



Village of Leland  
Meeting Minutes of the Village Council  
Leland Village Hall  
285 West Genessee Street, Leland, IL  
April 14, 2026  
6 pm

**Present:** Mayor Taunya Eckman  
Commissioners Brian Niles, Ron Leber, Ryan Finley and Jennifer Williams  
**Also**  
**Present:** Public Works Director, Jed Clason  
Village Clerk, Susan Kelly  
Village Treasurer, Tammy Johnson  
Chief of Police, Jason Bragg  
Village Attorney Carolann Wackerlin-Temple  
**Visitors:** Maddie Gruben, Cathy McNally and Jamie Bonnell

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Public Comment-Visitors & Appearance: Maddie Gruben asked for the board to consider amending the days and hours of sales of liquor in our Liquor Control Ordinance (4-1-14) to be "Eleven o'clock (11:00) AM to eleven o'clock (11:00) PM on Sunday" and "Said places of business shall close at ten o'clock (10:00) PM on December 24 each year and open again for business at twelve o'clock (12:00) noon to eight o'clock (8:00) PM on the following day."
3. Approval of Minutes- March 10, 2026 Regular Meeting on a motion by Ron Leber and seconded by Jennifer Williams.
4. Approval of Invoices, plus an additional \$1100 for Leland Police Department doors, on a motion by Ryan Finley and seconded by Ron Leber. Roll call vote: all yes.
5. Approval of Treasurer's Report on a motion by Ron Leber and seconded by Jennifer Williams. Roll call vote: all yes.
6. Vote: Resolution to reappoint Chris Bland and Ryan Finley to the Combined Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals on 3-year terms approved on a motion by Ron Leber and seconded by Jennifer Williams. Ryan Finley abstained due to his membership on the Zoning and Planning Board. Remaining board members voted in favor.
7. Discussion and Vote: Ordinance Addition of Title 4 Chapter 9 Requiring Businesses within the Corporate Limits to Register with the Village which includes a zero fee, lifetime registration, does not require home businesses to register and goes into effect May 1, 2026, approved on a motion by Ron Leber and seconded by Ryan Finley.
8. Discussion and Vote: Farm Ground Rent Lease to Blair Johnson for \$1,000-LaSalle County Farmland (7.8)-with a two-year (2) agreement, \$1000 per year, was approved on a motion by Ron Leber and seconded by Brian Niles.
9. Discussion and Vote: Amending Ordinance 4-1-17: Prohibited Acts and Conditions at Paragraph B. Drinking in Public Places and Paragraph C. Gambling Devices and Gambling was approved on a motion by Ryan Finley and seconded by Brian Niles.
10. Discussion regarding Fee and Fine Amounts for Ordinance Violations that may result in local prosecution by defining a threshold amount after which the matter is turned over to legal, which may include court action. More details next month.
11. Vote to approve 2026-2027 Budget on a motion by Ron Leber and second by Brian Niles. Roll call vote: all yes.
12. Discussion and Vote: Return to Work Policy was approved on a motion by Ron Leber and seconded by Jennifer Williams.

13. Discussion and Vote: Termination of Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Leland and Leland CUSD 1 to provide School Resource Officer was approved on a motion by Brian Niles and seconded by Ron Leber.
14. Mayor's Report
  - A. Investing in our downtown/Grants: Community Support Letters should include 25-30 well written letters in total, community meetings and other various requirements to increase our success rate at winning the grants for which we apply. A couple of potential future grants include Community Revitalization Grant and a T-Mobile grant.
  - B. Silent Auction for street signs, funds to America250 events will be organized and held for the residents. Proceeds to be placed in an account with the Village of Leland.
  - C. Discussion on adding "Honorable Greg Gilbert Street" was favorable. The board agreed with ordering the signs. Next step is to finalize the process for this and future events.
  - D. Renewal of Maddie's and Casey's liquor license effective May 1, 2026.
  - E. Additional items of note: the Methodist Church meatloaf dinner is Saturday, 4/18; Surf Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is Friday, 4/24, at 11 a.m.; and the Leland Historical Society purchased plaques that note the construction date for our downtown buildings.
15. Police Report included ordinance violation updates. Chief Bragg also noted Officer Sinetos is making good progress on his training.
16. Village Attorney Report - none
17. Public Works Report – Jed reported that he is working through numerous JULIE locate issues.
18. Ron Leber made a motion to move out of the regular session at 7:02 p.m., seconded by Ryan Finley.
19. At 7:04 p.m., Brian Niles made a motion to move into a Closed session: Per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) to discuss two (2) pending ordinance violation litigation cases, seconded by Jennifer Williams.
20. At 7:15 p.m., Jennifer Williams made a motion to move out of closed session and return to a regular session, seconded by Ryan Finley.
21. Vote to accept the Settlement Agreement between the Village of Leland and Irwin Dammers was approved on a motion by Brian Niles and seconded by Ron Leber. Roll call vote: all yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m. on a motion by Ryan Finley and seconded by Brian Niles.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Susan Kelly, Village Clerk

"Investing in your downtown isn't just about building for today; it's about creating a vibrant, sustainable future that attracts people, businesses, and opportunity. A thriving downtown becomes the heartbeat of a community, driving economic growth, enhancing quality of life, and instilling a sense of pride and identity for generations to come."

