

JANUARY 5, 2026

REGULAR MEETING 6 P.M.

Regular meeting of the Village Board held at the Village Hall and called to order by President Starceвич with the following members present: Loving, Olson, Whiting, Sappington, Baker, Frenell (arrived at 6:30 P.M.), Starceвич, and Johnson. Absent: none.

Motion by Sappington, second by Baker to accept the December 1, 2025 minutes. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Baker, second by Sappington to authorize the December 2025 bills. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Ricki Newcomb from Bi-State present per the request by Police Chief Andy Davis. Mr. Newcomb reported that the Illinois EPA has opportunities for lead lines, and a third party contractor to find those lines through a 50/50 grant and zero percent interest over thirty years. He stated that it could be a phase project and would need an inventory. He further stated that Bi-State does grant applications for various projects and have a liaison to assist the Village. Mr. Newcomb said the lead survey is non-invasive and uses cameras. He stated that he would look into third party people. President Starceвич asked that an idea of the cost be given.

Kyle McEwan present for Mercer County Better Together to report that there are federal and state dollars available, household income percentage would help. He stated that he had a conversation with Senator Halpin (Village Attorney) on compensatory funds. He also thanked the Board for their donation to Mercer County Better Together and would help with expanding the Village's downtown area.

President Starceвич reported that two houses are ready to be condemned, and the Village could knock them down and burn them in a hole. Then he said a lien would be put on the properties and sold. The houses are at 301 South Eighth Avenue (Alan Celada) and South Fifth Avenue (Fred Vann). He said the property could go to an auction with the money going to the Village's costs. He estimated \$20,000 to tear down, chop up trees at South Fifth Avenue, and he would talk to Scott Frenell, Fire Chief, about burning the structure down. President Starceвич stated that the Village could section off the property to do a little at a time, or send out bids to contractors to tear down. The Village would get their money back through the lien for tearing down or burning down. President Starceвич said first option would be to burn down through the fire department, second option would be to tear down, and the third would be to prepare the ground to sell, but he would ask Village Attorney Halpin about selling the property.

President Starceвич reported that the Walsh house on South State Street is next and is already on Attorney Halpin's desk. He said he would talk to Scott Frenell about the Fire Department burning down the houses.

Police Chief Davis handed out his report for December 2025 and reported that the squad car slid into a pole and had repairs done. He also reported that he is working on a \$32,000 grant with Bi-State for the Police Department. Chief Davis asked the Board to have a meeting on the revised ordinances. The Board set January 26, 2026 at 6 P.M. in the Village Hall as a Special Meeting to go over the ordinances.

Motion by Sappington, second by Loving to raise the Police Chief pay to \$30 from \$25 per hour. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

President Starceвич reported that Roxanne's Catering paid her water/sewer bill in the amount of \$250 and had put it in the Village's drop box, but she has not been credited with the payment. President Starceвич stated that he would ask Hannah Converse, the billing and collecting person about the matter.

Trustee Sappington left the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

Motion by Frenell, second by Olson to accept the FY 2023 audit. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Loving, second by Olson to adjourn. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Claudine D. Johnson, Village Clerk