

ZOAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

February 10, 2026

The Zoar Village Regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Klingaman at 6 pm.

Roll Call:

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Mark Gaynor: | Present | Mark Welty: | Present |
| Greg Fach: | Present | Empty Seat: | Filled by Mike Smith: Present |
| David Gannon: | Present | Gail Garbrandt: | Present |

Discussion of the empty seat: Mark Gaynor made a nomination to nominate Mike Smith, Mark Welty seconded. No other nominations at this time. Mayor Tom Klingaman agreed with the nomination and hereby appointed Mike Smith as council member for the empty seat. Oath of Office for Mike Smith was done at 6:03 pm.

A motion to approve the 01/13/2026 Regular Meeting minutes, Organizational Meeting minutes, and Oath of Office Discussion minutes was made by Mark Gaynor and seconded by Mark Welty. Roll Call: Mark Gaynor: Yes, Greg Fach: Yes, Mark Welty: Yes, Mike Smith: Yes, David Gannon: Yes, Gail Garbrandt: Yes.

The following bills were presented for signature to be paid in February 2026:

ZOAR VILLAGE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Expenditures submitted for payment February 2026

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | AEP | 497.51 | Street Lighting |
| 2 | AEP | 139.84 | Community Center |
| 3 | Tom Klingaman | 150.00 | Salary February |
| 4 | Emily Hayes | 500.00 | Salary February |
| 5 | OPERS | 120.00 | OPERS February |
| 6 | Columbia Gas | 387.26 | Community Center |
| 7 | Tusc Cty Wtr Swr | 50.90 | Community Center January |
| 8 | Huntington Bank CC | 661.61 | Office Supplies and Truck Supplies |
| 9 | ZCA | 48.81 | 1/2 cost of dumpster for January 2026 |
| 10 | Spectrum | 155.34 | Internet for February 2026 |
| 11 | Treasurer of Tuscarawas County | 24.00 | Property Tax Assessment |
| | | 2,735.27 | |

Motion to acknowledge receipt of financial statements and pay the monthly bills for February was made by Mark Welty and seconded by Greg Fach. Roll Call: Mark Gaynor: Yes, Greg Fach: Yes, Mark Welty: Yes, Mike Smith: Yes, David Gannon: Yes, Gail Garbrandt: Yes.

Public Speaks:

Ann Ackerman, Lawrence Township Fiscal Officer, brought a renewal of the Agreement between Bolivar Volunteer Fire Department, Lawrence Township, Village of Bolivar, and Village of Zoar. Ann explained the contract total was \$813,792 with this being only a \$7,973 increase from the previous year. The breakdown is 86% from Lawrence Township at \$699,861.12, 11% from Village of Bolivar at \$89,517.12, and 3% from Village of Zoar at \$24,412.76. Ann went into further discussion to explain how

they will operate with these funds. She explained no verbiage changes were made from the prior agreement, only numbers were changed. Gail Garbrandt questioned the billing of services for residents, a breakdown payment option for residents is listed in the contract in paragraph 17. Please see 2026-01 below for motion. Ann also spoke briefly on the aggregation program and how it works, stating you can choose to be apart of it or not and options for residents to look into.

Fiscal:

Emily Hayes, Fiscal Officer, stated she closed out year-end for 2025 and is working on the year-end setup for 2026.

Street Committee:

None.

Safety Committee:

David G. stated he had questions about emergency plans after speaking with Gail. He questioned if Village residents had generators available in case of emergency. Mayor Tom stated some do. Gail listed off residents she knew who have one and believes in case of something catastrophic it would be good to have this list so they can go to those people for help. Mayor Tom stated that the event center has a generator and is an emergency location for residents to use and will be open in such event. Gail questioned if it would be good to have that list. Mayor Tom said no as many residents would not want others to come over to their homes during such event because they have a generator and residents can come to the event center building.

Mark G. mentioned the need for a reduced speed ahead sign further down on 212 before the new flashing speed sign as it can not be seen due to the curve in the road. Emily mentioned that the current location of the new flashing sign actually needs to be moved back to the cluster of signs once it warms up a bit as it is currently not in the right spot per ODOT. Mayor Tom mentioned the sign was reported in the wrong spot and has spoken with ODOT about it. He said it would be up to ODOT to put or approve a reduced speed ahead sign as it is their property. Emily mentioned once the flashing sign is moved and they contact ODOT they can ask about a reduced speed sign possibility.

Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, and Event Center Building Committee:

PC:

Mayor Tom stated they had a meeting on Tuesday and discussed three potential projects. The first project being the south parking lot getting graded and graveled as it will have more use this year with the new playground. The second project being the cemetery for more lawn service for weeds, sign being painted, tree care, gravel, and some of the older military headstones worked on. Mark G. said there is a program that may help with the headstones. The third project being the event center building upgrades. Ann Ackerman stated there are some grants for cemetery maintenance as well. Jon Elsasser who was present asked if the historic marker could also be fixed. Mayor Tom said he is all for it but unsure if it can be fixed or just needs replaced.

Gail mentioned how in the past when she was on planning they mentioned bringing the Village records to the event center from the Village Hall basement. She mentioned that there have been signs of a rodent and wants to make sure those records are safe and secure as they are permanent retention. She mentioned discussing when the weather breaks having a work day on a Saturday to move everything. Emily mentioned we have discussed these concerns before to move the records. She mentioned that Eric a Bolivar Police Officer was present at that meeting and explained updates to the room that would need to

done first such as locks to the council room especially since it is used as an event center. Gail questioned the small room in the corner, Emily mentioned there are way more records than that room could hold and it is also used as an office. Mayor Tom mentioned it would be nice if we didn't have to move what we didn't have too as there is a lot of old records. Doug Frautschy, Village Solicitor, mentioned we will have to look at our retention schedule first before going through everything.

HPC:

No new permits or meeting planned at this time.

Event Center Building Committee:

Mark G. said he is working with the guy for the panels and said he mentioned that it will only take about 2 weeks once they get everything and they will come in and install them where you can still take down to paint the room. Mark G. asked if we could add Parks Commission to the agenda at this time.

Solicitor:

Doug mentioned the makeup of the Public Records Commission which is Mayor or his appointee, fiscal officer, solicitor, and one citizen. He believes Gail volunteered for that. They are supposed to meet every 6 months or so, about 10 minutes before a council meeting will be good and they can review the Records Retention Schedule then. This does not need to be added to the agenda.

Parks Commission:

Mark G. updated that they submitted a grant for the pavilion and we should know within the next week or so.

Additions to Agenda:

Emily mentioned the Village mowing contract begins in April so now would be the time to discuss if they want to keep the same as before or put out bids. Gail thinks we should put out RFPs. Mark G. stated he thinks we should stay with who we have as we won't get a better price and have went through this before only to settle back on who we have with the best price. He explained this because the contractor is a resident who then doesn't have additional prices for hauling his equipment places and is able to do at leisure. Mayor Tom told Gail if she would like to take on putting out the RFPs she can. Gail believes this would not be her job as a council member but admins. Emily stated she is Fiscal Officer not admin and has not had to do this in the past so what would need to be done. Doug stated it would have to be advertised in the paper. Emily mentioned you would also all have to agree to the expense of advertising it. Mark G. said it's hard to get people to even spend the time putting in bids as they already know they can't compete with the other lower bid, stating Eddy donates a lot of his time. David asked what the price was, it is \$950 a month for six months and \$500 for one month of fall cleanup. Motion to keep the current contract and prices and renew it for Eddys Lawncare LLC. was made by Mark Gaynor and seconded by Mike Smith. Roll Call: Mark Gaynor: Yes, Greg Fach: Yes, Mark Welty: Yes, Mike Smith: Yes, David Gannon: Yes, Gail Garbrandt: No. Majority Vote, Motion passed.

Gail questioned who the Parks Committee was. Mark Welty asked if we could add Tree City USA in with that. Mayor Tom mentioned the upcoming Arbour Day being added to the Pay it Forward day. Parks Commission includes Mark G., Kim Klingaman, Mayor Tom, and Mike. With the addition of potential residents in the future. Mayor Tom states these are his wishes for the appointments of Parks Commission.

Mayor's Notes:

None.

Legislation:

2025-18: Third and Final Reading of 2026 Permanent Appropriations. Motion to approve the 2026 Permanent Appropriations was made by Mark Gaynor and seconded by Mark Welty. Roll Call: Mark Gaynor: Yes, Greg Fach: Yes, Mark Welty: Yes, Mike Smith: Yes, David Gannon: Yes, Gail Garbrandt: Yes.

2026-01: First Reading and Pass by Emergency for the renewal of the Agreement between Bolivar Volunteer Fire Department, Lawrence Township, Village of Bolivar, and Village of Zoar for Fire/EMS contract. Motion to suspend the rules and approve the agreement was made by Gail Garbrandt and seconded by Mark Gaynor. Roll Call: Mark Gaynor: Yes, Greg Fach: Yes, Mark Welty: Yes, Mike Smith: Yes, David Gannon: Yes, Gail Garbrandt: Yes. Motion to pass by emergency was made by Gail Garbrandt and seconded by Mark Gaynor. Roll Call: Mark Gaynor: Yes, Greg Fach: Yes, Mark Welty: Yes, Mike Smith: Yes, David Gannon: Yes, Gail Garbrandt: Yes.

Gail at this time asks to make a motion to go into executive session to speak about personnel and duties. Doug states personnel duties is too vague and not specific enough. Gail then mentioned the delivery of minutes to council in a timely manner. Doug said that does not qualify for executive session. She said it is a personnel matter. Doug mentioned personnel is not sufficient, you can discipline of an employee, hiring or firing of an employee, but you can't just do personnel. She said then we need to have a discussion for a solution for minutes as she believes that receiving 18 pages less than 24 hours before a meeting is not sufficient for elected members whose duty is to represent the Village people to read everything and have discussion on those matters. She has suggested at the last meeting we could make available for people to come to the event center the weekend before to gather them. Mark W. said he personally prefers them electronically as he can organize them better on his computer. Emily mentioned that she had asked at the last meeting and majority besides her agreed with what she was doing was okay and worked for them. She mentioned that it is 2026 and almost everything is electronic, a lot of paper and ink is wasted to print and then reprint for the meeting when everything is finalized especially only meeting once a month at the beginning of the month and she doesn't receive some of the bills until the day of the meeting, such as the spectrum bill this time. Gail said we should meet twice a month to fix that problem and that spending money on ink and paper should not be put on them incurring those expenses printing lengthy documents personally. Mayor Tom stated how she has everything given to her at the meeting. Emily repeated how she still brings a hard copy that is up to date to the meetings for everyone on council, making there no reason to print anything personally. Mayor Tom asked why she chose to print them when she got them electronically and knew she was getting them today. Gail said because that is not enough time to go through the volume of information that they receive.

Emily pointed out that they were emailed at 6:24 pm with 23 hours and 36 minutes, so 24 minutes shy of 24 hours. Emily stated how she is paid for a Fiscal Officer but is not paid for her fuel to drive to everyone's homes on a weekend to deliver something she can email, also stating most government job positions don't work weekends. Mark W. agreed that he would not want her to have to come to his home to drop things off on a weekend when she can email them. Gail told Emily that they pay her very well for her job. Emily told Gail she is not sure what the big issue needs to be and that if she would like to complete everything she has to do for the month please do as she is making things harder than they need to be making her question if she wants to stay doing this for the Village. When she signed up for this job it was presented as a 2 hour a week job and it is far from it, especially during year end. She said she needs to cut her some slack and Mondays is it because that is the majority of the time it is done and ready. Gail said Emily knew what the expectation was when she accepted the position. Emily states it

doesn't state anywhere that she has to have it out by Sunday. She also mentioned that she spoke with multiple other organizations to see how they do it before making this decision and they don't give you anything until you come to the meeting so she is being nice giving it to you the day before the meeting. David questioned people are reading them at the meeting. Emily said yes and that you are even welcome to come a half hour early as she is there and you can review your hardcopy then. Gail said everyone she knows does not get them at the meeting. Emily asked Ann Ackerman if she could state what she does for the township if willing. Ann stated that she is one of the people Emily contacted to see what they do for meetings and Ann agreed there is no need to drive to everyone's homes on a Sunday night to deliver minutes. Also stating to Gail's comments on knowing the expectations, Emily was told 2 hours a week and has never worked 2 hours a week and should maybe just do 2 hours and stop. Stating that the township all work together as a team not stating things are not their jobs and making just one person do it all. Ann said they get an agenda the day before the meeting and they receive their minutes when they get there and read them over at the beginning of the meeting. Mark W. said when he was on council before that was how they were done for Zoar. Ann stated they don't even get an electronic copy. Emily clarified that the township gets the minutes at the meeting and the agenda the day before.

Mayor Tom asked Doug if she has any legal responsibility to have them before the day of the meeting. Doug stated not that he is aware of. Emily said based on all that in consideration and what Doug mentioned she can give them the night before or just at the meeting. Emily mentioned being there only employee besides the Mayor she handles a lot more than just Fiscal work. Mark G. also mentioned the 18 pages is not normal as we had additional meetings to review and it only takes him 15 minutes to go through them himself. Emily finally said she is going to continue to do it on Monday but there is no legality holding her to it and could also just give it at the meeting instead. She is doing what is easier on her based on the timeframe she was told to work and for the Village not wasting their supplies and money reprinting things. Hard copies are always available at the meeting with no need for anyone to print anything personally ahead of time. Emily clarified with the others and they agreed this works fine for them too. Mark G. also mentioned that once they are approved and sent to him, he uploads them to the website to not expect him to have them done within 24 hours and does them as quick as he can.

David would like to clarify at this time that those were rumors in the previous months minutes about his potential moving and are untrue and he hasn't made any decisions about that at all.

Next scheduled meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6 PM at the Event Center. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mark Gaynor and seconded by Mark Welty. Roll Call: Mark Gaynor: Yes, Greg Fach: Yes, Mark Welty: Yes, Mike Smith: Yes, David Gannon: Yes, Gail Garbrandt: Yes.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Emily Hayes, Fiscal Officer

Thomas Klingaman, Mayor

Date: _____