

**Versailles Village Council Meeting
Held at Fire/EMS Facility**

June 25, 2025

Mayor Dammeyer called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call found the following Council Members present: Mr. Paulus, Mr. Steinbrunner, Mrs. Dieringer, Ms. Shaffer, and Mr. Weaver. Mr. Griesdorn was absent. Also present were Village Administrator Francis, Fiscal Officer Ordning, and Attorney Matthew Pierron.

The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation was led by Mayor Dammeyer.

Mayor Dammeyer requested the consent agenda be amended with the addition of the acceptance of an anonymous \$300 donation for the Community Pool Party.

Ms. Shaffer made a motion to accept the consent agenda which included approval of the following:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from the June 11, 2025 Regular Meeting
- Approval of List of Expenditures for June 25, 2025
- Approval of a Public Hearing for the proposed 2026 Tax Budget for July 9, 2025 at 6:45 p.m.
- Acceptance of an anonymous \$300.00 donation for the Community Pool Party

Mr. Steinbrunner seconded the motion. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Under old business, Attorney Pierron read by title only, the second reading of Resolution No. 25-29, a resolution to proceed with submission of the question of levying a new levy tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of fire protection for the Village of Versailles, Ohio and declaring an emergency.

Attorney Pierron read by title only, the second reading of Resolution No. 25-30, a resolution to proceed with submission of the question of levying a new levy tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of Emergency Medical Services for the Village of Versailles, Ohio and declaring an emergency.

Moving on to new business, Attorney Pierron read by title only the first reading of Resolution No. 25-32, a resolution opposing House Bill 335 and urging the Ohio General Assembly to reject legislation that eliminates inside millage and transfers local budgetary authority to County Budget Commission and declaring an emergency. Village Administrator Francis explained that many villages in the area have passed this legislation opposing HB 335 which includes the elimination of unvoted inside millage for counties, municipalities, and school districts beginning with the 2025 collections. Inside millage is a vital source of revenue that supports the provision of essential services such as police and fire for the village. Mr. Paulus made a motion to declare the resolution an emergency measure, suspend the rules, and have it read by title only for the second and third readings, seconded by Mrs. Dieringer. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 25-32 was read a second and third time, by title only. Mr. Steinbrunner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-32 as read, seconded by Mr. Weaver. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Next was consideration of a motion to grant rest period time to Village Electric Department personnel for emergency electric system repairs due to storm damage on June 15, 2025. Mr. Francis informed council members that 5 linemen were called in due to a pole that came down along SR 47 east of Versailles. Personnel were called in shortly after 6:00 p.m. with power being restored around 2:00 a.m. For safety reasons, the linemen were not to report to work until 10:15 a.m. the next morning. Mr. Paulus made a motion to grant the rest period time to the electric personnel of 3.75 hours, seconded by Ms. Shaffer. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Ms. Shaffer made a motion to authorize the Village Administrator to enter into a contract for professional engineering services for a Preliminary Engineering Study on the Village Water Treatment Plant with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. for \$135,000 per the Five-Year CIP, item 25-P46, seconded by Mrs. Dieringer. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Ms. Shaffer made a motion to authorize the Village Administrator to enter into a contract for professional engineering services for a Preliminary Engineering Study on the Village Wastewater Treatment Plant with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. for \$140,000 per the Five-Year CIP, item 25-P56, seconded by Mr. Weaver. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Next was consideration of a recommendation from the Personnel & Policies Committee to approve updated job descriptions for EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, and EMT/Paramedic job descriptions. Village Administrator Francis explained the revision to each job description was to update to Employment Status line which is to allow for full-time or part-time employment and to change the FLSA Status line to Non-Exempt. Mr. Weaver made a motion to approve the recommendation for the revisions to the EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, and EMT/Paramedic job description and for legislation to be prepared, seconded by Mr. Steinbrunner. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

The Personnel & Policies Committee made a recommendation to Council to approve updates and revisions for the policies and procedures for the billing and collection of payment for the provision of utilities services by the village. Village Administrator Francis reviewed with Council in detail, the revisions being made. Mr. Steinbrunner made a motion to approve the recommendation for the updates to the policies and procedures for the billing and collection of payment for the provision of utilities services by the village and for legislation to be prepared, seconded by Mrs. Dieringer. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

The last item of new business was a recommendation from the Personnel & Policies Committee to approve updates and revisions for the policies and procedures for the provision of electric services by the village. Village Administrator Francis reviewed the revisions with Council members. Mrs. Dieringer made a motion to approve the updates for the policies and procedures for the provision of electric services by the village, seconded by Mr. Steinbrunner. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

With all new business complete, Mr. Steinbrunner made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee and to consider the purchase of property for public purposes. Ms. Shaffer seconded the motion. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried. Members entered executive session at 7:39 p.m. The executive session ended at 8:18 p.m. Upon returning to the regular meeting, Mayor Dammeyer reported that no decisions had been made.

Moving on to Administrative Reports, Mayor Dammeyer congratulated the Poultry Days Committee on another successful event and for breaking the record for the number of chicken dinners sold. He also commented how well ran the Craig Stammen Classic tournament was ran, despite the heat. The Rails of Versailles is in the process of obtaining a liquor permit and hopes to acquire it soon.

Village Administrator Francis distributed his Village Administrator's Report to members and reported on the following items: The Village has been awarded a grant from the Darke County Parks District totaling \$9,182.00 to go towards new dugout shelters at Indian Creek Park. The existing block and wooden frame roof structures will be removed and new aluminum shelters will be installed. All work will be performed by Village personnel as well as volunteers from the Versailles Youth Baseball Association. This project was outlined in the 2025 Five-Year CIP. A 2012 Ford F-250 pickup truck that was originally the Street Foreman truck and most recently the Electric Foreman truck, has been sold on GovDeals for \$7601.00. The proceeds from the sale will go back into the Street Fund that originally purchased the vehicle. Poultry Days 2025 was a success. Village personnel worked last week to take down the electric installations, collect barricades, and haul away all trash from the festival. Treatment plant personnel started this week applying lime to the Village owned 18 acres off Baker Rd. with the Village's tractor and pull-behind applicator. Had a Teams Meeting with Eric Stachler with VAPPA/Darke County Visitor's Bureau and Greg Billing with the Darke County Visitors Bureau on 6/25 to discuss planned events in and around Versailles. Additional discussions were had regarding the America 250 celebration slated for 2026 and that the Night Out on the Town Event is slated for October 18th this year with them looking to potentially bring in some food trucks for that evening. The Versailles Electric System has likely set a new all-time peak electric usage this week with the hot weather. We have not received final numbers from AMP, but metering this week at our interconnection point showed levels indicating very high demand usage. Customers will likely see higher utility bills in July due to the current stretch of warm weather and increased air conditioner usage. Electric, Street, Water/Wastewater, and Administration personnel attended and completed bucket truck rescue training on June 24th. In addition, Electric linemen completed pole top rescue training on the Village's two climbing/training poles at the Municipal Services Facility. AMP provides this training to our personnel each year and require all field personnel to have this training so they are all prepared in the event of an emergency situation. Street Dept. personnel have completed the replacement of a crossing culvert under Hickey Ave. with a new 24" RCP conduit. Asphalt repairs were completed 6/25 where the culvert was replaced with the roadway set to be opened in the evenings again starting 6/26. The existing ditch along Hickey Ave. along the frontage of the YMCA will be filled in as a next step which will involve the road being closed during the day while personnel complete the necessary work. I provided written opponent testimony to the Ohio House Means and Ways Committee on HB 335 on June 16th for a hearing that was scheduled on June 18th. HB 335 was introduced into the State House and aims to eliminate inside property tax revenue for municipalities across the state. Inside millage is property tax monies municipalities

and schools are permitted to collect without voter approval. Outside millage is voter-approved property tax levies such as what we use for Fire and EMS services. Versailles only has two outside property tax levies, one for Fire protection and one for EMS protection inside of the Village. We also provide Fire coverage to all of Wayne Twp., part of Richland Twp., and part of York Twp. For EMS, we provide coverage to the Village, Wayne Twp., and the Village of Russia currently. If HB 335 would be approved, the Village of Versailles would lose \$161,360 from the inside millage portion. Currently, the inside millage is deposited into the Village's General Fund that pays for police, parks, facilities, and anything else that isn't an enterprise utility fund such as our water, sanitary sewer, refuse, and electric funds. The Police Department is funded entirely through the general fund minus any fines and fees (very minimal totals) that are collected from cases. I am working with Superintendent Dave Harmon with Versailles schools and Darke County Commissioners to compile numbers and voice opposition to our local Representative Angie King (Celina) and to other groups. I have recently seen open opposition to HB 335 in local publications from the Village of Ft. Recovery as well as the Village of Minster. In conversations with Rep. King, she has voiced her opposition to this bill as it is a detriment to local governments. A flurry of legislation has been introduced as of late trying to rein in property taxes. While property tax reform is needed in the state, the very small amount of property tax money that municipalities receive is not the reasoning behind increasing property tax bills. Fitzwater Tree Service has completed tree trimming work on the AMP Transmission owned 69 kV line that goes between the East Water Street Substation and the Greenlawn Substation. Costs for this work will be paid for by the Village and then turned into AMP Transmission to reimburse the Village since they now own this line. This work was completed at a cost of \$8,700. Soil boring tests have been completed at the McGreevey Rd. Substation project for geotechnical engineer review. This work was included in the scope of GPD Group, the substation design engineer. Chief Bolin and I will be meeting with Garman Miller on 6/26 to have a kick-off meeting for the Village Hall/Police Dept. study and preliminary engineering project. "Gator Bags" used to water new trees are being installed on the recently planted trees in the Downtown streetscape area. Tree watering will continue through the summer months to ensure that the new trees take hold and survive the summer heat and eventual dry periods. Candidate interviews are currently taking place for a new Water/Wastewater Plant Operator. First-round interviews will be completed this week with a selection hopefully completed with a recommendation to council for hiring at the July 9th council meeting. Three candidates are being interviewed for the position currently. A sweep of properties was made late last week for zoning code infractions. Several notice of violation letters have been issued with more to follow. Tall grass/weeds, refuse material, and exterior property maintenance deficiencies are the main items being cited in the violation notices. Severe thunderstorms came through the area shortly after 6PM June 18th. The wind broke a three-phase utility pole on SR 47 East between the CSX railroad and Rehmert's Run. Village electric personnel isolated the area and worked to replace the pole that evening with power being restored around 2AM and the roadway reopened in the area around 3AM. No further electric outages were experienced with us being very fortunate compared to others around the Versailles area that saw sustained electric outages due to the storms. A few street-side trees were damaged around the Village in which the Street Dept. was called in to clear a downed Bradford pear tree on Elmwood Dr. Street personnel also assisted with setting up traffic control on SR 47 for the Electric Dept. Two electric outages took place on June 16th on the Village's Circuit #7 that includes customers north and northeast of the Village. Village personnel drove the circuit areas looking for any potential damage as the substation recloser locked out. It is believed that this outage was caused due to a loading imbalance on the circuit due to the high

usage of single-phase air conditioning that has all recently turned on for the season over the last few weeks. Recloser settings were modified this spring after storm damage caused damage to the system. Settings were tightened on when the recloser trips to prevent damage to Village lines and hardware as well as to customers. With the new settings, if the recloser sees a large difference in loading between the three electric phases, the recloser sees this as a damage issue and trips. A similar outage took place on Circuit #10 on June 23rd that serves customers on the east side of Versailles and southeast of the Village. We have worked with our electrical engineer to amend the settings on these reclosers to minimize this potential. Circuit #10 is the circuit that that Weaver Bros. Dew Fresh Farm is located on and our loading currently is way down as the farm has not been fully re-populated from the bird flu outbreak this past winter and several of the barns are being renovated or demolished. This lack of large, balanced customer load coupled with the large amount of residential single-phase customers and single-phase air conditioning likely helped fuel the loading imbalance that we normally do not see. The existing reclosers at the E. Water St. Substation where Circuit #5, #6, #7, and #10 originate are 23 years old. The units are slated for replacement as we do not have these issues with the recloser units at the Greenlawn Substation that are older but function very well.

Fiscal Officer Ording distributed and reviewed with Council members the May YTD Fund Report and the Report for the Tax Department.

Committee and Board reports were as follows:

- Finance & Audit Committee –met June 18th for the review and approval of the 2026 Tax Budget
- Board of Zoning Appeals – meeting July 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. a fence height variance request filed by Mitchell Harshbarger.
- Cemetery Board – met June 17th. Reviewed process of providing deeds to columbarium owners. Carson Swartz updated Board members the status of his Eagle Scout project. Next meeting July 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

With no further business to conduct, Ms. Shaffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Steinbrunner seconded the motion. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor Dammeyer adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Todd M. Dammeyer, Mayor

Kathy Ording, Fiscal Officer