

MINUTES  
Of a Regular Meeting of the  
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
June 4, 2025

A regular meeting of the Village Board of Piper City was brought to order at the Community Building on May 7, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Orr presiding. Trustees Fuoss, Houck, Decker, Cotter, Berry, and Bertrand responded to roll call.

The minutes from the regular meeting held May 7, 2025, and the minutes from the special meeting held on May 29, 2025, were presented to the Board for their approval. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Cotter and seconded by Houck. On a voice vote all trustees voted aye and the motion was carried.

The financial report for May showing a balance on hand in all funds of \$1,112,579.99 as of May 31, 2025, and was presented to the Board for their approval. A motion was made by Cotter and seconded by Decker to approve the financial report. On a voice vote all trustees voted aye and the report was approved.

A list of payroll and bills were presented to the Board for their consideration. Motion by Berry and seconded by Fuoss that the village clerk issue warrants on the village treasurer to named claimants. On a roll call vote, Fuoss, Houck, Decker, Cotter, Berry, and Bertrand voted aye and the motion was carried. The list of payroll and bills is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof by reference.

herself and informed the board of office locations if anyone would like to speak with the office. Shirley Knilands was also in attendance.

Deanne Kraay, with Metro-Conxxus, spoke to the board concerning the installation of fiber optics. She reported that the village is now live and asked for a peddler's permit for representatives to begin door-to-door sign-ups. It was discussed hosting an open house at the Community Building for those who were uncomfortable with door-to-door solicitation or those who are unavailable during the day. Cotter made a motion to waive the permit fee and charge \$100 rental fee for the open house at the community building and Houck seconded. On a voice vote all trustees voted aye and the motion carried.

Under old business, Bertrand shared information for the purchase of new tables and chairs for the community building. Fuoss made a motion to authorize the purchase of 20 tables, 160 chairs, and a chair/table rack for a price not to exceed \$15,000 and Houck seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all trustees voted aye and the motion passed.

Under new business, Mayor Orr shared that the village had received an estimate not to exceed \$4000 to prepare the financial audit by Russell Leigh and Associates. Cotter made a motion to approve the audit at a cost not to exceed \$4000 and Bertrand seconded. On a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye and the motion carried.

Mayor Orr presented the Appropriations Ordinance for FY25-25 for review. After discussion, Berry made a motion to approve the Appropriations Ordinance for FY25-26, and Houck seconded. On a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye and the motion passed.

Mayor Orr noted that with the increase in the contract with Boomgarden Trash Haul the Garbage Fund will no longer be self-sustaining. He proposed an ordinance amendment increasing resident garbage rates by \$1 per month, resulting in garbage rates increasing from \$45 per quarter to \$48 per quarter. After discussion, Houck made a motion to approve the amendment to the garbage ordinance and Berry seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye and the motion passed.

Mayor Orr proposed that the board consider raising the water rates. IL EPA will review the village's current water rates to determine what types of loans/grants we can qualify for. He discussed a water rates ordinance amendment for a 3% raise to the base water rate of \$6.00, increasing to \$6.15 for the base rate and a 3% raise to the rate of \$5.00 to \$5.15 for each additional 1000 gallons used. Berry made a motion to approve the amendment to the water rates ordinance and Decker seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye and the motion carried.

Mayor Orr informed the board that the water committee recommended hiring Piggush Engineering to study replacement of water mains, water services, water meters, filtration, and to apply for any applicable grants. After discussion, Fuoss made a motion to authorize Mayor Orr to sign an agreement for work with Piggush Engineering and Berry seconded. On a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye and the motion passed.

Mayor Orr told the board that he had discussed the demolition of 50 and 54 W Peoria with Ken Lee, Lee Excavating. Lee will contact Bill Ogle, Environmental Inspector, and Orr will contact the property owner to try to gain access to the buildings for the inspection. The board raised questions of whether the village insurance will cover the properties when the village takes possession.

Mayor Orr noted that the village insurance carrier, IML-RMA, is requiring a Return To Work policy. He asked to table this agenda item until the next meeting.

Under trustee reports, the following items were noted:

- Mayor Orr noted that the advertisement for the sale of surplus property appeared in the Ford County Chronicle today.
- Evely's water operator exam is scheduled for June 10
- Evely attended an IDOT flagger training provided by IML-RMA.

- Fuoss raised concerns and frustration over the number of inoperable vehicles in town.
- Decker noted that several of the park benches are in bad condition and need to be replaced.
- Decker shared concerns over the number of dumpsters that Boomgarden has scattered around his yard and some are in the alley right of way. He also has several stacks of rolling garbage cans lined up along the garage.
- Berry suggested that he and Fuoss make a sidewalk repair list for when Concrete Construction Unlimited is available.

Motion for adjournment was made by Fuoss and seconded by Decker. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Rhonda McCoy, Village Clerk