THE VILLAGE OF PHILLIPSBURG
REGULAR COUNCIUL MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2026

Mayor Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Heather Craft - Absent, Hope Hoard - here, Zach Moore – here, Chrystal Beavers – here, and Jake Cramer will be late (arrived at 7:10 p.m.).

Council Member discussion and appointment – There is still one seat open.

Public Comment: Special Guest, Dokken Burns – Thank you to everyone who showed up for the project and thank the council for the opportunity for the project. 29 people showed up and donated a total of146 hours we were able to raise $2,585 for the restoration of the bleachers, we spent $1,854 on all, there is $730 to be returned to council for future projects. Thank you to Dwayne Heuker and Heuker Excavation, Tim Stebbins Farm, Gem City Pawn & Loan, Malott Farm, Lowes Store 42 in Trotwood, family members, friends and community members for their time and contributions.
From the Village – Thank you to Dokken and family and for the overall addition to what we have going on. Miami Valley Blaze for bringing in the dirt. Thank you for the extra $730. It will go to a park of some sort.

No old business.

Reports –

Police Chief Birk, Clay Township: In the month of September, 2026, Clay Township police officers responded to 48 total calls, 20 traffic stops, 17 warnings and 3 citations. 1 warrant arrest was made, there was 1animal complaint and 4 medic assists within the Village. The department is currently two officers down but just hired an 1 officer. Officer Anderson resigned (He averaged 200 miles per night on his cruiser). Overall traffic stops were down but one the newly hired officer is trained, we look for that to go back up. We are doing follow-ups on multiple issues. Stats/Data are provided by Speed Signs. 131,000 cars went through on South State Street and 131,000 cars went through on North State Street. A few were going 75 mph or faster.

Junk Motor Vehicles – Chief Birk indicated that he can send letters to those residents with junk vehicles on the property, to inform them that the vehicles must be properly licensed and operable, or they will be removed.

Items received from the Village – Birk indicated that he has completed an inventory list for the items received from the Village and he will need signatures from the Mayor and Fiscal Officer for those items.
Resident Checks – If residents request it, the officers can check on properties while resident are on vacation. Copies of these requests are available at the Village offices.

Mayor Simpson asked if an officer could be present at W. Main Street during school bus drop-off (between 4:00 p.m. and 4:15 p.m.). Birk said he would have an officer there. Lori asked if an officer could be at Phillipsburg Fuel from 6-8 p.m. on October 31 (trick or treat). Chief Birk said he would make that happen. Lori indicated that a binder of evidence has been located and that she will be getting with Chief Birk regarding evidence to be destroyed. Birk indicated that he will work on destruction orders for signatures from the Mayor with Council approval and forward those orders to the Montgomery County Municipal Court. Once the orders have been signed by the Court, the Village can begin the process of destroying said evidence. There are some items that can be sold on GovDeals.

Fire Chief Pat Aldrich: Personnel and staff – Captain Himes resigned effective at the end of this month. The department was dispatched to 23 calls in August, all in Clay Township. 11 calls were in our contracted Fire and EMS area. 4 were in the Village of Phillipsburg for a total of 15 in the contracted area, and 2 were in the EMS area of Verona. In total, there were 17 EMS calls, 5 Fire calls and 1 crash. There were 8 transports.

All equipment is doing well.

Funding – unable to speculate about this

Nothing further to report at this time.

Public Works Update – Kevin Fidler:
Jesse Haines Way – was regraded and additional gravel was added to low spots (Thank you Dave Spradlin).
Municipal Garage – Continued progress with organizing the garage

Increased focus on workplace safety –
Access to PPE
Work gloves disposable gloves, particulate masks, hearing protection, high visibility vests, safety helmets and face shields, safety chaps, lock-out tag-out equipment, eye wash stations and fire extinguishers have all been provided to help keep our workers safe and unharmed.

Additions of safety features to all Village vehicles include hazard lights and fire extinguishers.

Working on increased safe storage and handling of chemicals and fuels in the Municipal garage –

Redlight on East Bound Main Street was replaced (Thank you Capital Electric)
Shop garage door sensors were repaired (Thank you Doors Galore). Still waiting for a quote from Doors Galore to replace weather strip and door seals on the Municipal garage doors. We are working on identifying an outside contractor to repair the damage to the storm sewer inlet at Ludlow and Fernwood prior to winter. We are preparing for leaf collection while trying to finish up all tasks before the leaf box is mounted to the dump truck. Dave Rigsby has offered to come assist with servicing the leaf vac and mounting the box – We will most likely need some additional personnel support during leaf collection.

Water –
We filled in the waterline excavation by Wellhouse 3, making facilities improvements to the wellhouses to include fire extinguishers, eye-wash stations, personal protective equipment, regular maintenance and operational tools and equipment, chlorine pump spare parts and storage shelving

Data Collection, Reporting and Analysis
Development of specialized forms to track routine operational tasks and development of a system for tracking all water-related field work

Development of data tracking tools for analysis of plant operations, chlorine residual levels, chlorine usage, well flows and workflows operations.

Proof of Concept for other departments

Well 3 Operations Status – FREBCO currently waiting for parts for repairs.

Council vote to allow up to $7,000.00 for repairs to Well 3, motioned by Hope. Seconded by Chrystal. Approved by unanimous vote.

Plant is currently running on well 2 and well 4 with no perceivable issues.

Water Tower Building Faucet Replacement – FREBCO will replace the faucet when they are here making repairs on Well 3.

Working on the development of formalized operational documentation and documentation concerning municipal water supply infrastructure. Working on identifying any other storm sewers inlets that need service or repair prior to Winter

Parks –

Working on completion of tree trimming for several dead and/or diseased trees. (The Village will still need work done by an external tree service).

Eagle Scout Project –

Extreme success, a great time, and the bleachers look amazing! Successful case study demonstrating the potential of collaboration with external groups for the continued beautification of the Village!

Work on Ballfields –
Continuation of field rehabilitation and maintenance, assistance with mowing of the fields

No issues with mowing or trimming in the park or elsewhere. Mower will need assessed and serviced prior to the start of the 2027 season

Office
Cleaning and organizing, making information and resources and usable, development of processes and forms and increasing operational efficiency, including emergency response capabilities

Severe Weather Event – September 4, 2026
The Public Works Department completed a comprehensive survey of the Village shortly after. No major damage to Village property, facilities, or public infrastructure. Intermediate tree debris in the park. A small tree was blown over at the Phillipsburg Christian Cemetery, minor debris in the roadways. All debris cleared in less than one week after the event

3-phase power loss
Impacted the traffic light, Fire Station, Municipal garage and active wells
Mobile stop signs were deployed at Main Street. Clay Township Police increased patrolling at the intersection of Main and State Streets, water plant was monitored from 4:00p.m. to 1:00 a.m. to ensure there were no issues

- Normal operating pressures were maintained throughout the power outage
- Once power was restored, operations were monitored until the water tower was filled to ensure no issues

**This was a good learning experience that has provided direction on key aspects of emergency operations and planning.

Cemeteries –

- Phillipsburg currently maintains two cemeteries
- Old South Fork Friends Cemetery
  One upright marker, at least 25 markers on the ground, not all in their original location and 1 base that has been relocated from its original location

- Phillipsburg Christian Cemetery

At least 160 full or partial markers relocated into a cross formation at some point. At least 49 markers on the ground (whole or in pieces), currently do not know original

locations, 65 upright markers with 4 about to fall and at least 15 bases where the marker was removed and/or relocated.

Concerns for both cemeteries –
Vegetation that needs clearing, piles of debris, damage to markers, no comprehensive boundary marking, no signage, and evidence of vehicles routinely driving through part of the Phillipsburg Christian Cemetery.

**We have begun some minor improvements, but there needs to be a strategic plan for moving forward and addressing concerns. Recommendation that Council review the cemeteries and explore the possibility of allocating specific funds in the next budget for their care and improvement (discussions were had regarding the repairs and how to obtain funds to do so). Lori Hartman, Fiscal Officer explained that there is no longer burials being performed at the cemeteries, and there is no cemetery fund. We don't have equipment to bury and know where people have been interred (buried in the past), Traditionally it has been the General Fund or Parks was used in.

Request for Investment: Backpack and Handheld Blower
Pros and Cons for this investment were provided by Kevin and can be reviewed in his full report. This purchase would be made through the street fund considering the main use will be to clear debris from the streets in a safe and timely manner. (Complete blower comparison also provided in Kevin's report).

Hope motioned for approval of $1,000.00 be spent on the backpack and handheld gas-powered leaf blower from the street fund. Jake Cramer seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Lastly, waiting hear about a new truck. As soon as we get the range of approval, we will start looking for a new truck. The current truck has several hydraulic leaks and some electrical issues that will need to be addressed, if in fact we are unable to get a new truck (continued discussions were had regarding where to have the truck repaired.

Mayor Josh Simpson:

We covered a lot of the stuff I had to say, Dokken, again, thank you! We had a blast! We enjoyed the project and the bleachers are updated. Miami County Blaze is doing their thing with the dirt being delivered. Chief, is there any opportunity for training this week? Our burn pile from our tree trimming is in the way. There is a burn ban right now. There is a full crew on Friday per the Fire Chief.

Moving on to the Approval of Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting September 15, 2026. Hope motioned to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on September 15, 2026. Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Resolutions – Lori Hartman, Fiscal Officer:

Resolution 2026-0014: To Levy Special Assessment for the improvement of Streets, Avenues, and Public Highways in the Village of Phillipsburg, Ohio by Lighting the same with Electricity During the year of 2027 and Declaring Emergency –

Hope motioned to waive the 3-reading rule and declare emergency. Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Hope motioned to approve Resolution 2026-0014; To Levy Special Assessment for the improvement of Streets, Avenues and Public Highways in the Village of Phillipsburg, Ohio by Lighting the same with Electricity During the year of 2027. Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution 2026-0015: A Resolution Assessing the Cost of Vegetation and Grass Cutting to Property Owner(s) for Failure to Maintain Property, and Declaring an Emergency –

Hope motioned to approve Resolution 2026-0015; A Resolution Assessing the Cost of Vegetation and Grass Cutting to Property Owner(s) for Failure to Maintain Property and Declaring an Emergency. Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution 2026-0016: Resolution Authorizing the Clerk of the Village of Phillipsburg to Certify Delinquent Water Charges to the Montgomery County Auditor's Office to be Placed as an Assessment on the Listed Parcel Numbers and Declaring an Emergency.

Hope motioned to waive the 3-reading rule and declare emergency. Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Hope motioned to approve Resolution 2026-0016: Resolution Authorizing the Clerk of the Village of Phillipsburg to Certify Delinquent Water Charges to the Montgomery County Auditor's Office to be Placed as an Assessment on the Listed Parcel Numbers. Jake seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution 2016-0017: Resolution Authorizing the Request for Advance of Taxes Collected for the Year 2026 (Collection Year 2027)

Hope motioned to waive the 3-reading rule and declare emergency. Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote. This Resolution shall become effective November 6, 2026.

Hope motioned to approve Resolution 2016-0017; Resolution Authorizing the Request for Advance of Taxes Collected for the Year 2026. Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Reminder – Harvest Party is October 24, 2026 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Phillipsburg Fuel has agreed to supply ice and water for the event. There will be a flyer on Facebook and possibly the water bill to remind residents of the party.

Hope motioned to adjourn. Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Joshua V. Simpson, Mayor

Lori L. Hartman, Fiscal Officer