

Village of Russells Point
January 20, 2026
Council Meeting

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

Roll Call: Council members Anne Elleman, Liz Gibson, Joan Hinterschied, Greg Iiams, Steve Reid, and Rebekah Smith were present. Village Administrator Deanna Roe and Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire were also present.

Guests: Dianne Gauder, AshLee Hullinger, Joe Freyhof, Tom Elleman, David Wallace, Kim Werner, Eric Werner, Dale Frymyer.

Approval of Agenda: **Motion** was made by Councilor Hinterschied and seconded by Councilor Gibson to approve the council meeting agenda dated January 20, 2026, as amended. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the council meeting minutes dated January 5, 2026. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Reports:

Fiscal:

- The presentation of the December 31, 2026 bank reconciliation and financials was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the bank reconciliation and financials as presented. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. The Management Letter from auditor Julian & Grube was received by council outlining 4 noncompliance citations issued resulting from the 2024 audit.

Police:

- Police Chief Joe Freyhof submitted the Russells Point Police Department report to council. Chief Freyhof reviewed all of the police department's activity in 2025.
- Chief Freyhof requested that council keep informed about House Bill 331 regarding the possible dissolution of certain villages that do not meet certain criteria.
- Chief Freyhof noted that the ribbon cutting for the Mary Rutan Indian Lake Health Center is January 30, 2025 beginning at 12:00 PM.

Administrator:

- Village Administrator Deanna Roe submitted the Administrator report to council.

Zoning:

- Dianne Gauder, Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator, submitted the zoning report to council.

Mayor's Court:

- The December 2025 statement for Mayor's Court showing total receipts of \$232 was presented to council. **Motion** was made by Councilor Hinterschied and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the December 2025 Mayor's Court statement as submitted. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-1, with Councilor Iiams voting against. Motion passed.

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

- Councilor Iiams submitted the LUC Executive Committee report council. Councilor Iiams noted that the LUC is currently writing regulations in regards to data centers.

Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District:

- Councilor Reid submitted the Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District meeting report to council.

United Christian Services of Indian Lake Food Pantry:

- Dale Frymyer presented the 2025 Year End Summary for the United Christian Services of Indian Lake Food Pantry report to council.

Gray Fox Broadcasting (WRPO Radio):

- Gray Fox Broadcasting submitted the 2025 financial report to council.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

- Resolution 25-1065 – Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Village Property by Internet Auction. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 25-1065 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 Hinterschied to approve Resolution 25-1065 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Ordinance 1157.04 – Amending Ordinance 570A, Section 1157.04 Board of Zoning Appeals Created. Council questioned why the ordinance is not included in the current village ordinance numbering system. Administrator Roe explained that the village solicitor did not think that the ordinance needed to be included in the current numbering system as it is only amending an old ordinance. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Smith to table the ordinance until further confirmation is provided by the village solicitor. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Ordinance 26-1271 – Approving, Adopting and Enacting American Legal Publishing’s Ohio Basic Code 2026. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Gibson to waive the 3-reading rule on Ordinance 26-1271 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 Ordinance 26-1271 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Citizen Comments:

- Kim Werner asked how alternates were named to the Board of Zoning Appeals, BZA. Mayor Huffman explained the process and Ms. Werner asked to be considered as an appointee as an alternate to the BZA.

Old Business:

- Council discussed 2 letters (1 prepared by the LUC and the other by the village solicitor) addressed to the Board of Logan County Commissioners in regard to the Fiscal Year 2025 Disaster Supplemental, Readiness Path. The letter is in support for pursuit to EDA “Readiness” funds to undertake a feasibility study for a regional water system at Indian Lake. Mayor Huffman noted that he did not like certain wording of the LUC drafted letter and asked the village solicitor to draft the second letter. Council agreed that all members of council and the mayor should sign one of the letters to support the feasibility study. Mayor Huffman was hesitant to sign the letter drafted by LUC but agreed to sign if all of council would sign the letter as well.
- Council was given information regarding the Ohio Municipal League (OML) Newly Elected Council Seminars as well as information from the Auditor of State of Ohio for Certified Public Records training.
- Council received the pavement study conducted by National Pavement Analysis LLC.
- Council reviewed the 2026 Council Rules. Councilor Iiams asked that the 2026 Council Rules be submitted to the Rules and Ordinance Committee for review. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Smith to submit the 2026 Council Rules to the Rules and Ordinance Committee to be reviewed. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Mayor Huffman informed council that Ron Barlage recused himself to the appointment to the BZA. Mayor Huffman recommends the appointment of Christine Ricketts to the BZA. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to appoint Christine Ricketts to the BZA. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Council was given information regarding the FirstNet luncheon scheduled for January 22, 2026 at the municipal building. The presentation includes learning how FirstNet supports local first responders.
- Council received the list of 2026 Committees and Boards. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to accept the 2026 Committees and Boards as presented. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Village Administrator Deanna Roe informed council of her frustration with the current village solicitor.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor liams and seconded by Councilor Smith to adjourn at 8:26 PM. Motion passed.

John Huffman, Mayor

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Date Passed