

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 28, 2026

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session and held a regular meeting on May 28, 2026, at 6:39 P.M. with the honorable John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

Ms. Marie Brooker	Present
Mr. Grant Coffman	Present
Ms. Stephanie Hanson	Present
Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
Ms. Lynn Lewis	Present
Mr. Josh Parks	Present

Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Coffman to approve the agenda.

Vote: Yea –Ms. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Guest Speaker

Mr. Phil Blankenship, Health Insurance Agent of Record for EBS reviewed our Health Insurance Summary and let us know where we are standing as of now, and that renewals will be coming soon.

Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Coffman to approve the minutes from May 14, 2026.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Approval of Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Ms. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve the Bills/Reallocations from May 28, 2026.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Hopkins had nothing new to report to finance, but turned it over to the mayor for anything to report.

Mayor Carman brought to council the following items -

To give Regina Johnson, Fiscal Officer, a step raise from Step F to Step G (\$2,164.64) and give Carla Flannery, Assistant Fiscal Officer, a step raise from Step I to Step J (\$26.33) effective May 31, 2026.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Ms. Lewis to approve the one step raises.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Safety & Service – Ms. Brooker reported that at this time Fawn Lane is no longer being looked at by the Safety Committee, as it was determined that the residents are responsible for the drainage issues. The mayor did say they meet with the County and they are going to give an estimate on what it would cost to clean up the sludge in that area. However, the cost would have to be absorbed by the homeowners.

Cemetery – Fiscal Officer, Regina Johnson discussed the survey that was posted on Facebook and gave the results of that survey. It was good information and hopefully useful as well.

The mayor asked to amend the agenda by moving item 10 to this point in the agenda. It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Ms. Lewis to approve to amend the agenda.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

The mayor reviewed what the 2 mil tax levy would cost the average homeowner. The amount of what would be paid by the homeowner is based on the assessed value of the home, not the appraised value. The assessed value is typically much lower. The mayor also discussed that when we inherited the cemetery in 2022, it came with just a little over \$7,000 that we were able to transfer over to the Village to run it. Since then, we have been transferring money out of the General Fund to operate it. It is currently taking approx. \$105,000 a year to run the cemetery, and this is mostly for mowing and tree removal. The Fiscal Officer did state that if this levy was passed it would go into its own Fund and could not be used by any other Fund, including the General Fund.

Old Business

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Ms. Lewis to suspend the rules and put Resolution 2026.013 on a final reading.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to adopt Resolution 2026.013 Declaring it Necessary to levy a Tax in Excess of the Ten Mill Limitation for (Cemetery). This would be the Final Reading.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

New Business

It was moved by Ms. Lewis and seconded by Ms. Hanson that Todd Jones be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Discussion Item - none

Department Reports

Solicitor – The Solicitor had nothing to report.

Parks – The Parks Dept. had nothing to report.

Police – The Chief was not present, but the mayor reminded everyone of National Night Out that is coming up on August 4, 2026.

Street – Russ Kidd was not present, but the mayor said they are busy with pothole repairs and brush cleanup.

BPA – Donna Johnson reported that on the June bill customers would see where the customer service charge will be lowered from \$21.28 to \$18.50.

Zoning/Maintenance – Chris Hilderbrandt reported that the Village Clean Up Days were underway. Chris was asked about the progress of the Junk yard across the railroad tracks, and what was being done to clean it up. Chris stated he would meet with them again to get a better plan of what they are doing to clean it up. Chris also stated that the property behind Dominos was given a clean bill from the EPA. It can now be used.

Fiscal Officer – Fiscal Officer reported the audit is still ongoing.

Mayor – The mayor discussed Town Hall Meetings. The meetings will be held at the Municipal Building in the council room. These meetings will be held July 30th, September 30th and December 7th of 2026. During these meetings there will be specific topics that can be addressed. Each resident will have 3 minutes to speak, and council will try to answer the questions that are asked that night. If council feels they cannot answer at that time, an answer will be given in 30 days. We do need to have a quorum for these meetings, but are not required take minutes.

The mayor reminded everyone of the public hearing to be held on 6/11/26 at 6:10 to consider the application to rezone the former CCPI property.

The mayor also stated that we will have another Public Hearing scheduled for 7/9/26 to rezone properties on Main Street, and Ryan Homes apply for rezoning,

Marie Brooker brought up that they would like to put up 12 flower pots around town for the 250th Anniversary. It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Ms. Lewis to allow Ms. Brooker to spend up to \$3,500 on flower pots for the center of town to help decorate the town for the 250th Anniversary. Ms. Brooker is hoping to raise donations to help with the cost.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Ms. Brooker that the meeting be adjourned at 7:38 PM. All agreed to adjourn.

Approved: 6/11/2026

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Lizbeth Johnson