

**VILLAGE OF RUSSIA**  
**VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**January 8, 2026**

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Thursday, January 8th, 2026 at the Village Office, Russia, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

<b>Council</b> Nicole Doseck Scott Armstrong, tardy Tony Bergman Jake Borchers Brandon Simon Alex Seger Mary Jo High, Mayor
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<b>Non-Members Present</b> Jared Goubeaux – Administrator Brad Walterbusch – Choice One Engineering Chris Ellington – Solicitor Dee Kearns- Fiscal Officer
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<b>Community Members</b> Jim High Terrance Daugherty
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**Oath of Office**

- Oath of office was administered by Terrance Daugherty to the new mayor, Mary Jo High.
- Oath of office was administered by Mary Jo High to newly elected council member, Tony Bergman.

**Council President**

- Simon nominated Jake Borchers to serve as president during 2026. Doseck seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations. Seger moved and Bergman seconded the motion to elect Jake Borchers as council president for 2025. All yea, motion passed.

**Regular Business**

- The minutes of the December 10, 2025 regular meeting were read, and a motion was made by Doseck and seconded by Simon to approve the meeting minutes. All yea, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Simon and seconded by Bergman to approve the bills as presented. All yea, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Seger and seconded by Armstrong to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All yea, motion passed.

**Sheriff's Report**

Sheriff's log was reviewed. No major activity was noted.

**Finance**

- Investment Income
  - STAR Ohio – Balance \$3,788,409 – Income dividend \$12,710 (3.96%)
  - Osgood Bank – Balance \$113,483.78 - Interest \$438.17
  - US Bank – Balance \$449,067– interest \$0 – planning to close this account and move the funds to Osgood and STAR Ohio in January 2026.
- Income Tax Receipts
  - Nov - \$79,015.47. Down 19.1% from last year's total.

- Doseck moved that the village council authorize the Fiscal Officer to pay recurring bills for utilities, payroll, insurance premiums, debt service, and other routine operational expenses as they become due, provided that a list of all such payments made shall be presented to Council at the next regular meeting for review and approval. Simon seconded. All yea, motion passed.

### Appropriations

- A motion to suspend the rules was made by Simon and seconded by Bergman. All yea, motion passed.
- Simon moved and Seger seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 26-2 An Ordinance making the annual appropriation of resources for 2026, and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.
  - Appropriations were approved at the Fund level.

	<b>2026</b>
General fund	\$977,905.00
Street fund	\$100,450.00
Street Light fund	\$45,400.00
Capital Improvements Fund	\$660,800.00
Water Fund	\$431,800.00
Sewer Fund	\$688,063.00
Enterprise Improvement Fund	\$216,000.00
Total	\$3,120,118.00

### Solicitor

- A motion to suspend the rules was made by Simon and seconded by Borchers. All yea, motion passed.
- Seger moved and Borchers seconded the motion approving **Ordinance 26-1 providing for the employment of a solicitor for the Village and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

### Choice One Report

- Ohio Public Works Commission Grant – SHE-RUS-2510
  - Walterbusch presented some paperwork for signature and noted that the plan is to go out for bid in June of 2026.
  - A motion was requested to hire Choice One at a cost of \$17,600 to provide professional services for the Miller Ditch Area Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation. Motion Borchers second Bergman. All yea, motion passed.
- 2026 Paving
  - Council decided there will be no ordinary street paving necessary in 2026 other than the final top coat at Paulus phase II and the Commerce Drive extension.
- Industrial Park Federal Grant (EDA) – Project SHE-RUS-2509
  - Pre-report has been submitted by Choice One for EDA review.
  - Preliminary numbers for the total project are \$1.7M. The grant, if awarded would pay 60%. The remaining 40% would be funded by the village. The 40% can be paid by other grants and donations but not at the federal level.

## Council Committee Appointments

Berman moved and Seger seconded the motion approving the following committee appointments for 2026:

### Finance

- Nicole Doseck
- Scott Armstrong
- Alex Seger

### Law and Order

- Jake Borchers
- Alex Seger

### Streets and Recreation

- Tony Bergman
- Brandon Simon
- Scott Armstrong

### Tax Review Committee

- Tony Bergman
- Jake Borchers
- Nicole Doseck

### Records Commission

- Deidre Kearns
- Jared Goubeaux
- Mary Jo High
- Brandon Simon

### Zoning

- Jared Goubeaux

### Park Superintendent

- Jared Goubeaux

### Street Superintendent

- Jared Goubeaux

### Flood Plain Administrator

- Jared Goubeaux

### EMA Representative

- Mark Shappie

### Water Plant Operator-of-Record

- Mark Shappie

### Wastewater Operator-of-Record

- Mark Shappie

## General Business

Goubeaux reminded council to complete the Fraud Training issued by the auditor of State. All members and employees have been sent the link and were requested to take the training and send the certificate of completion back to Goubeaux.

Goubeaux requested a motion to approve the purchase of a backup flygt pump at a cost of \$16,507 from Xylem Water Solutions. Borchers motioned, Armstrong seconded. All yea, motion passed.

Goubeaux requested a motion to approved the purchase of necessary storm tile for the Commerce Drive extension from Ferguson Waterworks at a cost of \$12,097. Bergman motion, Doseck seconded. All yea, motion passed.

Goubeaux reported that the grant application for the drinking fountains in the park has been submitted.

Brush grinding which was discussed in the December meeting will be happing in the next couple weeks.

The new solar powered speed radar sign was received and will be installed on the east end of town.

Goubeaux requested permission to list the old Ford F-150 pickup truck on gov deals and see what the village can get for it.

A quote was received Best Rents to fix our leaf vac at a cost of \$15,000. Discussed whether to move forward with fixing the existing one or to purchase new. Ft. Loramie has been contacted to split the cost. Decision tabled till there can be further discussion with Loramie and Goubeaux can gather additional information.

**Diamond 2 Lights**

Goubeaux requested a motion to purchase new lights from Musco at a cost of \$172,575. Goubeaux noted that the village received \$40,557.50 from the insurance company when the old light fell and the village also has received an anonymous donation of \$100,000 to defray these costs. After boring, cranes and electrical the total cost to the village is expected to be about \$60,000. Armstrong made the motion, seconded by Bergman. All yea, motion passed.

**Water Rates**

Water/Sewer costs and revenue for 2025 were presented and discussed. The village has not raised the rates since the inception of the water/sewer plant. Council requested further information for analysis before any decisions could be made. Kearns requested the approval to move forward with adding the excel module to the water billing program providing easier analysis.

**CIC Appointment**

Bergman moved and Seger seconded the motion to approve the Certificate of Action in Lieu of meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Russia Community Improvement Corporation appointing Mary Jo High as president of the Russia Community Improvement Corporation. All yea, motion passed. Officers are as follows: President – Mary Jo High, Treasurer – Brandon Simon, Secretary - Jake Borchers, Trustee – Jared Goubeaux

**Executive Session**

Motion to Enter Executive session to discuss the sale of property. Motion – Seger, Second – Simon. All yea – motion passed.

Motion to leave executive session. Motion – Simon. Second – Armstrong. All yea – motion passed.

**Sale of Lot 326 on Commerce Drive**

Motion was made by Doseck and seconded by Borchers to accept the offer to purchase lot 326 on Commerce drive by JSALP Enterprises, LLC at a cost of \$80,000. All yea, motion passed. Goubeaux and Ellington to work with JSALP to get final paperwork drawn up.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn - Borchers. Second - Armstrong. All yea, motion passed.

Council President, Jake Borchers \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk, Deidre Kearns \_\_\_\_\_