

**Village of Russells Point  
May 19, 2025  
Council Meeting**

Mayor John Huffman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Council members Joan Hinterschied, Greg Iiams, Joan Maxwell, Steve Reid, Rebekah Smith and Dave Wallace were present. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell and Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire were also present.

**Guests:** Dianne Gauder (Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator), AshLee Hullinger (Clerk of Courts/Admin Assistant), Nicholas Jarman (Police Officer), Ann Elleman, Sharon DeVault, Robin Michaels, Liz Gibson, Glenn Fisher, Melissa Fisher, May Rubio, Kathy Smith, Tim McVety, Blake McVety, Chelsea Solzing, Jenna Kite

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the council meeting minutes dated May 5, 2025. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

**Reports:**

**Fiscal:**

- The presentation of the April 30, 2025 bank reconciliation and financials was reviewed. Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to approve the bank reconciliation and financials as presented. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

**Zoning:**

- Dianne Gauder, Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator, submitted the zoning report to council. Council did not have any questions or comments.

**Maintenance:**

- The maintenance report was submitted to council.
- Mayor Huffman noted that the change out of old water meters is almost complete, there is a water leak in front of the Rite Aid building that will be fixed after the Memorial Day weekend, and a sink hole was filled with gravel and a plate was placed over the hole and to be fixed after the holiday weekend.

**Parks & Recreation:**

- Councilor Hinterschied stated the splash pad project has a balance of \$153,916.45, which includes grant money. A meeting is scheduled on May 20<sup>th</sup> between the site committee and Choice One Engineering to discuss the project.
- Councilor Hinterschied noted that she is planning a kid's craft day on June 10<sup>th</sup> (rock painting) and July 8<sup>th</sup> (making birdhouses) from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

**Logan-Union-Champaign (LUC) Regional Planning Commission**

- Councilor Iiams submitted the LUC Executive Committee report to council. Council did not have any questions or comments.

**Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District:**

- Councilor Reid submitted the Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District meeting minutes dated April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to council. Council did not have any questions or comments.
- Councilor Reid noted that with the passage of the recent Riverside Township 4-mil levy to provide EMS services, the Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District submitted a bid to Riverside Township to contract EMS services to the township at the 4-mil levy revenue. It is expected that Riverside Township will approve the contract. Indian Lake EMS is wanting to hire 3 paramedics to work in Riverside Township.

**Police:**

- 14 different lots of bikes, vehicles, miscellaneous office equipment is placed on govdeals.com for sale.

- Chief Freyhof has issued 22 notices of violations within the village, most specifically for not mowing grass.
- Chief Freyhof is working with Village Solicitor Daniel Bey in regards to long-term maintenance neglect issues with properties.
- Chief Freyhof thanked village employees J.J. Frost and Mason James and others for cleaning up after the recent storm that occurred on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The police department will be in training on May 20<sup>th</sup> to review fire arms, handcuffing, radar calibration and other topics.
- Chief Freyhof will get 2 inmates to help with the community garden cleanup on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Lands & Buildings/Tree Commission:**

- The minutes were submitted from the joint committee meeting with the Land & Buildings Committee and the Tree Commission held May 12, 2025.
- Councilor Reid reviewed the issue with a few trees on Fairview Avenue and North Street that are on village easements. A quote was obtained from JT Tree Service of \$4,950 to remove the trees, stump grinding and tree trimming. Council agreed to exclude, from the quote, \$200 for the trimming of a deadwood tree bringing the quote to \$4,750. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the revised quote of \$4,750 for the removal and stump grinding of trees on Fairview Avenue and North Street. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Councilor Reid noted that a natural barrier of shrubs and grasses will be planted along the municipal building property as part of the easement agreement. Students from the Indian Lake Schools will help with the planting as part of their Community Service Day.

#### **Indian Joint Fire District:**

- A meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2025.
- Councilor Maxwell stated that several awards were given to village employees at the previous fire district meeting. J.J. Frost received a 5 years of service award, Chief Freyhof received a 15 years of service award, Councilor Steve Reid received a 15 years of service award, and Tim Reese received a 35 years of service award. Mayor Huffman stated that the village appreciates the efforts of all the fireman and are commended for their service.

#### **Ordinances and Resolutions:**

- Resolution 25-1050 – Adding/Deleting Authorized Signatories on Financial Accounts. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 25-1050 and declare it an emergency. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve Resolution 25-1050 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Resolution 25-1051 – Confirming Appointment of Westly McVety as Full-Time Police Officer. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Reid to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 25-1051 and declare it an emergency. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to approve Resolution 25-1051 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. Chief Freyhof introduced Westly McVety to council. Mr. McVety was sworn in as a Full-Time Police Officer by Mayor Huffman with the reading of the Oath of Office.

#### **Citizen Comments: none**

#### **Old Business:**

- Chief Freyhof stated how important paid time off (specifically vacation time) is an important factor in the hiring of employees. Chief Freyhof asked council to add an additional 40 hours of vacation time to Officer Nick Jarman's accrued vacation time. Council asked if other new employees would also need the additional 40 hours of vacation time and it was noted that AshLee Hullinger, Clerk of Court/Administrative Assistant, is also in this category. **Motion** was made by Councilor Maxwell and seconded by Councilor Smith to add additional 40 hours to

the vacation leave balance for employees Nick Jarman and AshLee Hullinger. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

- Councilor Reid inquired about the change order status from Helms & Sons Excavating regarding the storm sewer project. Mayor Huffman stated that Helms & Sons Excavating agreed to the revised change order dollar amounts approved by council. It was noted that the storm sewer project is not completed.
- Councilor Maxwell expressed concern about the pothole developing at the exit of the Post Office.
- Councilor Wallace inquired about the placement of the new electronic sign to be constructed in front of the municipal building. The sign is to be constructed once the permits are approved.
- Councilor Wallace asked if a front-end mower for the Toolcat has been purchased. Mayor Huffman stated that after speaking with Street Superintendent Tim Reese, a front-end mower is not needed.
- Councilor Wallace noted that the ballfields need maintenance. Mayor Huffman mentioned that it is likely that the village will hire part-time employees to work the summer months to help with ballfield maintenance, mowing, and etc. Mayor Huffman stated that he has 2 recent high school graduates as potential part time employees and asked council for approval to hire the 2025 graduates. Council asked Village Administrator Mitchell to verify if the village can hire the high school graduates without placing a help wanted advertisement.

#### **New Business:**

- Kathy Smith, representing Community Health & Wellness Partners, discussed the benefits of the mobile health unit. Ms. Smith noted that the mobile unit would provide care to village residents on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM. The mobile unit is looking for an “official” location near the Indian Lake Fire District with a lighted parking lot and reasonable walking distance for most village residents. Ms. Smith asked if council would consider letting the mobile unit park in the municipal parking lot. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to allow the Community Health & Wellness Partners mobile unit to use the municipal building parking lot on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month for their outreach program. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Mayor Huffman discussed the proposed resolution from the Logan County Board of Commissioners regarding the waiving of the Village of Russells Point weed assessment placed on 3 properties to ease the burden of a possible buyer of the properties at auction. The assessments on the 3 properties total \$16,442.79. Council reasoned those properties are difficult to sell when large dollar assessments are attached. Council noted that if the properties were to be sold, then it would possibly be maintained by a new owner. **Motion** was made by Councilor Wallace and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to waive the weed assessments on the 3 properties. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Councilor Iiams presented the United States of America and State of Ohio flags to the village to be hung on the municipal flag pole. Councilor Iiams purchases and donates the flags to the village every year prior to the Memorial Day weekend.
- Mayor Huffman noted that Village Administrator Mitchell is working with Miami Valley Lighting on an agreement allowing the village to hang banners on the street light poles.
- Mayor Huffman stated that the Vintage Boat & Auto Show is July 19, 2025, from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Council agreed on the village street closure for the event.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Maxwell and seconded by Councilor Iiams to adjourn at 8:14 PM. Motion passed.

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John Huffman, Mayor

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Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

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Date Passed