

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 10, 2025

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on July 10, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. with the honorable John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

Mrs. Marie Brooker	Present
Mr. William Garner	Present
Mr. John Hill	Present
Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
Mrs. Lynn Lewis	Present
Mr. Josh Parks	Present

Agenda

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve the agenda as it was presented.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Public Comment

Ernest Bay, 212 S. Supinger St., Blanchester, OH 45107. Mr. Bay wanted to discuss the water conditions on his property. The street department had installed a yard drain; however, Mr. Bay removed the yard drain and installed his own catch basin. Since he removed the Village-installed yard drain without permission, and tied into the village storm drain, our Street Commissioner told Mr. Bay he would be responsible for maintaining his catch basin and any damage it may cause.

James Constable, 135 Orchard View Lane, Blanchester, OH 45107 had 13 miscellaneous questions. Mr. Constable was not able to get through the list before his time expired.

Travis Speakman, 112 Fawn Lane, Blanchester, OH 45107, wanted to discuss the water issues on his property. Gave Mayor pictures of the water on his property.

Robert Richman, 110 Fawn Lane, Blanchester, OH 45107, wanted to discuss the water issues on his property. He says it has been happening for 25 years. He gave the history on what has been going on with the water issues and what has been done.

Steven Klein, 132 Orchard View Lane, Blanchester, OH 45107, wanted to discuss the water conditions on his property after the heavy rains.

Carter Fife, 130 Orchard View Lane, Blanchester, OH 45107, wanted to discuss the water conditions on his property after the heavy rains.

Guest Speaker

Rich Surace – Energy Alliance – Discussed the opportunity for the Village to enter into an Aggregation Agreement.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve Ordinance 2025.013 to sign the Aggregation Agreement for natural gas.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Phil Blankenship – Discussed EBS contract renewal with EBS, our third-party administrator, renewing the contract with a small decrease in premium this year.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve Resolution 2025.012, renewing our health insurance coverage with EBS, which is a one-year contract for our Medical and Dental insurance with no new cost. This was passed on an emergency/final reading.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Minutes

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the minutes from Jun 10, 2025.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Approval of Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mrs. Brooker to approve the Bills from July 10, 2025.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Paul Daniels wanted to hire a part-time worker for \$15 an hour.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis for Paul Daniels, Street Commissioner, to hire a seasonal, part-time help at the rate of \$15.00, Step A.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

The chief brought to the committee the need to secure monies to take care of the K-9 for the handler. This would include his cost for keeping and caring for the dog.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis that the Police Department is allowed to move forward with the cost of care of the K-9 dog for the handler, not to exceed \$7,000.00.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Mr. Hopkins wanted to ensure everyone, after the last meeting, Doug Naylor with First National Bank is providing the pledged securities that are required for our deposits, and that everything is insured.

Safety & Service – Mr. Parks reported that they did meet and discussed the crosswalk by BP and the High School. The Chief let the committee know that the body-worn cameras are in and they are being trained on them, also the new speed safety signs were installed.

Cemetery – Paul Daniels reported that he filled in some sink holes and that we are getting a price to take down a pine tree near 28.

Old Business

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Hill that Choice One is allowed to move forward with a not-to-exceed \$1,000.00 to do a topographical survey to repave 600 ft along SR 28 (Main St.) between Wall and Church St. This would be to remove the underlying brick and build it back up. Curbs and gutters would also be replaced in this area. Mr. Hopkins would like to see a way to save and reuse the brick that is being torn up.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

New Business

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to allow the solicitor to add the area behind the municipal building and Snyder Park to the Resolution. Mr. Hopkins moved, and Mrs. Lewis seconded to pass this Resolution as an emergency and suspend the rules. Mr. Hopkins moved, and Mr. Parks seconded to adopt the new curfew per Resolution 2025.011 in the Village of Blanchester community parks. Parks would be closed from dusk to dawn.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to allow the Police Department to secure a new Prosecutor at a rate of \$800 per month, plus an additional \$200 for admin help. This contract would be for 1 year.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Discussion Item

The mayor shared what he learned from the Election Board regarding putting a question on the Ballot, to see if voters favored hiring a Village Administrator and dissolving the BPA Board. The cost to the village to have the question placed on the ballot would be between \$5,000-8,000. It was decided that it was not worth the cost to ask a question. The Mayor and the Chairman of the Board of the BPA would like the council to wait until 2030, pending the next census, before considering hiring a Village Administrator.

Department Reports

Solicitor – Nothing to report

Parks – Just finished another successful splash day. Also, reminded of the upcoming Party in the Park, July 14th at 6:00, and a scheduled meeting of the Parks Dept. to discuss the Nature Park.

Police - Chief Houghton went over the June monthly report, including the events the PD has been involved in. Chief also shared that the Cops and Bobbers event was a success. Additional training was done this month. Training is being done with body-worn cameras. A charge of \$75 per hour, not to exceed \$750 for a public record request for the body-worn cameras. A grant has been applied for to hire an SRO (School Resource Officer), but we are waiting on the schools to see what they can do as well. A grant was also submitted for the cost of the flock cameras for the second year.

Street – Paul Daniels, nothing to report.

BPA – James Bowling reported that they did have a meeting at the sewer plant for the community to see what is going on. He expressed his concern that we are dipping into our 6-month reserves at the Water Dept.

Zoning/Maintenance – Chris Hilderbrandt nothing to report, but the mayor did report that the painting of the first floor is underway.

Fiscal Officer – Regina Johnson just wanted to let everyone know that the audit is in full swing. A new checking account was opened at Peoples Bank for the Parks & Recreation Department. We are working to get this set up so they can start collecting donations soon.

Mayor – The mayor gave everyone a letter for the Safe Routes to School. We were not chosen this year as a recipient. Wanted to thank the Village of Blanchester Employees. Because of their support, we had a great July 4th.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 PM. All agreed to adjourn.

Approved: 8-7-25

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Regina Johnson