracts later ,one for the road project and one for engineering.

Equipment, Utilities, Building & Grounds – Mr. Wimmers

Mr. Wimmers reported that the committee had not met since the last update. He provided an update on the service building, noting that work has been underway to resurface the roof.

Mr. Shimborske inquired as to the duration of the project, and Ms. McDonald responded that work had been ongoing for approximately seven days. Mr. Wimmers added that crews have been removing accumulated soil from the roof area, which required additional cleanup prior to completing the resurfacing work.

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Solicitors Report – Mrs. Tharp

No report

Administrator's Report

Ms. McDonald stated Council action would be required to enroll in the RITA subpoena program, which costs \$1 per subpoena issued to non-filers. She noted the program has a strong compliance success rate and would begin with a non-filing letter prior to any subpoena issuance.

Mr. Mockensturm stated the subpoena process is effective in improving compliance. Mayor Thompson noted the program may be beneficial due to RITA's access to information not otherwise available to the Village, particularly regarding rental and income activity.

A motion was made by Mr. Wimmers to participate the village in the Regional Income Tax Agency Non-Filer/Subpoena program and seconded by Ms. Phillips. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. McDonald reported a proposal to rent Hardman Field to a college baseball team for games coordinated through Mr. Hardman. She stated the recommended rate is \$125 per game, with up to two games per day, across approximately 10–12 dates when the field is not in use by the high school. She noted this would be the first time the field has been rented in this manner and sought Council direction on pricing and process.

Council discussion included whether the activity should be managed through Village Life or a separate rental agreement process. Ms. McDonald confirmed a draft agreement is available based on a school template and that proof of liability insurance would be required. She also noted Mr. Hardman would be present during events to manage field access and cleanup.

Council discussed incorporating the rental under a formal event permit process to ensure appropriate cost recovery, insurance coverage, and operational oversight. Liability and operational considerations, including potential medical staffing, were also raised.

Mayor Thompson stated Council had no conceptual objection provided liability requirements are met, and suggested temporary approval to proceed with initial dates while further information is gathered. Council generally supported moving forward with a trial basis and further refinement of fees and procedures.

Ms. McDonald reported that one item of legislation relates to engineering costs totaling \$269,220, noting that approximately \$78,000 of this amount would be reimbursed by the County. Mayor Thompson stated that the reimbursement helps offset the overall cost.

Ms. McDonald reported that 13 tall grass violation letters have been issued over the past three weeks, with notices being sent out regularly due to rapid seasonal growth conditions. Mayor Thompson clarified that notices are issued only after a violation is confirmed and that property owners are provided five days to comply before further action may be taken.

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Mr. Wimmers asked whether enforcement applies only to front yards. Ms. McDonald responded that enforcement applies to both front and back yards, noting that the Property Maintenance Officer investigates backyard complaints when they are reported by neighbors. Mayor Thompson added that Village regulations do not distinguish between front and back yard requirements.

Ms. McDonald reported that in February she submitted a grant application through the General Assembly capital budget process to support remediation efforts at White Field. She stated it is highly likely that a \$100,000 grant will be recommended for approval by the House and Senate on June 10, with final confirmation expected in July.

Ms. McDonald also reported that County crews will be present on Indian Road to complete remaining restoration work. She further noted that the County is fully aware of additional roadway concerns, including barrel placements and restoration areas and anticipates corrective work to address these issues.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thompson reported that he, Solicitor Tharp, Administrator McDonald, and Chief Reuther met with a small group of residents regarding federal immigration enforcement. He stated that Solicitor Tharp is incorporating prior discussion points into draft legislation, which is not yet finalized. He noted that updates will be provided as the process continues, with a target of bringing the matter forward for consideration at the July meeting, pending completion of the draft language.

Old Business

No Report

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Mr. Wimmers to approve the payments to Kati Tharp in the amount of \$5,031 for the period of April 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolutions

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2026-12:

Resolution 2026-12:	Authorizing a contract with Salenbein Trucking and Excavating, Inc., for the 2026 Edgevale Road reconstruction and waterline replacement project, and declaring an emergency.
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Motion to waive three readings:

Motion –	Mr. Shimborske
Second –	Ms. Phillips
Unanimous Approval	

Motion to declare an emergency:

Motion –	Mr. Shimborske
Second –	Mr. Mockensturm

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Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Wimmers

Yeas (6) – Mrs. Greeley, Mr. Mockensturm
Mr. Moore, Ms. Phillips,
Mr. Wimmers, Mr. Shimborske

Nays (0) –

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2026-13:

Resolution 2026-13: Authorizing a contract with Fishbeck
for engineering services related to the
2026 Edgevale Road project.

Motion to waive three readings:

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

Motion to adopt legislation:

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

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

Citizen Comments

Mr. Cummins thanked the Mayor, Administrator, Chief, and Solicitor for meeting with the group regarding federal immigration enforcement. He stated that the working group has also spoken with some Council members and intends to reach out to others, and encouraged continued communication. He noted positive collaboration between the group and administration.

Mrs. Schneider stated she had recently become aware of the five points related to federal immigration enforcement and expressed full support, offering assistance.

Mrs. Stelmaszak expressed support for the concept of utilizing Hardman Field for revenue generation but stated that the proposed rate of \$125 per game appears low for college-level use. She noted potential additional costs, including staff overtime, field maintenance, and possible police presence, as well as the impact on resident access. She encouraged Council to ensure pricing reflects fair market value and total associated costs.

Executive Session

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At 7:45pm Mr. Shimborske made a motion to move into an executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee and for the purpose of conferring with the Village Solicitor in regard to pending or imminent court action and for the purpose of discussing the potential purchase and/or sale of real property. Mr. Wimmers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:23pm Council returned to regular session.

Next Meeting Date

July 6, 2026

Adjournment

8:25pm



Mayor Thompson