RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Orwell Village Council **REGULAR Meeting** **Date July 21, 2026**

Council President Ruks called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Clerk-Finance Director Kim McKinley performed roll call and the following council members were present: Mr. Cottrell, Mr. Denihan, Mr. Hartz, and Mr. Ruks.

Also Present: Solicitor Cris Newcomb and Village Manager Dr. Sean Ratican

Absent: Mr. Adkins

Public: Warren Dillaway, Star Beacon and Gabe McVey, Gazette

Agenda: Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan to accept agenda. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks – yea. Motion passed.

Minutes: Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on June 14, 2026. Roll call, 4 yeas: Denihan-yes, Hartz-yea, Ruks - yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed.

Mr. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell to approve the minutes on the work session held on July 14, 2026. Roll call, 4 yeas: Hartz-yea, Ruks - yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea.

Bills: Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan , to approve the payment of bills. Roll call, 4 yeas: : Ruks-yea, Cottrell – yea, Denihan-yea Hartz – yea. Motion passed.

SCAD: Councilor Hartz presented his SCAD report from meeting held on July 13, 2026. Report includes monthly financials and call numbers. Call numbers for the district are projected to exceed 2000 by year end. Lettering is being completed on the new ambulance, afterwards radio will be installed. Next meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Village Manager Report: Dr. Ratican has reported that legislation authorizing the purchase of commercial water meters is on the agenda. A third party will install some of the meters. GVLSD meters are scheduled to be replaced beginning on August 12, 2026. Twenty percent of water meters should be replaced each year. There are approximately 550 residential meters that cost $350.00 each. Council passed a three-year rate increase in 2021 with the last increase effective September 2023. Dr. Ratican. Dr. Ratican would like to add a monthly fee to utility bills to support infrastructure. In 2014, the village secure an OPWC loan to add antennas to individual meters. Dr. Ratican received a quote for 30k to place a remote antenna on the water tower. This would allow the utility clerk to see alerts of large water usage or for final reads.

The system would have the capability to monitor fire hydrants. This would require purchasing 50 sensors at a cost of $75 each. The water department has located several meters that could not be shut off in the past; three meters still need to be located.

Under safety, promotion committee is scheduled to meet. New fire truck may arrive to be on display for summer festival. The handbook for fire department is being revised. Renovation of office area in new building is scheduled to begin and should be completed in thirty days. Dr. Ratican would like to offer FF2 training to Josh Grigus. Class may be completed online requiring only a few nights in Columbus. Mr. Grigus holds an FF1 and inspector certification. The police department has opening for 1-2 officers. The department is considering individuals to academy in exchange for a long-term commitment to department.

The Village has picked up the cost of portable toilet and water for Summer Fest.

Solicitors' report: None

Finance Report Ms. McKinley provided a summary of the submitted June reports. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to approve the finance report. The motion passed with all in favor.

Zoning: Stuart Walker plans to resign from BZA in August. He plans to schedule a meeting to review library addition drawings.

Old Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-07-01R: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE WATER METERS FROM NECO WATER SOLUTIONS FOR THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL IN THE SUM OF $73,395.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz to pass as an emergency. Roll Call, 4 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan, to pass Resolution 26-07-01R. Roll call, 4 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-07-02R: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SPENDING LIMIT AUTHORITY TO THE VILLAGE MANAGER NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF $50,000.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass as an emergency. Roll Call, 4 yeas: Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 4 yeas: Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan, to pass Resolution 26-07-02R. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-07-03R: A Resolution Repealing Resolution No. 26-06-02R that authorized the Village Manager to advertise and solicit bids for the potential purchase of Backhoe Loader and related equipment for the Village of Orwell Road/Street Department due to the purchase being exempt from bidding requirements under co-op agreements of the Village and declaring an emergency. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan to pass as an emergency. Roll Call, 4 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 4 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to pass Resolution 26-07-03R. Roll call, 4 yeas: Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-07-04R: A RESOLUTION DECLARING A SURPLUS OF VEHICLES AND/OR EQUIPMENT ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A" AND FULLY INCORPORATED HEREIN AND AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER AND/OR FISCAL OFFICER TO LIST AND SELL ON GOVDEALS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan to pass as an emergency. Roll Call, 4 yeas: Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Resolution 26-07-04R. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-07-05: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND RENEWING THE LEASE/SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH STEVE GRUSKIEWICZ, STEPHEN M. GRUSKIEWICZ AND GRUSKIEWICZ PUMPING, INC. WITH THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL FOR THE PURPOSE OF MIXING, TRANSPORTING AND/OR SUBSOIL INJECTION OF MUNICIPAL SLUDGE FOR A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan, to pass as an emergency. Roll Call, 4 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 4 yeas: Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan, to pass Ordinance 26-07-05. Roll call, 4 yeas: Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed.

New Business: None

Public: None

Media: Mr. Dillaway requested an update om addition. Dr. Ratican reported that it was in the best interest of village to proceed with the original scope of project. Dr. Ratican will provide more information on build-out next month. Mr. Dillaway inquired about the lease with Mr. Gruskiewicz. Lease involves removal of sludge from WWTP and applying on fields surrounding plant.

Executive Session:

Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to go into executive session with Solicitor Newcomb and Village Manager to discuss the employment, dismissal, compensation, or discipline of a public employee, and return with no action to follow. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Council entered executive session at 5:50 p.m. President Ruks adjourned the meeting immediately after executive session.

Approved: August 18, 2026

Village Manager

Clerk of Council

President of Council