THE VILLAGE OF PHILLIPSBURG
EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 17, 2026

Mayor Simpson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Heather Craft – yes, Hope Hoard – yes, Chrystal Beavers – yes.

Mayor Simpson stated that in a conversation with Jill Ritter that there were some communication issues with the Ritters' availability for the meeting. As of June 17, 2026, John and Jill Ritter have both resigned, effective immediately. Both statements of resignation are public documents and will be available to the public. As a result, there are two more open council spots. Jacob Groh resigned before the last meeting. Council has 30 days from his date of resignation to fill his position. The council will have 30 days from the date of this meeting to fill the two new vacant positions. If the vacancies are not filled, the mayor can appoint council members.

Hope Hoard motioned and Heather Craft seconded to accept Jacob Groh's resignation as council member. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes. Motion carried.

Hope Hoard motioned and Heather Craft seconded to accept John Ritter's resignation as council member. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes. Motion carried.

Hope Hoard motioned and Heather Craft seconded to accept Jill Ritter's resignation as council member. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes. Motion carried.

The mayor stated that since three council members are present, there is a quorum to vote.

Fiscal Officer Hartman stated that Council needs to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 21, 2026. Hope Hoard motioned and Heather Craft seconded to approve the minutes from the regarding council meeting of April 21, 2026. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes. Motion carried.

FO Hartman stated that Council needs to approve the special council meeting minutes from April 27, 2026. Hope Hoard motioned and Heather Craft seconded to approve the special council minutes from the regarding council meeting of April 27, 2026. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes. Motion carried.

FO Hartman stated that Council needs to approve the special meeting minutes from May 11, 2026. Hope Hoard motioned to approve the special meeting minutes from May 11, 2026. No other council members from that meeting were present that this meeting. Vote taken: Hope – yes, Heather – abstain, Chrystal – abstain. Motion carried.

Mayor Simpson stated that there is one application for Jacob Groh's open council seat. Jacob Cramer was present and spoke at the meeting. He stated that he is a veteran who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. He would like to be on the Village of Phillipsburg Council. Council members asked some questions about his availability for meetings. He stated he would be available for regular and special meetings. S

The mayor then asked if anyone in the audience is interested in the two other vacant council seats.

Mr. Rob Maxwell spoke up. He was asked to attend the meeting and consider being on the Council. Mr. Maxwell wants to ask some questions and get some information before saying yes or no. He asked if the Council could have two shorter meetings per month as opposed to one long meeting. He would also be interested in being zoning liaison. He has a construction background, and he feels that would be helpful. He had no additional questions. He will wait to make his decision. Council questioned him as to how long he has lived in Phillipsburg, and Mayor Simpson added that Mr. Maxwell helped with the improvement of the basketball court. There was a discussion about his work in construction and his interest in being the zoning liaison for the Village. He wants to see the Village revamped and improved.

Mayor Simpson asked the Council if they were prepared to decide regarding appointing Jacob Cramer to the vacant council seat. Hope Hoard motioned to approve Jacob Cramer as a new council member for the Village of Phillipsburg for the term ending December 31, 2029. Heather seconded. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes. Motion carried.

Jacob Cramer was sworn in by Mayor Simpson.

Mayor Simpson gave his report. He spoke on progress being made in Village including online water bill payment, improvement of the baseball fields which are now being used by some local teams, interior and exterior painting of both Village rentals, and awarding of a $188,000 park grant by the State of Ohio through a capital budget improvement grant. The mayor is not certain when the funds will be distributed, but no later than January of 2027. Mayor Simpson is meeting with several park equipment companies and getting quotes. He has also gotten quotes for the pickleball/tennis court improvements, and the new park will be beside field 2. Hope Hoard mentioned that she has a meeting scheduled with James Bradshaw regarding a quote for park equipment. Mayor Simpson stated that the Village is getting three quotes for park improvement.

Mayor Simpson stated that John Ritter was previously helping the Village with some IT work, but he has resigned from the Council. It was then discovered that, by law, council members may not work like that for the Village. The Village has contracted with Cowboy Computers to work on immediate IT issues. The Village does not need to purchase any additional computers but might purchase some monitoring equipment. Council members were provided a copy of the contract with Cowboy Computers. Their regular charge is $90/hr. for on-site work. A signed agreement would cost $12 per month per computer. This includes cyber security and compliance with Ohio law. Emergency rate for after-hours work is $175 - $180 per hour. There was a brief explanation about the services Cowboy Computers are providing. A meeting will be held with Cowboy Computers, and an agreement will be drawn up. A Resolution will be presented to Council for a vote at the next meeting. Hope motioned to approve a meeting for emergent needs. Heather seconded. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes, Jacob – yes. Motion carried.

The mayor stated that the Village had employed the services of Terry Posey to handle misdemeanors for our police department. Since there is no longer a Village police department, the contract for those services is being terminated. County Prosecutor Matt Heck's office would provide a prosecutor for us at no charge. The prosecutor's name is Emily Sluk. She currently handles cases for with Clay Township, so she will handle misdemeanor and criminal cases.

The mayor stated that he needs Council approval to exit the contract with the previous provider (Terry Posey). Hope Hoard motioned to approve using the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office to provide services for both misdemeanor and criminal cases. Chrystal seconded. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes, Jacob – yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Simpson stated that if anyone has any questions for the Village solicitor, please direct all inquiries to the mayor, and he will forward them to the solicitor.

The mayor asked Council members if they would prefer to have two meetings per month instead of just one. A discussion took place. If there is a change, a resolution will need to be voted on and passed.

The mayor presented the quote for the park repairs (the shelter house w/restrooms and the baseball garage/with restrooms). The quote for the baseball garage roof and restroom repairs and the shelter house and restrooms is $10,840. There was a brief discussion.

Guests: None

Public Comment: [unidentified: not loud enough to hear what the resident said]

Ms. Fidler thanked the community for voting for the fire levy.

Old Business: None for this meeting

Reports:

Fiscal Officer Hartman reported that the Village has finally received the updated Certificate of Estimated Resources from the County. This was updated after the land sale was completed. She provided Council with a current fund status. Some items have not been entered into the UAN system because she was working with a temporary budget. The Village is still waiting on the FEMA grant funds ($163,172.60) for the fire department. The fund status report explains items that have been paid and that are still to be paid. Council was provided with a resolution that updates the appropriations. Resolution 2026-0011 Updating Appropriations for the Village of Phillipsburg and Declaring an Emergency.

Hope Hoard motioned to declare an emergency for Resolution 2026-0011. Heather seconded. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes, Jacob – yes. Motion carried. Hope Hoard motioned to approve Resolution 2026-0011 Updating Appropriations for the Village of Phillipsburg and Declaring an Emergency. Heather seconded. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes, Jacob – yes. Motion carried.

There was some discussion among Council and the Fiscal Officer, Fire Chief, and Village Administrator regarding fund balances, line items, grants, and monies available in 2027. Fiscal Officer Hartman explained where monies have been allocated. The Fire Chief also discussed the budget. Fiscal Officer Hartman explained how often the Village receives payments from Clay Township, and that money from the general fund will need to be advanced to the fire department. The mayor stated that money from the general fund is to support all Village departments.

Hope Hoard motioned to exit the contract with Terry Posey for legal assistance with criminal cases. Heather seconded. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes, Jacob – yes. Motion carried.

Hope Hoard motioned to table Resolution 2026-0012 Advance of Funds from the General Fund to the Fire Fund. Heather seconded. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes, Jacob – yes. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Aldrich discussed the reports he prepared for the cancelled May 19 meeting and the rescheduled June 16 meeting. Personnel: Chief would like to discuss and adopt a pay scale improvement plan that was provided to Council in May. This plan is about a 25% increase over what is being paid now. Currently EMTs are being paid $13/hour, and paramedics are being paid $15/hour. It would be a 25% increase to those and add other incentives where firefighters would get an extra pay pursuant to the proposal sent to Council on May 11. The Chief asked if there were any questions about the proposal. No questions were asked. The Chief then asked for the pay increase proposal to be adopted and any money that is needed to fund that be advanced from the General Fund which will be paid back next year when the 100% increase starts coming in. As discussed, if pay is increased by 25%, any money transferred this year would be paid back next year.

Fiscal Officer Hartman stated that Local Government Services (LGS) is going to give the Village a review of the past five years, where we stand today, and a projection of where the Village will be if it continues with operations as they currently stand. LGS already knows the status of the additional funding. Hope Hoard asked when the meeting with LGS will take place. The mayor stated that the meeting is on June 23, to be attended by the mayor, the fiscal officer, and the fiscal liaison. LGS will give the Village options of what it can and cannot do to get the Village on better footing.

Fire Chief Aldrich asked how much funding is projected to be advanced to the fire department this year. FO Hartman stated $172,566.50. That does not cover electric, sewer, or phone service for seven months. FO Hartman did not have an estimate of those costs. Hope confirmed that the Fire Fund is only working on a $420,000 budget. Chief Aldrich said that he prepared the current fire department budget based on the current pay scale. He was confident that the budget being $445,000 was a comfortable budget. Going forward next year that budget would increase by $71,000. There was discussion between Council, the Mayor, and Fire Chief regarding next year's projected budget and projected revenue, as well as the current and projected budget for the fire department. There was a short discussion regarding the recent levy and how it will help the fire department. The Council and Mayor assured the fire department that no one wants to say no to a raise, but it depends on what is learned in the meeting with LGS.

Chief Aldrich stated that two trainees, Mr. Hartman and Ms. Stephenson, are now certified fire fighters. Pamela Stephenson is at this meeting. She passed her EMT test on the first try and has been working for the Village as an EMT. Chief Aldrich is requesting two portable radios to be transferred from the police department. There are three radios available that can be used. Clay Township has requested to borrow one. Mayor Simpson stated that an inventory must be taken and a resolution passed to transfer the radios. The Fire Fund is paying a subscription for the use of the radios. The mayor will try to have a decision by the time of the meeting on June 25, 2026.

Chief Aldrich stated that the FEMA grant that was recently awarded for air packs is open again. The fire department is eligible to apply for a new fire tanker. June 22 is the deadline for the grant. The Chief is undecided about this grant. There was a discussion about the pros and cons of applying. A new fire tanker would cost $525,000. The Village would be responsible for $26,000 of that cost next year. There was a discussion regarding this action.

Fiscal Officer Hartman was asked for her opinion on the financial aspect. If the grant is awarded in 2027, the $26,000 may not be due until 2028.

Hope motioned to approve the writing of the ASG grant from FEMA. Heather seconded. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes, Jacob – yes. Motion carried.

Police Report: Chief Birk was present on June 16, but he could not attend this meeting. Chief Birk provided a report to Mayor Simpson. The report was distributed to Council. This report covers from when Clay Township took over in May until June. Total activity was 60 calls. Calls for service - 17. Twenty-five traffic stops – 3 citations, 22 warnings. There was one crash. One arrest. One OVI. Two zoning follow-ups. Since then, they have been extremely active. The next report will be more involved.

Chief Birk was able to get analytic data from the digital speed signs for a one-month period.

Travel on E. Main Street: 2,227 vehicles were slower than 40 mph for 98.74% compliance.

18 were 41 to 45 mph; 6 were 46 to 50 mph; 4 were 51 to 55 mph; 1 was 56 to 60. These numbers show that the police department has some work to do to catch those going over 40 mph.

Travel north on S. State Street: 125,914 vehicles were slower than 45 mph for 84% compliance.

11,942 were 41 to 45 mph at 7.98%; 7,295 were 46 to 50 mph at 4.87%; 3,442 were 51to 55 mph about 2%; 935 were 56 to 60 about 0.62%; 117 were 61 to 65 mph for 0.08%; 10 were 66 to 70 mph for 0.01%; 3 were from 71 to 75 or more mph about 0.0%. There is still more work to do, but Clay Township is doing a great job.

Travel south on S. State Street: 79,000 vehicles were under 40 mph for 85% compliance.

6,915 at 41 to 45 mph for 7.45%; 4,082 at 46 to 50 mph for 4.4%; 1,809 at 51 to 55 mph for 1.59%; 475 at 56 to 60 mph for 0.51%; 63 at 61to 65 mph for 0.07%; 3 at 66 to 70 mph for 0.0%; 1 vehicle at 71-75+ mph for 0.0%.

The mayor stated that Clay Township PD is doing a great job. It's nice to have that service 24 hours a day. It's hoped that the citizens like that service as well. According to Chief Birk, the grace period for warnings is over. He has been very active in updating the mayor and fiscal officer regarding the seriousness of calls and day-to-day operations. The mayor said the Chief and Clay Township police officers are doing a great job!

The mayor thanked David Spradlin and Kevin Fidler for their hard work around the Village.

Other items to report. An inventory will be taken and then a decision will be made regarding disposal or keeping of cars and other items. The dump truck was repaired. The tractor hydraulic line was repaired. The yard restoration is complete from the watermain breaks that we had.

Streets: Derek Shell asked for approval to purchase logo banners for the four corners at Main and State Streets. This includes the brackets. He also requested flowerpots, but that is a separate matter. He is requesting a motion for banners and flowerpots for the four corners at Main and State Streets, for a total cost of $1,500. FO Hartman suggested that the $1,500 come from the street fund for the beautification project.

Hope motioned to approve $1,500 from the street fund for the beautification project for the Main

and State Streets corner project of banner and flowerpots. Heather seconded. Vote taken: Heather – yes, Hope – yes, Chrystal – yes, Jacob – yes. Motion carried.

The water OEPA Consumer Report was completed. A link on the website needs to be established before July 1, 2026. Once water bills go out, the Village has five days to finish the paperwork. FO Hartman stated that it is being worked on. The link will be listed on the water bills.

Mayor Simpson said the water system metrics will be completed by June 30, 2026. Access Engineering Solutions is doing the engineering of the new water plant. They work with small communities in the region.

Zoning: Nathaniel Davis stated that one violation was issued for work being performed prior to obtaining a permit. There were some extensions due to the residents' health issues. Mr. Davis met with Police Chief Birk. Information was shared and issues to work on were discussed. There are some ongoing concerns regarding the school. Mr. Davis has had discussion with Chief Birk and Fire Chief Aldrich regarding break-ins at the school. Everyone is working to get this matter resolved. Hope did call the police regarding activity at the school. Clay Township responded and took a report and followed up with Ms. Hoard. The Clay Township Police Department is doing everything they can to deal with the situation.

Mr. Davis said that there are several minimal standard violations within the Village. He feels something should be posted because people don't know what permits are needed. Mr. Davis is planning to address some long-standing zoning issues. He wants to get the Village cleaned up. He discussed Iworx software. He also spoke about inventory and use of an old police vehicle. Mayor Simpson stated he is getting quotes to close up the openings at the school to deter entrance. There have been many attempts to contact the property owner without success. There was a discussion about young people entering the building and many of them are not even residents of the Village or Montgomery County. Mr. Davis has given more Notice of Correction letters regarding grass violations on E. Main St. than anywhere else in the Village. People throughout the Village are erecting fences without permits. There was another short discussion about the school building.

New Business: None

Council Reports: Mayor Simpson mentioned the Unity in the Community event. He is requesting a budget for the car show if that is available. Donations are being solicited for the Village's portion of the cost. Hope will work on that. A budget will be presented at the June 25, 2026, Special Council Meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Hope motioned to adjourn. Heather seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Mayor: _____

Fiscal Officer: Lori K. Hartman