

# COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT LORAMIE

## REGULAR SESSION

March 23, 2026

The Village of Fort Loramie convened in regular session from 8:00 P.M. to 9:12 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, Nathan Brown (Police Chief), Tisha Wannemacher

**GUESTS:** Todd Garrett (Pioneer Electric), Mitch Thobe (Choice One), Julie Ehemann (Commissioner)

**SOLICITOR:** Madison Brinkman

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Chris Boeke and seconded by Ryan Simon to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2026 meeting as presented. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**Approval of Bill:** A motion was made by Courtney Prueter and seconded by Hilary Brandewie to authorize the Fiscal Officer to pay the bills as presented in the amount of \$130,555.48. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion Carried.

**Excuse Absent Councilmen – None**

**Acceptance of Pay Ins:** A motion was made by Ryan Simon and seconded by Tyler Magoto to accept the pay ins as presented in the amount of \$577,185.33. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion Carried.

Guest Julie Ehemann thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak and shared that she is running for reelection. She emphasized the importance of communication between the county and local villages, noting that in the past there was very little communication. She has worked to improve that and hopes to continue building those relationships. She discussed several key projects and priorities:

### **Broadband:**

A 2022 map showed many households in Shelby County lacked reliable internet. The county used funding to partner with providers like Nktelco and Bright speed to expand access. About \$2 million has been invested, helping hundreds of residents. She stressed that internet access is important for jobs, education, and community growth.

### **Emergency Communications:**

The county improved emergency radio coverage by installing multiple towers and issuing radios to over 1,000 first responders and other agencies. This has greatly improved communication for EMS, fire, law enforcement, and schools.

### **Childcare:**

Shelby County had limited childcare access, with only about half of families able to find care. The county invested over \$500,000 to expand childcare services, partnering with organizations like the YMCA and supporting new facilities, including one in Jackson Center.

### **Water and Sewer Projects:**

She acknowledged past communication issues on certain projects but said the county is working to improve. Ongoing efforts include expanding infrastructure and exploring ways to help areas like Lockington.

### **Animal Shelter:**

A new animal shelter was built with both private fundraising and county support. It provides high-quality care, has strong adoption rates, and operates programs like trap-neuter-release to manage feral cat populations.

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### **Opioid Settlement Funds:**

She serves on regional and state boards that help distribute opioid settlement funds. These funds support treatment programs, including local organizations.

### **Social Security Reform:**

She helped advocate for changes to the Windfall Elimination Provision. The Social Security Fairness Act (2025) now ensures public workers are not unfairly penalized, which helps with recruiting employees.

### **EMS Funding:**

She supports increasing funding for EMS services, especially as departments move from volunteer to paid staff. She also wants EMS to be paid for providing care, even if a patient is not transported.

She also spoke on the breakfast with commissioners that are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 8am and different locations in which a flyer was sent out if anyone would like to attend. Jennifer said she would email the flyer out to the council members.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** No meeting this past month. The total income tax receipts for February 2026 were \$119,634.89 which is down from \$16,214.07 or down 15.2% from February 2025. As of March 20, 2026, the total income tax receipts for March are \$115,750.09 which is down \$114,880.31 or a decrease of 84.7% from end of March 2025 with 7 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	\$373,863.14
Total Income Tax for 2025	<u>\$1,786,794.27</u>
	(\$1,412,931.13)

**Police & Safety:** No meeting this month. Nate sent out the call logs. Nate informed the council that the current cruisers are now paid off and the process to look for new cruisers is underway. He also stated that they have a cadet doing ride a-longs and said this person would maybe be interested in working for the Fort Loramie Police part time once graduated.

**Parks:** No meeting this month. Jennifer did send out the following highlights in a status report.

- The week of March 2nd Adam went through all the parks and documented all park benches, including the “In Memory Of” benches and loaded them into our iamGIS program.
- Lots of clean up as a result of high winds on Friday, March 13th and Sunday, March 15th.
- Plans are to open the restroom at the parks on Tuesday, March 24th. Going to wait a little bit yet on the drinking fountains since temps are to dip into the 20’s again this upcoming weekend.

### **Redskin Memorial Park**

- Randy Hoehne put out all picnic tables and trash barrels for the year.
- The week of March 2nd Adam performed the quarterly inspection on the gravity rail located in the woods playground, he replaced all the wheels on it so it’s ready for Spring.
- Adam met with the Mercer Group to get pricing on adding dirt & laser grading the 2 south diamonds. We are awaiting those quotes. Likely the youth leagues will help pay for one of the diamonds. Quotes have been received, need to review with Adam.
- Rolled all of the outfields.
- Fertilized & put gypsum down on the grass.

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- Cleaned up the debris in the parking lot as a result of hauling excess snow out there.
- Story Walk Project w/ Fort Loramie Library at Redskin Memorial Park, still in process. Jenny Piatt at the Shelby County Libraries are applying for a grant from the Community Foundation of Shelby County. Opens January 2, awarded last week of April. They will let us know the outcome.

### **Youth Park**

- Randy Hoehne put out all picnic tables and trash barrels for the year.
- The week of March 2nd all the pickleball & tennis nets were put up.
- The fence on the west side of the pickleball courts was severely bent as a result of the winds on March 13th & 15th. The pickleball net has been removed and will not be put back up. Adam, Craig & Don were able to bend the fence back upright without any damage. Elwer fence warned us about that windscreen.
- Tom & Jerry's finished up adding another electric service for Liberty Days. The Village took care of concreting the posts in the ground & filling in all the excavation holes that they made to bore in the conduits.
- Adam began working on the court lights the week of March 2nd. One set is up & complete. He has 5 of the 18 lights done.
- Have on calendar to reach out to Shinn Brothers at the beginning of April to touch base on the pickleball courts.
- Need to reach out to Cory at Taylor Painting to have the parking lot sealed and striped, hopefully before Liberty Days.
- Fertilized and rolled all the grass.
- New playground equipment - will get all the renderings, from the 3 vendors, together & share. Just keeping things rolling as nothing will take shape until 2027. On March 12, 2026 Jenny submitted the Community Project Application for the 136th General Assembly Capital Budget to Tim Barhorst & Susan Manchester. The amount requested was \$625,000. Will let everyone know the outcome on this as soon as we hear.

**Canal Park** – Nothing to report.

**Heritage & Canal Plaza's** – Held preconstruction meeting on Wednesday, March 4th. Ground breaking took place on Sunday, March 8, 2026. Work began the week of March 9, 2026. Will likely see more work take off the week of March 23, 2026.

**Streets & Sanitation:** No meeting this month. Jennifer also sent the following status report to council.

- The week of March 2nd Don went thru all of the flags that hang on the light poles down Main Street, he painted all the flag poles and replaced a majority of the flags.
- Crack Sealing – we are on Taylor Paintings schedule. We will be doing State Route 66 from north village limit to south village limit as well as various streets throughout the Village.
- The Village of Minster is scheduled to sweep our streets on April 7, June 30 & September 15.

**Water Treatment:** Received pricing for well inspections from National Water Services LLC (NWS). Came to \$3,550 each. Craig will seek out quotes from Moody's & Jackson for comparison.

**Lift Station:** Transfer switch has been installed by Buschur Electric. Area Electric has fixed the pump/motor.

**Sewer Plant:** Need to follow up with Tyler at the County Sewer Plant. Have turned in invoices to Tyler & the County to help share the expenses of repairs that we have had to put into the Lift Station. Reimbursement from them to come in 2026.

**Planning:** No meeting this month, plans to hold a meeting sometime in April.

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### Old Business:

**Rapid Estates Phase II:** Rapid Choice One has reviewed the revised plans and everything looks good. The next step is to schedule a Planning Commission meeting. Jennifer spoke with Mitch before leaving for a 2.5-day conference, but I still have not received the Mylar from Access Engineering. The Mylar is required for signatures from the Planning Commission, Council, and Matt for the plat approval. There is some confusion because Access Engineering typically does not provide the Mylar until after the streets are installed. However, since Rapid may be selling lots and adjusting property lines, the plat needs to be finalized first. Adjustments can still be made within 60 days after approval, but any changes would need to go back through the Planning Commission. I need to follow up with Craig Mescher at Access and coordinate with Rapid to get the Mylar. We cannot schedule the Planning Commission meeting until it is received. Timing will be tight, but the goal is to have everything ready for approval when we return in April.

**Weigandt Development:** Jennifer went off Mitch's updates on this project. There were two main items: sedimentation calculations and water quality calculations. The sedimentation calculations were approved last week, and we received the water quality calculations on Friday. Those have now been reviewed and look good. At this point, the only thing we are waiting on is the revised full set of plans from Cozzat's engineer. We had previously provided comments, and Todd Weigandt was asked to review all of them to ensure everything is properly addressed. In the past, the same issues were not being corrected, which has led to repeated comments and wasted time and resources for the Village. Todd confirmed he would handle this and mentioned he hoped to have the updated plans submitted this week. If all comments are addressed, we should be close to moving forward.

**Elm Street:** Things are going well. There was a small issue a week or two ago with CenterPoint regarding how some of the installation work was supposed to be completed last summer and fall. A few areas were not done as planned, but the team was able to make adjustments and work around it without any added cost. Bids for the ODOT project were opened last week (March 12) and came in under estimate. The portion we are responsible for—the intermediate paving layer—was about \$132,000. We received a \$120,000 grant from the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, so the Village covered the remaining roughly \$12,000, which was previously approved. Any potential reimbursement will be determined after the project is completed and reviewed by ODOT, so if funds are returned, it likely won't be until next year. Construction is progressing, with work moving from one end of town toward the other. There has been a lot of activity near the office area. The storm sewer work is the slowest part due to existing utilities that must be worked around. Once that phase is complete, progress will become more noticeable as crews begin removing and replacing curbs and sidewalks. Matt Hoying asked if the gas meters got moved and Jennifer stated that all meters had been moved and there were no complaints. Ryan asked if the construction is manageable for school traffic. It was said that the construction crews pause work during school drop off and pick up times and also make accommodations for funerals. Ryan also asked if the project is still on schedule. The project is slightly behind schedule due to weather, with about a two-week delay. However, ODOT is aware of this and is generally planning for paving to be completed in the fall. The original deadline of May 29 may extend into mid-June, and that has been communicated. Another challenge is that Barrett, a contractor handling many paving projects in the area, had delays at their plant, pushing their schedule back about two weeks. This may cause a backlog and increased demand for their work across multiple projects.

**Walnut Street / alley repave:** Mitch said the Walnut Street project design is about 99% complete. This was done to meet the deadline for the OPWC funding application and maximize points, with a target of March 31. The project cannot be advertised for bids until May, because contracts cannot be awarded until after July. Ohio law allows only 60 days between advertising and awarding a contract, so the timing has to align. Once it is advertised in May, the project should move forward from there.

• **Park Street Water & Roadway Improvements** – Assessment letters were mailed February 24th. Payments are coming in & are due on or before March 31st, we've received 30 out of 44 payments thus far. Jenny will be

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following up with those residents that haven't yet at the end of the week of March 23, 2026 to confirm their intent to pay or if they are wanting the amount placed onto their property taxes. Chris Canary called regarding the industrial park paving. He confirmed they will address the 3-4 areas on Park Street where there has been soil settling. This work will be completed at the same time as the seeding for the industrial park, which is expected to take place around May.

Due to rising concrete costs, the Village adjusted how it handled costs on Park Street and plans to use a similar approach for Elm Street. For Park Street, the project was funded partly through a grant, with about 35% covered by funding and 65% paid by the Village. Costs for items like curbs and sidewalks were split accordingly. For Elm Street, a grant of up to \$350,000 has been awarded. However, based on current estimates, only about 14.2% of the total project will be covered by the grant, with the remaining 85.8% paid by the Village. Costs to residents will be calculated using this same percentage breakdown. Material costs continue to fluctuate. Concrete and gravel prices have increased significantly, largely due to high demand (including from data centers). Cement supply issues have also contributed. On a positive note, asphalt prices have recently started to decrease. Because of these rising costs, the Village is trying to avoid placing large financial burdens on residents, similar to what was done on Park Street. Elm Street residents have already received estimates. There are fewer large properties on Elm Street compared to Park Street, and some homeowners have already replaced their sidewalks in recent years. Adjustments will be made for those cases. Residents are being asked to provide documentation of when their concrete was replaced. The Village can also verify this using historical images (such as Google Earth). Costs will be prorated based on the age of the concrete, using set time ranges.

**Heritage & Canal Plazas:** Work on the plazas is expected to resume this week, with crews starting concrete work. Some activity has already been seen on site. They are also working on repairing fencing that was previously damaged. While it held up under normal conditions, it needed improvement. A recent pre-construction meeting confirmed the project is on schedule, so more visible progress should be happening soon, especially on the two corner areas.

### **Industrial Park**

**Industrial Park Expansion** – Tom's will be finishing up the road work this spring, when weather allows. Once the road is completed, Choice One will set the property pins for the new lots.

**Zoning Code Amendment progress:** Additionally, zoning code amendment meetings still need to be scheduled, and more information on those will be coming soon.

**CRA (Community Reinvestment Area)** – The Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) has now been officially approved, and a designation number has been received. The next step is to review how to implement and administer the program moving forward. It was suggested that the existing CIC committee could also serve as both the housing council and the Tax Incentive Review Council. Since this group already meets at least once a year, it would reduce the need to create new committees. Additional meetings could be held if properties receiving tax abatements need review, but otherwise activity should be limited. The main responsibility of the committee would be to ensure that properties receiving abatements are being maintained and are meeting the requirements of the agreement. Annual reviews would also be completed at the county level for existing incentive agreements. This approach helps avoid creating multiple new committees and instead uses existing groups more efficiently. Meeting frequency may depend on future demand, especially if more housing projects or CRA applications come in, but it could range from annually to quarterly. Angela Hamburg with Shelby County Regional Planning provided guidance on this process and has been a helpful resource. Overall, this is still a work in progress, but the plan is to proceed using the CIC structure and continue coordinating with Shelby County Regional Planning.

**New Business:**

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**Ordinance 2026-1207** – This ordinance adopts the 2026 Ohio Basic Code as the official code of ordinances for the Village of Fort Loramie and declares it an emergency. Declaring it an emergency allows the ordinance to be passed immediately without the standard three readings. This is done annually because the Village operates under the Ohio Basic Code. The ordinance is needed to keep the Village’s code current and in compliance with state requirements. A motion was made by Ryan Simon and seconded by Tyler Magoto to declare an emergency of said ordinance. A motion to adopt and approve said ordinance was made by Courtney Prueter and seconded by Chris Boeke. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion Carried.

**Pay App #2:** To pay Hohenbrink Excavating, LLC for the Elm Street Improvement project. For materials and work completed 01/30/26 – 03/02/06 in the amount of \$54,596.73. A motion to pay was made by Aaron Ritter and seconded by Tyler Magoto. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**Lease Agreement:** The Village is working on a lease/use agreement with the Fort Loramie Athletic Boosters for the Liberty Days Festival at the Youth Park. The agreement looks good overall, but the Village still needs to confirm who will sign on behalf of the Boosters. The Village representative will sign on its side. For the location, instead of a specific address, the agreement will reference this likely using parcel numbers since there is no formal address. The Boosters plan to set up a ticket-selling operation (likely with staff present) during the festival, probably near the blackjack tent and operating during similar hours. There is no cost to the Boosters for use of the space. The agreement will run from July 3 through July 6 of this year. If the event continues in future years, a new agreement will need to be completed each time. The Boosters will be responsible for setup and cleanup. The agreement is required mainly because the activity involves gaming/raffle elements and an outside vendor, so formal permission from the Village is needed. The only remaining step is to confirm the Booster representative who will sign the agreement.

**Leaf-Vac Repair:** The Village received a quote of about \$6,300 to repair the leaf vacuum. A similar unit in Russia would cost about \$14,000 to repair. Instead of both communities maintaining separate equipment, the Village and Russia are proposing to share one leaf vacuum. The Village’s unit will be repaired and used jointly, since it is larger and in better condition. Both parties have agreed to split the repair cost 50/50 and also share any future repair costs the same way, regardless of who is using the equipment at the time. A formal agreement will be created to document this arrangement. Each community will coordinate usage. The Village typically uses the equipment twice a week, while Russia uses it once a week. Russia will transport the equipment using their own vehicle when needed. This approach helps avoid the immediate need to purchase a new leaf vacuum, which currently costs around \$160,000 and is only used for a limited number of weeks each year. The goal is for this shared arrangement to last approximately 5 years. In the future, the communities may also consider sharing the cost of a new unit. Overall, this is seen as a cost-effective, practical solution that builds on existing equipment-sharing between the two communities. A motion to approve the repairs of the leaf-vac and split 50/50 with the Village of Russia was made by Aaron Ritter and seconded by Tyler Magoto. To this motion all members present voted aye. Motion Carried.

### Announcements:

**Cleanup Day:** The Village cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 8:00–10:00 AM.**

Craig will be there with equipment, and Adam will be out of town. Council members are encouraged to help if available. Volunteers, including local students, typically assist with unloading. Activity comes in waves, and two dumpsters were used last year. There was also discussion about possibly combining this event with a community shredding day in the future. This idea will be brought to the Chamber for consideration.

**Street Sweeping:** Street sweeping is scheduled for:

- April 7

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- June 30
- September 15

These dates were coordinated with the Village of Minster, which performs the service. If weather causes delays, dates may shift slightly. Residents should be notified ahead of time (about a week prior and again the day before) so they can move vehicles off the street.

### **Community Events:**

- Chamber gazebo events are scheduled for June 5 and August 16.
- On Friday, June 5, there will be an event with food trucks, live music, including Keyhole Pizza and another vendor. This will be a simple setup (BYOB), requiring minimal Village support.
- A larger event will take place that Sunday with additional food trucks, live music, bounce houses, and partial road closures, August 16, 2026

Overall, upcoming events and services are organized and moving forward as planned.

### **Final Comments:**

Mayor Matt Hoying: attended a new mayor training last Friday in Sunbury, Ohio, near Columbus. About 50–60 new mayors attended, and the training covered a variety of municipal topics. He found it helpful and informative. He also shared that he meets monthly with Jenny and Nate, typically the week before council meetings. These meetings are informal and focused on discussing updates and staying informed. No official decisions are made during these discussions. He remains available as needed and is in regular communication with staff.

Jennifer Frilling: There is a pothole on Oakwood that the Village is aware of. It is holding water, and Craig believes there may be an underground water leak that has been causing ongoing issues in that area. At the same time, crews are working on a separate issue on Greenback Road near a damaged fire hydrant. Although the hydrant repair is being covered by the individual who hit it, crews discovered water still running underground that they have not been able to shut off. Because of this, additional excavation is needed, and outside help may be brought in to assist. Once the Greenback Road issue is under control, crews plan to move to Oakwood to investigate the suspected leak causing the pothole. Overall, multiple water-related issues are being addressed, and the hope is that identifying and fixing these leaks will reduce water loss and prevent further road damage. She also attended a two-and-a-half-day local government training conference last week at the convention center, hosted by the State Auditor's Office. She also said she has some power points that she will be sending to the council members that may be beneficial.

Hilary Brandewie: Asked about a post regarding the Bike Trail on Facebook Minsters page. Jennifer said there have been ongoing discussions about a bike trail connecting Minster and Fort Loramie, and meetings have been happening since 2024.

The main challenge is finding a route: Some areas are in a floodplain, which would make the trail difficult to maintain. The school has allowed access near its property, but connecting to it would require crossing private farmland, and those landowners have not given permission. Another possible route along State Route 66 was blocked because a homeowner does not want the trail in their front yard. Because of these challenges, the current plan is to wait. Minster will move forward with its portion of the trail first. The hope is that once people see and use it, there will be more community support and landowners may become more willing to allow access.

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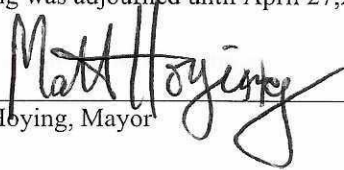
The long-term goal is to connect Fort Loramie to other areas, potentially even linking toward Sidney and Lockington, but similar land access issues exist there as well. For now, the project is still in progress, but no final route has been secured due to lack of landowner agreements.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting was adjourned until April 27,2026 at 8:00 P.M. at 14 Elm St., Fort Loramie OH.

  
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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.