

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA
VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES
February 11, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at the Village Office, Russia, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council	Non-Members Present	Community Members
Nicole Doseck, absent Scott Armstrong Tony Bergman Jake Borchers, absent Brandon Simon Alex Seger Mary Jo High, Mayor	Jared Goubeaux – Administrator Nick Selhorst – Choice One Engineering Chris Ellington – Solicitor Dee Kearns- Fiscal Officer	

Regular Business

- The minutes of the January 8, 2026 regular meeting were read, and a motion was made by Armstrong and seconded by Seger to approve the meeting minutes. All yeas, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Seger and seconded by Simon to approve the bills as presented. All yeas, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Simon and seconded by Bergman to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All yeas, motion passed.

Sheriff's Report

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

Finance

- Investment Income
 - STAR Ohio – Balance \$3,800,763 – Income dividend \$12,353 (3.84%)
 - Osgood Bank – Balance \$954,677 Interest \$267.37
 - Notes: US Bank account is now closed but not without incident which brought our average daily balance down which is indicated in our lower interest for the month.
 - US Bank – \$0 – CLOSED
- Final grant funds were received (\$144,794.08) for the Lift project.
- Income Tax Receipts
 - Jan - \$66,727. This is 17% down from January 2025.
- Kearns reported that the audit for 2024 and 2025 is underway.
- Kearns requested approval to attend the 2-day local government officials conference in Columbus at a cost of \$300. Motion – Simon, second – Bergman. All yeas, motion passed.

- Kearns requested approval to purchase of the CUBIC Data dictionary and ODBC tool to allow for excel reporting from the Cubic system at a cost of \$\$1,913. This includes \$298 of reoccurring yearly software fees. This allows us to pull customer data for easier analysis of rates and also allows for smoother transition to competitive systems. Meeting is setup with the administrator in Ft. Loramie to see GASI and to discuss their likes/dislike with that system. Motion – Armstrong, second – Simon. All yea, motion passed.

Choice One Report

- Ohio Public Works Commission Grant – SHE-RUS-2510 – Sewer Line
 - Nothing new to report. Survey work needs completed. Waiting on weather. Plan to go out for bid in June.
- Industrial Park Federal Grant (EDA) – Project SHE-RUS-2509 Commerce Drive Phase 4
 - Meeting scheduled on Friday (2/13) to review our grant applications with Lee our EDA grant contact.
 - Lee had suggested letters of support from area businesses and politicians would be helpful. These were requested and we received support letters from:
 - Francis Manufacturing
 - Production Support
 - Senator Manchester
 - Representative Carey
 - Representative Barhorst
 - Fitness Doctor
 - A&M Pallet
 - Dayton Development Coalition
 - Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Sidewalk Grant Opportunity Discussion
 - Discussion of various options available for grants to pay for sidewalks on the east side of town. There are many obstacles to receiving the available grants. There are substantial upfront design costs that the village would be 100% responsible for. The current lead times are very long. The Ohio Grant funds available also have been severely cut this year so the bucket of money available is small. Goubeaux and Selhorst will continue to explore options.

Personnel Policy Manual (PPM) Updates

- Discussed potential updates to the PPM in regard to the following items:
 - Compensatory Time accrual – limit to 80 hours
 - Vacation Time rollover – limit rollover to 80 hours. Any excess vacation above 80 hours will be paid at year-end.
 - Medical Leave – employee medical insurance payments in the case of medical leave
 - Personal time language updated to Compensatory time
- Chris Ellington to prepare new verbiage for the PPM in regard to these items to be reviewed and approved at March meeting.

EPA Survey

- The EPA recently completed their survey of our water/sewer system.
- No major findings.
- Our NW lagoon currently has 5ft of sludge which Mark Shappie is investigating methods to reduce this.

Water Tower

- The inside of the water tower is due to be painted this year. This is part of our maintenance plan and needs to be completed every 5 years.
- Currently slated for September. Requires a temporary water tank to be used during the painting and drying. Community will be asked to limit their water usage during this time. Notices will be posted regarding this closer to the project commencement.

Commerce Drive – Phase 3

- Water, sewer and storm drains have all been installed.
- Paulus continuing work on his portion.

Purchase Contract

Ellington presented Ordinance 26-3 for approval. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Simon, second Seger. All yea, motion passed. Armstrong moved and Bergman seconded a motion to approve **Ordinance 26-3 designating certain public lands as being not required from municipal purposes, authorizing the village to enter into a real estate purchase agreement with JSALP Enterprises, LLC, an Ohio limited liability company, to sell such public lands, authorizing the Russia Community Improvement Corporation to sell such public lands as an agent for the village pursuant to O.R.C 1724.10, and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

Drinking Fountain Grant

Goubeaux reported he received word that the grant application is undergoing technical review.

Diamond 2 Lights

Received word that the lights should be received from MUSCO in March. Plan is to have the poles and lights in place by July 1.

EM Operations Plan

Mayor High has reviewed the villages EM options plan outline to confirm it has been updated. There will be a table top exercise review of the EM plan during the March council meeting.

General Business

Goubeaux requested permission to purchase a hot water power washer for the village. We currently borrow one from the Fire Department but he feels it would be prudent for the village to have its own. Motion requested to purchase a new hot water power washer from Affolder at a cost of \$4750. Motion – Simon, Second – Seger. All yea, motion passed.

Goubeaux requested permission to purchase new apparel for village employees at a cost not to exceed \$500. Motion – Simon, Second – Armstrong. All yea, motion passed.

Chris Ellington reminded the council that due to the annexation of the properties on the east side of town, the village will need to reimburse Loramie township for the lost taxes. This is a one-time payment currently calculated at \$2273.37 due by the end of the year.

PIRG Grant Application

Grant application was received from Restore Physical Therapy plus Wellness. Council's decision was to deny the application.

Shelby County 911 Program Review Committee

Ellington presented Resolution 26-2-11 for approval. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Simon, second Seger. All yea, motion passed. Armstrong moved and Bergman seconded a motion to approve **Resolution 26-2-11 appointing Botkin's Mayor Lance Symonds as the Municipal representative to the Shelby County 911 program review committee and declaring an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

AMP transmission project

Mayor High reported on a meeting she attended on a large project being undertaken by AMP to install transmission lines in the area of the village. She has reached out to AMP as their plan currently would interfere with the Clopay expansion. There will be further discussions as this AMP project progresses.

Next Council Meeting

Due to conflicts, the March Council meeting will be held on Tuesday March 10th at 7:00pm.

Executive Session

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

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

No action taken.

Adjournment

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

Council President, Jake Borchers _____

Clerk, Deidre Kearns _____