

VILLAGE OF LAKE ODESSA

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 15, 2025  
PAGE MEMORIAL BUILDING  
839 FOURTH AVENUE  
LAKE ODESSA, MICHIGAN 48849

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Village President Karen Banks.

**ROLL CALL**

Council present: President Karen Banks, Trustee Mike Brighton, Trustee Ben DeJong, Trustee Bob Green, Trustee Roy Halfmann, Trustee Neena Rush, Trustee Martha Yoder

Council absent: None

Staff present: Manager Gregg Guetschow, Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Forman

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion by Yoder, supported by DeJong, to approve the agenda. All ayes; motion carried 7-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**MINUTES**

Motion by Green, supported by Halfmann, to approve the minutes from the regular Village Council meeting of November 17, 2025. All ayes; motion carried 7-0.

Motion by DeJong, supported by Brighton, to approve the minutes from the special Village Council meeting of December 8 & 9, 2025. All ayes; motion carried 7-0.

**BILLS**

Motion by Green, supported by Rush, to approve expenditures equal to or less than \$3,000.00 for the period 11/1/2025 through 11/30/2025. All ayes; motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Yoder, supported by Brighton, to approve bills in excess of \$3,000 as submitted. All ayes; motion carried 7-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

a) Minutes from the regular Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission meeting of October 13, 2025

Motion by Green, supported by Halfmann, to approve the consent agenda. All ayes; motion carried, 7-0.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Village Manager: Report submitted.

Police Department: Report submitted.

Department of Public Works: Report submitted.

Finance: Report submitted.

Zoning: Report submitted.

## NEW BUSINESS

- a) Proposed Resolution 2025-42: Approving Retaining the Current Health Insurance Plan Offered Employees During Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Motion by Rush, supported by Yoder, to adopt proposed Resolution 2025-42. Banks called for a roll call vote. Yes: Rush, Yoder, Brighton, DeJong, Green, Halfmann, Banks; No: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None. Motion carried 7-0.

- b) Proposed Resolution 2025-43: Establishing the Cost-Of-Living Wage Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Motion by Green, supported by Yoder, to adopt proposed Resolution 2025-43. Banks called for a roll call vote. Yes: Green, Yoder, Brighton, DeJong, Halfmann, Rush, Banks; No: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None. Motion carried 7-0.

- c) Proposed Resolution 2025-44: Approving a Proposal from RS Technical Services for Water Plant Chemical Feed Room Maintenance Work.

Motion by Halfmann, supported by Rush, to adopt proposed Resolution 2025-44. Banks called for a roll call vote. Yes: Halfmann, Rush, Brighton, DeJong, Green, Yoder, Banks; No: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None. Motion carried 7-0.

- d) Proposed Resolution 2025-45: Approving a Proposal from VC3 to replace the Virtual Private Network.

Motion by DeJong, supported by Halfmann, to adopt Resolution 2025-45. Banks called for a roll call vote. Yes: DeJong, Halfmann, Brighton, Green, Rush, Yoder, Banks; No: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None. Motion carried 7-0

- e) Proposed Resolution 2025-46: Approving the Appointment List as Presented for Various Village Posts, Boards and Commissions.

Motion by Yoder, supported by Brighton, to adopt proposed Resolution 2025-46. Banks called for a roll call vote. Yes: Yoder, Brighton, DeJong, Green, Halfmann, Rush, Banks; No: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None. Motion carried 7-0.

- f) Proposed Resolution 2025-47: Purchase, Acquire and Construct Capital Improvements and to Publish Notice of Intent to issue Municipal Securities.

Motion by Green, supported by Yoder, to adopt proposed Resolution 2025-47. Banks called for a roll call vote. Yes: Green, Yoder, Brighton, DeJong, Halfmann, Rush, Banks; No: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None. Motion carried 7-0.

- g) Proposed Ordinance 2025-13: Amending Sections 36-5, 36-35, 36-63, and 36-94 of the Code of Ordinances to Change References to “Mobile Homes” to “Manufactured Homes”.

Motion by DeJong, supported by Halfmann, to adopt proposed Ordinance 2025-13. Banks called for a roll call vote. Yes: DeJong, Halfmann, Brighton, Green, Rush, Yoder, Banks; No: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None. Motion carried 7-0.

h) Proposed Resolution 2025-48: Approving the Schedule of Regular Village Council Meetings in 2026.

Motion by Yoder, supported by Brighton, to adopt proposed Resolution 2025-48. Banks called for a roll call vote. Yes: Yoder, Brighton, DeJong, Green, Halfmann, Rush, Banks; No: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None. Motion carried 7-0.

i) Discuss Village Manager Candidates

Council members discussed all candidates. Council talked about bringing some candidates back for meetings with department heads and second interviews with council. Dates were discussed.

Motion by DeJong, supported by Yoder, to invite Patti Caudill and Mark Borden back for meetings with department heads and a second interview with council on Tuesday January 6, 2026 with an alternate date of Thursday, January 8, 2026. All ayes; motion carried 7-0.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) ICEA Thank You
- b) Emily Spitzley Email

#### **TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

Banks – Thanked DPW for their work with the mural at the beach. Wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Brighton – Agreed that it was a good meeting. Happy Holidays to everyone.

DeJong – Thanked everyone for coming and appreciated the great conversation.

Green – Liked the good meeting and the very positive candidates.

Halfmann – Liked the great dialogue during tonight's meeting.

Rush – Thanked everyone for attending.

Yoder – Thanked everyone for coming tonight. Recognized DPW for their hard work with snow removal.

Wished everyone Happy Holidays.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Beth Barrone – Spoke about the sidewalk entrances that are not cleared out. Also shared concern about the handicapped parking issues downtown.
2. Brad Barrone – Explained he would be providing fire facility updates on the Odessa Township website.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Brighton, supported by DeJong, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes: motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy S. Forman  
Village Clerk / Treasurer