

COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT LORAMIE

REGULAR SESSION

July 27, 2026

The Village of Fort Loramie convened in regular session from 8:00 P.M. to 9:52 P.M. at 14 Elm St, Fort Loramie OH. Matt Hoying - Mayor called the meeting to order with the following members and guests present:

Mr. Matt Hoying (Mayor)	Present	Mr. Chris Boeke	Present
Mr. Ryan Simom	Present	Mr. Tyler Magoto	Present
Mrs. Hilary Brandewie	Present	Mr. Aaron Ritter	Present
Mrs. Courtney Prueter	Present		

EMPLOYEES: Jennifer Frilling, Officer Brandon Johnson, Tisha Wannemacher

GUESTS: Paula Barhorst, Dave Aselage, Todd Garrett (Pioneer)

SOLICITOR: Madison Brinkman

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Matt Hoying asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous 2 meetings. A motion was made by Ryan Simon and seconded by Tyler Magoto to accept the minutes of the June 22, 2026 meeting as presented, as well as the July 6, 2026 special meeting minutes. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approval of Bill: A motion was made by Chris Boeke and seconded by Hilary Brandewie to authorize the Fiscal Officer to pay the bills as presented in the amount of \$975,630.03. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion Carried.

Excuse Absent Councilmen – none

Acceptance of Pay Ins: A motion was made by Aaron Ritter and seconded by Ryan Simon to accept the pay ins as presented in the amount of \$525,367.75. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports

Finance: No meeting this past month. The total income tax receipts for June 2026 were \$161,579.48 which was up from \$11,711.93 or up 6.7% from June 2025. As of July 23, 2026, the total income tax receipts for July are \$84,684.90 which is down \$11,534.22 or a decrease of 12.3% from end of July 2025 with 6 days of collections remaining.

The budgeted income tax amount for 2026 is \$1,600,00.00.

Total income tax for the year to date – 2026 is	\$968,397.46
Total Income Tax for 2025	<u>\$1,786,794.27</u>
	(\$818,396.81)

Police & Safety: No meeting was held this past month. It was stated that Chief Brown did send out the call report for July to the council. Officer Johnson reported that Liberty Days went well this year and noted an improvement compared to recent years. He felt that several factors contributed to the positive weekend, including the weather, the selection of bands, and the bands ending a little earlier each evening. The earlier ending times helped with the transition at the end of the night and allowed the department to manage the crowds more easily. He also noted that the overall atmosphere seemed more relaxed and that there were fewer incidents requiring police attention. Overall, Officer Johnson felt this year's Liberty Days was a positive improvement. Officer Johnson provided an update on e-bikes and scooters, noting that their use within the parks appears to have improved, particularly around the

COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT LORAMIE

REGULAR SESSION

July 27, 2026

concession stand area. He also recognized that most young riders have been wearing helmets. Some concerns remain regarding riders' familiarity with roadway rules, and one accident involving an e-bike or scooter was reported earlier in the month. With the upcoming alumni tournament, Jennifer noted that she has a reminder on her calendar to make a post regarding e-bike and scooter use. It was also discussed that e-bikes and scooters should remain in the parking lot rather than being used within the park during the tournament.

Parks: No meeting. The status information report provided the current updates on the plazas and other park projects. Regarding the courts, additional core samples were taken to allow for further evaluation and comparison. Samples were collected primarily around the perimeter, with a few taken from areas between the courts to provide a variety of locations. The sample areas were filled after testing. Results from the additional core samples are still pending.

Streets & Sanitation: Ryan Simon reported that although the committee did not meet, several projects are ongoing. Jennifer stated that the light pole that was damaged in October of last year was replaced today and should now be operational. A fire hydrant replacement was also completed last month, and the Village currently has one spare light pole. Discussion was held regarding hydrants on Oakwood and Dogwood that need attention. Craig has started working on the Dogwood hydrant but has experienced some difficulty obtaining the necessary parts. The Oakwood hydrant also needs repair after an issue was identified during the last flushing. Neither issue is believed to be major. It was noted that the Village's hydrants are due to be flushed again, with flushing typically completed twice a year. The previous flushing was postponed due to unusually dry conditions and concerns about lowering water levels in the towers. Staff hopes to complete the next round of hydrant flushing before fall. The timing of additional hydrant work in the Industrial Park was also discussed and will be determined at a later date.

Planning: No meeting this month. No discussion was had.

Guests, Paula Barhorst and Dave Aselage attended the meeting to receive an update regarding the neighboring properties. Jennifer reported that the electric service to the house has been disconnected, and the exterior electrical service around the house is no longer active. AES responded promptly after being contacted and addressed the electrical concerns. Jennifer stated that the next steps are to contact the Health Department and Mr. Wuebker regarding an inspection of the blue property and the possibility of having it condemned. The property was recently mowed, and photographs were taken to document its current condition. Jennifer plans to organize the correspondence, photographs, and other documentation in chronological order to maintain a complete record of the actions taken by the Village. The Village intends to continue with the process previously discussed. Another notice will be sent to the property owner outlining the current concerns and providing a timeframe to address them before the Village considers further action. It was noted that several notices have previously been sent regarding the property and that the overall process could take several months or longer depending on the required procedures and response from the property owner. The condition of a tree on the property was also discussed. Due to its location, it was suggested that a professional would likely need to handle its removal if that becomes necessary. The property owner would first need to be provided an opportunity to address the concern as part of the proper notification process. Discussion also took place regarding a possible Health Department inspection. A neighboring property owner expressed interest in being present so specific areas of concern could be pointed out to the inspector. The Village discussed having an appropriate liability waiver in place before allowing access. Additional safety concerns were discussed, including an open door on the blue property and the potential for unauthorized entry. It was noted that the building could be secured for public safety purposes. The condition of the crawl space area was also discussed based on observations from a previous inspection. Staff will continue documenting the properties and taking the appropriate steps to move the process forward.

Old Business:

COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT LORAMIE

REGULAR SESSION

July 27, 2026

Jenny reviewed the ongoing project updates, noting that much of the information is also included in the status report. As projects are fully completed and all final paperwork and payments are processed, they will be removed from the project update list.

Rapid Estates: The updated Mylar was delivered last week. Jenny explained that the primary change was to the front-yard setback, which was revised from 35 feet to 25 feet. With the corrected Mylar now received, she can proceed with the remaining steps needed to finalize the matter.

Weigandt Development: The Village has received the Mylar for the development. Jenny stated that the next step is to take the document to the Recorder's Office to have it officially recorded, which she believes will be the final step in the process for the Village. No information has been received regarding when construction or development work is expected to begin. Jenny plans to follow up with the developer to get an update on their anticipated schedule and future plans.

Elm Street Project: Choice One is currently finalizing the assessments for the Elm Street improvements. Once the final assessment information is received, Jenny and Craig will review the amounts for accuracy. It was noted that some property owners elected to have additional concrete removed and replaced beyond the original scope of the Village project, with some of that work being completed separately. Those additional improvements will need to be distinguished from the work included in the Village assessments.

Several residents have already contacted the Village asking when they will receive their final bills. Residents were previously provided estimates, so they have an approximate idea of what their assessments will be. Once finalized, the assessments will be presented to Council for the required readings. Jenny advised residents who have contacted the Village that they should expect to receive their final assessment sometime between now and the end of the year.

Paving related to the Elm Street project has been delayed until the end of August. The work had originally been scheduled to begin around August 3. Barrett is currently working on State Route 274 and will then move to county road projects before returning to complete the Village work. Jenny contacted the contractor and asked whether the schedule could be reconsidered because both local schools are located along the affected state routes and the Village had preferred to have the work completed before school resumed. The contractor advised that the schedule would remain as planned.

The State Route 705 paving project is expected to take approximately 12 to 14 days from the beginning to the end of the entire project area. The portion within the Village will generally extend from the SR 362 to Main Street. One lane of traffic will remain open during construction, with flaggers directing traffic. Staff also recently noticed new pavement markings in town, although it was not known whether those markings were related to the upcoming paving work.

Park Street: The remaining item for the Park Street project is repaving. Once the paving is completed and any necessary closeout items are addressed, the project can be finalized.

Industrial Park Expansion: Jenny reported that the Industrial Park Expansion project is complete. The final payout is included under New Business for Council's approval. Once the final payment and closeout items are completed, the project will be removed from the ongoing project list.

Plaza Projects: Jenny provided an update based on information received from Isaac. The plaza lettering is complete, although lighting near the "H" at one plaza and the "N" at the other still needs attention. One area may require an additional light, while the other may be corrected by adjusting the existing lighting. At the Canal Plaza, the limestone has been set, the blue epoxy has been painted, and the drinking fountain has been installed. The water

COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT LORAMIE

REGULAR SESSION

July 27, 2026

connection and sealing are expected to be completed once materials have fully cured. The elevation wall for the backside of the plaza is expected to arrive within the next week or two. Donation plaques recognizing park donors are being coordinated by the German Heritage Days Committee, with Brad at PSG preparing them. Jenny also notified Isaac of a missing piece of soffit underneath the clock area that needs to be completed. Three bushes near the southeast corner were noted to be dead or declining. Isaac indicated that overwatering may be the cause, and the bushes will be replaced after the anticipated heat wave. Remaining finishing items will continue to be monitored as the plaza projects near completion.

Zoning Code Amendment: Jennifer provided an update on the proposed zoning code amendment regarding storage containers. Council previously approved moving forward with the amendment; however, the official zoning code has not yet been updated. Jennifer stated that she needs to finalize the appropriate language for the amendment and have it reviewed before proceeding with the formal update process. Once the revised language is incorporated into the zoning code, the updated code will be brought back to Council for final approval.

Following the project updates, Council members asked questions and discussed the revised paving schedule for Park Street and Elm Street, including whether residents should be provided with an update due to the work being pushed back. Jennifer stated that she wanted to update Council first and then plans to share the revised information with residents through the Village's Facebook page. A previous post had indicated that paving was expected to take place in mid-July or early August. It was clarified that the paving schedule is being coordinated as part of the State's project and is not controlled by the Village. Council expressed concern with the work now occurring closer to the start of the school year due to increased traffic from school buses, parents, students, and other motorists. Jennifer had previously communicated these concerns and requested that the work be completed earlier, but the schedule was not changed. During construction, one lane of traffic is expected to remain open, with traffic maintained through the work area. Council acknowledged that there may be temporary traffic delays and inconvenience but agreed that keeping residents informed of the updated schedule would be helpful.

Council asked whether the German Heritage Days Committee had expressed any concerns regarding the delays in completing the park/plaza projects, which were originally anticipated to be finished by the end of May. Jennifer stated that the committee has not expressed any concerns. The primary goal is to have the remaining work completed in time for the German Heritage Days festival.

New Business:

Approve Pay App #6 to Hohenbrink Excavating LLC for the Elm Street Improvement project – For materials & work completed 06/02/26 – 06/30/26. Amount is \$186,584.17. (OPWC = \$26,494.95, VoffL = \$160,089.22). A motion to pay was made by Hilary Brandewie and seconded by Courtney Prueter. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approve Pay App #4 to Westerheide Construction Co for the Heritage & Canal Plazas project for work completed through 06/30/26. Amount is \$186,697.00. (The Village will be reimbursed for this through grant received by the GHD Committee or the GHD Committee itself.). A motion to pay was made by Ryan Simon and seconded by Tyler Magoto. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approve Pay App #5 to Westerheide Construction Co for the Heritage & Canal Plazas project for work completed through 07/31/26. Amount is \$16,260.00. (The Village will be reimbursed for this through grant received by the CHD Committee or the GHD Committee itself.). A motion to pay was made by Chris Boeke and seconded by Hilary Brandewie. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT LORAMIE

REGULAR SESSION

July 27, 2026

Approve Pay App #5 (FINAL) to Tom's Construction for the Industrial Park Expansion project – for materials & work completed 05/28/26 – 06/25/26. Amount is \$56,939.71. Came in \$32,262.39 under contract price. A motion to pay was made by Tyler Magoto and seconded by Aaron Ritter. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Request to Connect to Sewer Force Main – Sam Cottrell - Council discussed a request from Sam Cottrell, 8385 State Route 66, to connect his property to the existing sewer force main. Jennifer explained that the County Sewer District received an inquiry from Cottrell, whose property is located between Fort Loramie and Newport, with the sewer line running near the property. Cottrell is planning to replace his current residence with a new modular home and is obtaining estimates for the project, including the work necessary to connect to the sewer system. Jennifer explained that the force main is located across the road from the property and that sewer connections for properties south of the Village limits ultimately flow through the Village system before reaching the treatment plant. Because of this, new connections in that area require approval from Village Council. Jennifer stated that she discussed the request with Craig Bergman, who had no concerns with adding the connection and indicated that the system has sufficient capacity. Council also noted that the sewer system was designed with the expectation that additional properties between Fort Loramie and Newport could connect over time. The County would be responsible for the connection requirements, with no construction costs associated with the connection being placed on the Village. A motion to approve was made by Tyler Magoto and seconded by Ryan Simon. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Jennifer stated that she would notify the appropriate parties that they may proceed with the connection.

Announcements:

Max Seger has been hired as the Public Works Employee I, his start date was July 20, 2026.
Jennifer stated that he is doing a great job.

Zach Brandewie has been hired as the Public Works Employee II; his start date is coming up on August 3, 2026.

Final Street Sweep of the year by the Village of Minster will be on September 15, 2026.

Fort Loramie Chamber gazebo event coming up on August 16th.

German Heritage Days – September 25 & 26, 2026

* Several Council members asked whether Council members are expected to volunteer for a shift during the German Heritage Days event. Jennifer explained that there is not a specific shift assigned to Council members and that volunteer responsibilities have traditionally been coordinated primarily through local businesses and organizations. Village employees generally coordinate their own coverage as well. Jennifer noted that additional volunteers are often needed as the festival approaches, particularly in areas such as the food tent. A Sign-Up-Genius is typically distributed closer to the event for anyone interested in volunteering. Council members are welcome to sign up for an available shift if they would like to participate.

Remaining Council Meeting dates:

- a. Wednesday, August 19, 2026 at 7pm
- b. Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 7pm
- c. Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 7pm
- d. Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 7pm
- e. Wednesday, December 16, 2026 at 7pm

Council asked for an update regarding Zach's water license and clarification on what duties he is currently permitted to perform. Jennifer reported that the matter has been resolved. Zach had completed the necessary qualifications and

COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT LORAMIE

REGULAR SESSION

July 27, 2026

submitted his application, but there had been a delay in the license being issued. After Jennifer initially contacted the Ohio EPA, she was advised that only minor items needed to be addressed on the application. Jennifer followed up again and confirmed that Zach's license was officially issued on July 9. Jennifer explained that the license Zach currently holds is different from the water plant operator license the Village ultimately wants him to obtain. Because he already holds his current license, he will receive credit for approximately one-quarter of the 2,080 hours of field experience required toward the additional operator license, allowing him to meet that requirement sooner. Council also discussed what duties Zach can perform under his current licensing. Zach is permitted to conduct water testing, collect samples, and complete the associated documentation. Max can also assist with water sampling and related duties as he is trained. Craig remains the Village's Operator of Record and is responsible for the final review and sign-off of the water plant records. It was explained that each water plant in Ohio has one designated Operator of Record who maintains overall responsibility for the facility. The Village is requiring both Zach and Max to obtain their water plant operator licenses within the timeframe established as part of their employment requirements. CDL requirements were also discussed, as employees may occasionally need to operate larger equipment, including equipment borrowed from McLean Township. The Village is covering the cost of required training and licensing subject to the applicable employment agreement, which requires reimbursement if an employee leaves before completing the agreed-upon five-year period. Council also discussed future weekend coverage at the water plant. Craig is currently covering additional weekends following Adam's departure. The long-term goal is to have Craig, Zach, and Max trained sufficiently to establish a three-person rotation. Once Zach and Max are fully trained and comfortable handling weekend responsibilities and responding to potential issues, the Village anticipates no longer needing Mark for supplemental weekend coverage, which would provide some cost savings. Zach is expected to begin taking on additional responsibilities soon, while Max has already begun assisting with water sampling and continues to receive training. It was noted that Max will need additional experience before independently handling some of the situations that could arise while on call. Council members also commented positively on Max's performance and maturity thus far.

Final Comments:

Aaron noted that Dave and Paula have attended meetings over the past several months regarding the neighboring property and emphasized the importance of continuing to move the process forward. While the condition of the building remains part of the overall concern, Tyler specifically mentioned the tree branch located above Paula's garage as a more immediate concern. He encouraged the Village to proceed with the required steps as promptly as possible so the property owner is given the appropriate opportunity to address the issue and the Village can take further action if necessary.

Hilary reported that a resident had contacted the Village with concerns about the signage located at the entrances to town, particularly the "No Engine Braking" signs, and felt that the signage could appear somewhat unwelcoming. Jennifer provided information regarding the Village ordinances and the reasons the signs were originally installed. Council discussed the concern and agreed that the existing regulatory signs continue to serve an important purpose. The discussion also brought attention to several older or faded signs located near the Village entrances. The Girl Scout signs are significantly faded and no longer current, and the bicentennial signs are now more than 20 years old. After discussing the signage with Craig, Jennifer stated that the outdated signs will be removed. Older church signs were also discussed, as some still display outdated Mass times. Jennifer plans to contact the church regarding either updating or removing those signs. Council generally felt that removing outdated and unnecessary signage would provide a cleaner appearance at the entrances to the Village. Council further discussed the purpose of the No Engine Braking signs. Jennifer explained that the ordinance was established following complaints from residents, particularly along Main Street and Park Street, regarding the noise created by trucks using engine brakes, especially during overnight and early-morning hours. Officer Johnson confirmed that the posted signs assist the Police Department with enforcement. Engine braking violations are generally addressed when witnessed by an officer, with warnings commonly given depending on the circumstances. Council agreed that maintaining the signs is beneficial for both enforcement and reducing unnecessary noise within the Village. The No Peddlers/Solicitors signage was also discussed. Jennifer explained that the Village requires individuals conducting door-to-door sales to obtain a

COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT LORAMIE

REGULAR SESSION

July 27, 2026

permit and pay the required fee. The ordinance and posted signage were originally established in response to concerns regarding unregistered solicitors going door-to-door. Officer Johnson noted that the Police Department continues to encounter individuals soliciting without the required permit and that the posted signs support enforcement of the ordinance. Jennifer mentioned that a door-to-door book salesperson had recently visited the Village office to inquire about the required permit and may be in the area in the coming weeks. Council also discussed the importance of residents being aware of unfamiliar door-to-door activity and noted that residents may ask solicitors to verify that they have obtained the required Village permit. Following the discussion, Council supported keeping the regulatory signs in place while removing or addressing older, faded, or outdated signage to improve the overall appearance of the Village entrances.

Tyler stated that when the State begins the upcoming paving work, the Village could contact ODOT to determine whether asphalt grindings from the milling process may be available for Village use. Council discussed potentially using the grindings to fill and improve areas along the service road. Jennifer stated that she would contact the Village's ODOT representatives to determine what is planned for the grindings and whether they could be made available. Council clarified that the area being discussed is a service road rather than an alley and was established primarily for utility access as part of the 2017 Main Street project. It is not intended for regular vehicle or recreational traffic. The current condition of the service road was discussed, with varying opinions regarding whether improvements are necessary. It was noted that the utility company has not requested any repairs or improvements at this time. Council also briefly discussed the gravel parking area behind the Village offices. New gravel was added last year, and Craig plans to regrade the area before dust inhibitor is applied. The work had been delayed while the area was being used for additional parking during the street closure. Once regraded, the Village can proceed with the dust-control treatment.

Courtney raised a concern regarding the appearance of a THC vape sign displayed at a local business and asked whether the Village has any options to address the signage. Council discussed the types of THC products currently being sold at convenience stores and other businesses, noting that certain lower-strength products may be legally sold outside of a licensed dispensary depending on applicable regulations. Council questioned whether the sign itself could potentially be addressed through the Village's zoning or sign regulations. It was also noted that an individual could approach the business owner directly and ask whether the sign could be removed or replaced with something less prominent. Jennifer noted that she and law enforcement have recently had conversations with the business regarding other matters. Given those recent interactions, it was suggested that the Village allow some time before approaching the business with an additional concern. Jennifer stated that she had not previously considered addressing the concern from a zoning perspective but would review the Village's zoning regulations to determine whether the sign complies with existing requirements.

Hilary asked whether the Village could establish its own e-bike and scooter regulations or would need to wait for changes to Ohio law. It was clarified that the Village could consider a local ordinance; however, e-bike regulations are currently a common topic among area mayors, police chiefs, and state officials. Possible future state regulations may address registration, minimum age requirements, roadway use, and other safety measures. Officer Johnson noted that enforcement of a local ordinance could be challenging unless violations and penalties are clearly established. It was also discussed that many younger riders may not fully understand roadway and sidewalk rules. E-bike riders have generally been observed wearing helmets and using the roadway, while scooters have created more concern on sidewalks around pedestrians. The general consensus was to continue educating riders and parents through Village communications, encourage helmet use and safe riding practices, and monitor potential state legislation before pursuing a local ordinance.

Hilary asked about the future of the proposed park improvements after the Village received \$100,000 of the \$625,000 requested through the State Capital Budget. It was discussed that the project should continue to move forward by first finalizing the design, scope, and updated cost estimate. Having a defined plan would allow the Village to explore fundraising, Community Foundation donations, and additional grant opportunities. Jennifer noted

COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT LORAMIE

REGULAR SESSION

July 27, 2026

that one of the playground companies previously contacted may also provide grant-writing assistance and access to additional funding opportunities. The project could potentially be completed in phases or with a reduced footprint depending on available funding. Jennifer is awaiting additional information from the State regarding requirements, deadlines, and allowable uses of the \$100,000 award. She was advised that if additional time is needed, the funding may be extended through the appropriate process rather than forfeited. Since the existing playground does not require immediate replacement, the Village has time to further develop the project and pursue additional funding.

Tisha just asked for signatures.

Executive Session: Tonight's Executive Session was regarding personnel. A motion to enter executive session was made by Aaron Ritter and seconded by Ryan Simon. To this Motion all members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (9:02pm)

A motion to exit executive session was made by Chris Boeke and seconded by Courtney Prueter. To this Motion all members present voted aye. Motion carried. (9:50pm)

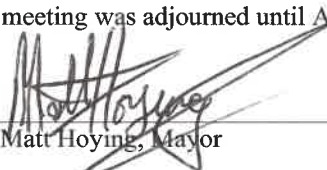
Upon returning to the regular meeting, Mayor Hoying requested a motion to approve the previously discussed hourly wage increases for the Village's full-time police officers, Nathan, Brian, and Brandon, at the preapproved rates. Hilary Brandewie made the motion to approve the increase. Courtney Prueter seconded the motion. To this motion all members present voted Aye. Motion carried.

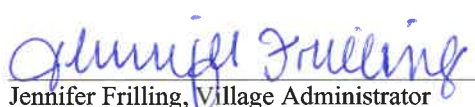
Jennifer has the approved hourly rates and will provide the necessary information to Tisha for payroll processing.

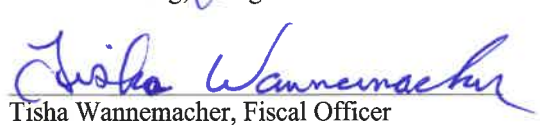
Adjournment:

As there was no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Tyler Magoto, seconded by Aaron Ritter. To the roll call vote: Chris Boeke, aye, Hilary Brandewie, aye, Aaron Ritter, aye. Ryan Simon, aye, Courtney Prueter, aye and Tyler Magoto aye. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned until August 19, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. at 14 Elm St., Fort Loramie OH.


Mr. Matt Hoying, Mayor


Jennifer Frilling, Village Administrator


Tisha Wannemacher, Fiscal Officer

All formal actions of the Village of Fort Loramie Council concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.