

Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on March 14, 2026 at 10:00 am

1.0 Mayor Ehrbar calls council to order --

RC: M. Gaither__N/A__, J.Wolfe__N/A__, G. Finger __Y__, C. Kipfer, __Y__ S. Stevenson __Y__,
J. Divoll__Y__

Motion to excuse J. Wolfe and M. Gaither from March 14, 2026 Regular Council Meeting made by S. Stevenson;
second by G. Finger.

All in Favor; Motion Passed.

2.0 All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:

3.0 Motion for Council Pro Tem:

S. Stevenson makes a motion to elect G. Finger Council Pro Temp 2026; second by J. Divoll
All in Favor; Motion Passed.

4.0 Discussion and/or amendments to the December 13, 2025 Regular Council Minutes.
Motion to accept/amend the Minutes as presented,

RC: M. Gaither__N/A__, J.Wolfe__N/A__, G. Finger __1__, C. Kipfer, __Y__ S. Stevenson __2__,
J. Divoll__Y__

5.0 Discussion of Pay Ordinance No. 1254: Motion to accept the Pay Ordinance as written,

RC: M. Gaither__N/A__, J.Wolfe__N/A__, G. Finger __1__, C. Kipfer, __2__ S. Stevenson __Y__,
J. Divoll__Y__

7.0 Committee Reports

7.A. Police – James E. Bartus II: Activity Report – December 2025 – February 2026
Report(s) = 3 Total Citations Issued = 0

Department Phone Call(s) = 98 House / Business Check(s) = 58 Weeekly

Arrest(s) / Citations = 0 Vehicle Lock-out(s) = 5

Warning(s) = 3 Assist w/other agencies = 5

Accident(s) = 0

Closed Court Cases YTD = 0

Current Open Court Cases YTD = 2 (Erie County Court)

Department Budget YTD = 12.85%

7.B. Safety Committee – G. Finger, S. Stevenson: No Report

7.C. EMS – Russ Maust: Winter 2025/2026 EMS Activity Report: EMS runs - 6 Clinic calls -7

This month's training was on spinal injuries. Next month's training will be medical and trauma scenarios with a skills review. We currently have an active EMT class. Many of the students are some of our Emergency Medical Responders that are increasing their knowledge and skills. We also have some new people that are looking to gain the skills necessary to volunteer with Kelleys Island EMS.

As of March 9th, the EMS budget was at 10% of the annual budget.

Late last year, I applied for a grant from the State of Ohio. This grant was to purchase a drone system and train our personnel to operate it. We were one of only nine communities in the State of Ohio to be awarded this grant. This is a pilot program that is the first in the nation and the State felt that Kelleys Island would be a good example of how a drone can be utilized by a small community. This drone program will be available to all of the Island's departments. This grant is what is known as a pass-through grant. We need to provide the funding for the purchase. Within two weeks of us purchasing the drone, the State of Ohio will reimburse us completely for the purchase. This grant will cover all costs of the system for four years. After the grant period, we will only be responsible for the yearly cost of the software if we find this to be a beneficial program worth keeping. This is a rare opportunity to get advanced technology for our community at no cost to us. I would like to request that the Council make a motion to accept this grant. And I would like to request that the Council pass legislation to appropriate funds to make this acquisition possible. If there are any questions about this program, I will happily answer them.

As always, I would like to express my gratitude to the volunteers of Kelleys Island EMS for their dedication to the community of Kelleys Island.

Mayor Ehrbar asks questions in reference to future costs, insurance, liability, etc

Lots of questions, more information needed about future cost for system.

D. Lambros states: I would suggest a motion to accept the grant and it's additional upon final Council approval I've taken a look, I talked to Russ about this. We were on the phone quite a while yesterday and I looked at the original contract. I have a lot of questions about it, but I just want to mark up and send over to these people just to confirm. I'm looking more for the determination end of it. You know, how we get out of it as opposed to how we get in it, how we get in and see it's how you get out of it. Like we talked about, you've asked about the cost afterwards. It depends on how much you want to bite off because the dock license, but you don't need the dock, right?

R. Maust: Correct. The other reason too is, I thought, you know, we can have, we can have legislation up for next month's meeting.

Mayor Ehrbar: Who controls it? And, do they have to be, they have to be an employee of the village on our insurance?

R. Maust: That was an excellent question, a question that Lisa brought up to me. As far as who controls it, we're going to designate a team from the, the island services. I've talked with fire department personnel, to find out who is interested in being one of the operators. I've talked to the water department about having one of them operate it since all of these people would be village employees.

Mayor Ehrbar: So, do they have to be trained?

R. Maust: Yes, the grant covers all trainings training for it. I think it's a 2 day training course that they have to take.

C. Messina: There's multiple steps to the training. I think it ends up being like a four-day training course. But everything in the rest of the grant is a perfection that everything is planning on. I was in the drone operating program where I was where I went. Everything was leading to is actually very accurate and the courses are extremely stringent with the training. Anybody who is selected for it is going to be well versed. It's very, very intense learning.

R. Maust: That's probably why the safety committee meeting would be a phenomenal idea and a phenomenal venue to discuss everything. We can have a good workshop. Can we make a motion now to ask the solicitor to prepare legislation like he recommended?

D. Lambros: He needs to accept, let him know that we're going to accept the grant, but it's still subject to final condition final council approval because we have to approve the legislation for the appropriation for the money.

R. Maust: So I'd have a motion to approve to I would have the motion that to accept the grant the additional point final council approval.

S. Stevenson: I'll make that motion subject to final council approval.

Motion to accept the Drone Program Grant and it's additional upon final Council approval made by S. Stevenson; second by G. Finger.
All in Favor; Motion Passed.

7.D. **Fire Dept.** - Chief Skeans: Activity Report: December 2025 – February 2026 Runs: 0

As discussed at the last meeting; I have been in contact with Doug Nash about a Volunteer Fire Fighter Class. The quote I received was in the amount of \$12,500. I would like to ask for a motion to approve this amount to recruit and train 10 new Firemen for the village. The potential Fire Fighters are: Rusty Zettler, Rodney Rosado, Dane Halvorsen, Jason Pavlovic, Blake Keener, Chad Waffan, James Sennish, Shawn Shaw, Marcus Muster, Tony Daily. I will be leaving for a trip today to Florida; returning on the 20th. Coverage for the Fire Department will be: Steve Wermuth, Jack Hostal, Russ Maust, Fredo Policy, Ray Schaefer 14th – 16th), Brian Maust (16th – return). The Fire Department is on track for the 2026 budget.

Motion for \$12,500 Fire Training thru EHOVE Career Center made by G. Finger; second by C. Kipfer.
All in Favor. Motion Passed.

7.E. **Water Department** – T. Lange: A. Federle reports - Timeline, all of winter plant maintenance has been completed. Currently we're working on plumbing for the high service building for a new backfall of backflow install. Mike and Natalia actually completed a backflow class last week and that gives them their CE hours for their class. Also, our new software went live last month for the new billing and that was about a year process to get in place.

7.F. Finance – C. Kipfer, M. Gaither: C. Kipfer reports - we had a meeting virtually on February 28th. We discussed many different items, one of which was initial information about Russ's drone program. So when we get that detail we'll have a follow up to get that appropriated. We did decide to move forward with some items which are in today's legislation.

7.G. Lands & Buildings – M. Gaither, G. Finger: No Report

7.H. Airport – J. Wolfe, J. Divoll: Mayor Ehrbar reports – Monaghan Road project is on hold until Ferry runs, for surveyor, Yellow Book Appraisals. Received a call from FAA yesterday putting on hold existing Lakeshore Project at end of the runway, cancelled as well as all other future projects until Monaghan Road Project is completed.

7.I. Planning Commission – J. Wolfe: Mayor Ehrbar reports – There will be a Planning Commission meeting scheduled, as needed, each month on the 2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm. at the Town Hall.

7.J. Design Review Board – R. Maust: No meeting due to weather conditions. Will reschedule.

7.K. Board of Zoning Appeals – Gary Finger reports: No hearings scheduled.

7.L. Transfer Station – J. Divoll, J. Wolfe: No report. Will get meeting scheduled.

7.M. Village Administrator – Andy Federle:

Over the winter, Ron and I have been working on quite a few projects that we currently have.

The sewer project, lot of meetings with the EPA with KEM and then also working to try to outsource some funds for the project.

East Lakeshore currently waiting on easements.

Once we get those, we'll be able to begin.

And we did select at the last council meeting the successful bidder for the streets project and I spoke with them last week and that will begin late April.

7.N. Streets & Sidewalks- S. Stevenson, C. Kipfer reports: No meeting. Will be scheduling soon.

7.O. Park Board – Marvin Robinson:

Julie Thomas was appointed by the Kelleys Island School Board to serve a five-year term that will conclude on December 31, 2031.

The Kelleys Island Park Board would like to request Council approval to apply for a reimbursement grant from Erie MetroParks, with a maximum amount of \$10,000.

S. Stevenson makes a motion to allow Park Board to apply for the Erie MetroParks grant for up to \$10,000; second by G. Finger. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

The next meeting is set for April 6 at 6pm.

7.P. Mayor's Financial Report- Mayor Ehrbar:

Mayor's Court report submitted by Rosalyn Ahner March 11, 2026:

For the month of February 2026, the court collected a total of \$0.00: \$0.00 Computer Fund, \$0.00 Court Improvement Fund, \$0.00 Library Fund, \$0.00 Other Costs. \$0.00 General Fund.

All funds collected were from payment plans and fines. State was paid \$ 0.00: \$0.00 Victims of Crime, \$0.00 HB1 (state indigent support fund), \$0.00 State Bond Surcharge, \$0.00 Drug Law Enforcement/Justice Program Services. Erie County Municipal was paid \$0.00 for Indigent Drivers Alcohol Treatment Fund.

Bank / Online payment expenses totaled: \$0.00 (Credit Card & US Bank service fee). Court has paid a total of \$0.00 to the Village General Fund in 2026. Court has paid a total of \$16256.00 to the Village General Fund in 2025. Court has paid a total of \$20148.00 to the Village General Fund in 2024. Court has paid a total of \$16158.00 to the Village General Fund in 2023.

Court has paid a total of \$7805.00 to the Village General Fund in 2022

Court has paid a total of \$23133.00 to the Village General Fund in 2021

Court has paid a total of \$14352.46 to the Village General Fund in 2020.

Court has paid a total of \$33837.90 to the Village General Fund in 2019.

Court has paid a total of \$31425.03 to the Village General Fund in 2018.

2025 – 105 tickets issued

2024– 70 tickets issued

2023 - 60 tickets issued

2022 – 49 tickets issued

2021 – 98 tickets issued

2020 – 37 tickets issued

2019 – 120 tickets issued

7.Q. Legal- D. Lambros:

We have a couple of ordinances on for first reading that I worked on with the police chief. The first one deals with driving and suspension, and you don't need to read this whole thing. It's basically a reflection of, I know it's 21 pages, but it's a reflection of driving under suspension statute in Ohio, we don't have a local code. And part of the issue that we've had over the years with driving under suspensions is that because we don't have a local code, when there's citations issued on a state code, we can't put them into our mayor's court. So therefore, anything that we have, we're losing the court case on that. But, more importantly, we're going to send our Officers over to Erie County for any of the court dates. So, Jamie came to me over the winter, we talked about this. So, the implementation of that is to codify in our ordinances in the existing gravity and suspension laws in Ohio, so we're able to issue citations of the local ordinances.

And then the second one, which we're still working on a little bit, it brings into play, you've seen the last couple years of proliferation of E scooters and E bikes and we don't have anything in our code that covers those. That's what this does. And if you don't know it, I didn't know this, there's different classifications of E bikes and depending on the horsepower, actually it's not even horsepower. Depending on the power of the electric bikes, there's different rules that apply. For instance, the low powered ones could be on a sidewalk, but the high power, high-powered ones aren't allowed to be on the sidewalk.

With respect to E scooters, we have nothing on the E scooters. With E scooters, our code talks about the safety requirements before sunrise, sundown, once it gets dark. We see a lot of these scooters on the roads that don't have any lights on them. This changes that. It's going to require them to have safety equipment on, lights, that sort of thing, rear lights, front lights, so we can see them. I think we've all come down the roads at night, here this past summer and seeing these scooters and you're lucky you don't hit them because it's dark and you don't see them. So that's going to take care of at least from enforcement point aspect, that's going to take care of that issue hopefully.

7.R. Treasurer - L. Klonaris reports: Financials included in Council packets.
Council meeting agendas are being posted on website, should be available on Friday afternoon.
Financial Notes 2025 are complete, submitted and available for viewing at the Village Office.
Year 2025 is complete and closed out.
2023 – 2024 Audit is complete. State AUP Audit. (Agreed Upon Procedures). Copies available at office.
I will be attending Annual Training in Columbus on March 19-20.
Request motion to upgrade Microsoft e-mail accounts for Council members:
G. Finger makes a motion to upgrade email accounts for Council members; second by C. Kipfer.
All in Favor; Motion Passed.

Spring / Summer Transfer Station hours: M-W-F-Sat-Sun: 10 – 3

Note: Recent letters from Phil Strba are included in packets.

7.S. Telecommunications Oversight and Development Committee- J.Wolfe; Mayor Ehrbar reports:
A couple things, talked to representative from Verizon approximately 2 weeks ago. We're still on goal for the end of this month for them to put the remaining there antennas up on the existing transfer station tower.
And then in a couple weeks, myself, Dave Lambros, and Joe Wolfe have a meeting with an attorney for another tower over in that same area.

(next legislation numbers **O – 1** and **R - 1**)

9.0 First Readings:

9.1 ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – O - ____: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 71 ENTITLED “LICENSING: ACCIDENTS” OF THE KELLEYS ISLAND CODIFIED ORDINANCES, REPEALING FORMER CHAPTER 71.

(INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR RONALD E EHRBAR)

Motion to suspend the three reading rule,
RC: M. Gaither____, J.Wolfe____, G. Finger____, C. Kipfer,____ S. Stevenson____, J. Divoll_____

Motion to pass:

RC: M. Gaither _____, J.Wolfe _____, G. Finger _____, C. Kipfer, _____ S. Stevenson _____, J. Divoll _____

9.2 ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – O - _____ : AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 75 ENTITLED “BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES” OF THE KELLEYS ISLAND CODIFIED ORDINANCES, REPEALING FORMER CHAPTER 75.

(INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR RONALD E EHRBAR)

Motion to suspend the three reading rule,

RC: M. Gaither _____, J.Wolfe _____, G. Finger _____, C. Kipfer, _____ S. Stevenson _____, J. Divoll _____

Motion to pass:

RC: M. Gaither _____, J.Wolfe _____, G. Finger _____, C. Kipfer, _____ S. Stevenson _____, J. Divoll _____

9.3 ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – O - _____ : AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK-TREASURER TO INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$189,000.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

(INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR RONALD E. EHRBAR)

Motion to suspend the three reading rule,

RC: M. Gaither _____, J.Wolfe _____, G. Finger _____, C. Kipfer, _____ S. Stevenson _____, J. Divoll _____

Motion to pass:

RC: M. Gaither _____, J.Wolfe _____, G. Finger _____, C. Kipfer, _____ S. Stevenson _____, J. Divoll _____

9.4 ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – O - _____ : AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK-TREASURER TO PAY THE SALARY, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

(INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR RONALD E. EHRBAR)

Motion to suspend the three reading rule,

RC: M. Gaither _____, J.Wolfe _____, G. Finger _____, C. Kipfer, _____ S. Stevenson _____, J. Divoll _____

Motion to pass:

RC: M. Gaither _____, J.Wolfe _____, G. Finger _____, C. Kipfer, _____ S. Stevenson _____, J. Divoll _____

9.5 ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – O - _____: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK-TREASURER TO TRANSFER \$ 79,214.33 FROM FUND # 2021 (STATE HIGHWAY) TO FUND # 2011 (STREET CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR)

(INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR RONALD E. EHRBAR)

Motion to suspend the three reading rule,

RC: M. Gaither _____, J.Wolfe _____, G. Finger _____, C. Kipfer, _____ S. Stevenson _____, J. Divoll _____

Motion to pass:

RC: M. Gaither _____, J.Wolfe _____, G. Finger _____, C. Kipfer, _____ S. Stevenson _____, J. Divoll _____

9.6 RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – R - _____: A RESOLUTION AGREEING TO COOPERATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING OUTDOOR RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS

(INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR RONALD E. EHRBAR)

Motion to suspend the three reading rule,

RC: M. Gaither _____, J.Wolfe _____, G. Finger _____, C. Kipfer, _____ S. Stevenson _____, J. Divoll _____

Motion to pass:

RC: M. Gaither _____, J.Wolfe _____, G. Finger _____, C. Kipfer, _____ S. Stevenson _____, J. Divoll _____

10.0 Second Readings:

11.0 Third Readings & Emergencies:

12. Items from the Mayor: State of Village Address:

All is good financially and it looks like another busy summer with several projects in the works.

Big news happened on January 1st. Project that's been ongoing since 1966.

A property swap with ODNr to acquire property next to the cemetery between Sweet Valley and the cemetery and also property for the cemetery slash Sewer Safety Services building on Chapel Rd.

Again, that was a big mountain moved and it was approved on January 1st.

I would ask council to set up a workshop to work on the employee personnel manual, which has been talked about over the past two years and Lisa has changed some items needing approval from council to implement now.

I'd like to get a motion for the sewer project, a capital project grant through the Army Corps, a motion on that to accept.

G. Finger makes motion to accept Capital Project Grant through Army Corps; second by C. Kipfer
All in Favor. Motion Passed.

The next one is the state: Army Corps Program 594.

Can I get a motion to apply and accept?

J. Divoll makes a motion to apply and accept Army Corps Program 594; second by G. Finger.
All in Favor. Motion Passed.

The next grant is for our community park. Can I get a motion to apply and accept a State Capitol Budget Grant FY2027-2028 for Community Park?

G. Finger makes a motion to apply and accept Budget Grant for Community Park; second by S. Stevenson.
All in Favor. Motion Passed.

I need another motion from Council to apply for an extension for our RS and H contract for environmental assessments. It expired in 2024 and I was notified last month that we need to extend it to continue on with the airport projects.

If I can get a motion.

Motion made by S. Stevenson to extend RS & H contract; second by J. Divoll.
All in Favor. Motion Passed.

C. Kipfer: quick question, how long is that contract? Is that just a year or is it until 2028?
Mayor Ehrbar: Effective date will begin, you know 2026 and so two years effective to January 1st, 2028.

Mayor Ehrbar: And finally, I need a motion it's to accept the virtual meeting policy. This is a policy that our solicitor Dave Lambos forwarded to me. It's in order for us to have virtual meetings for committee meetings. And if I'm correct in saying only committee meetings, not for council meetings. And again, there's no voting, but it allows us to have committee meetings to discuss things, branches like what we've had these past few weeks with no airplanes and nobody can get here. And we can do these virtually and prepare for a future council meeting. Everyone has that in their packet.
If I can get a motion.

S. Stevenson makes motion to adopt Virtual Meeting Policy; second by J. Divoll.
All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Mayor Ehrbar announces Board and Committee appointments:

School Board appointed Julie Thomas to Park Board

Committee appointments:
Airport: Joe Wolfe, Jason Divoll
Finance: Chris Kipfer, Mary Gaither
Lands & Buildings: Mary Gaither, Gary Finger
Safety: Gary Finger, Scott Stevenson
Streets and Sidewalks: Scott Stevenson, Chris Kipfer
Transfer Station: Jason Divoll, Joe Wolfe

Planning Commission: Tim Coleman

BZA: Jen Parry, Steve Wermuth

Cemetery Board: Ned Williams

Refuse Board: Steve Wermuth

Design Review Board: Rick Holmes, looking for alternate

13. Items from Council:
G. Finger: I just have one question possibly, if we can look into with finance and the clerk about possibly getting maybe a savings account started when and if there's a funds available to get ready for the water tower project or other any other emergencies, seeing that we have a good balanced budget sitting 80% of our tap fees every year into that account.

Mayor Ehrbar: we can maybe we can look at a little bit more at a time possibly with finance.

G. Finger: because we're going to need a lot of money. Possibly we can increase it, depending on how our budget's balance.

C. Kipfer: the two ordinances that Dave talked about for the, the licensing and the E bikes, like you mentioned, they're the ones 20 some pages long and comparing what's in there versus the Ohio Revised Code, it seemed like there was areas where there's a lot of redundancy and other areas where there was maybe some discrepancies and then some gaps. So, when do we expect those to be finalized?

D. Lambros: You're going to find redundancy at all of it, pretty much because it's reflection of what the code reads. It's just that if we don't adopt it by local ordinance, we can't cite under it.

C. Kipfer: even if it's in the Ohio Revised Code.

D. Lambros: when we cite under state code law, all the cases have to go to Erie County Court. We are not allowed to hear that in Mayor's Court, which is the whole purpose of this.

Jamie has been on this for a couple years about getting something like this for that reason.

So, every time we issue a citation under the state code, the case is set in Erie County Court, which means whatever officers has to be over there for all the pretrials. Sometimes there might be 3 or 4 is typically what happens with these cases that they'll give them time to try and get the license squared away. Usually it's a reinstatement issue, it's an insurance issue that they can fix and that might take a couple of court dates. Every time there's a court date and we get we get called over there, whatever officers, arresting officer, if there is a pre-trial, either is called to be there. So, it's really about trying to avoid that more than anything. So, you're going to find that they it's going to reflect the code sections that are next to where that language comes from.

C. Kipfer: And then one thing I noticed or didn't notice in the bicycles and motorcycles, all the definitions of E bikes, it did not address writing on the sidewalks that I could see in there unless I missed it.

D. Lambros: Well, there is something in there and on that.

C. Kipfer: I must have missed it then, because I was specifically looking for that because I've noticed that being a problem with them on sidewalks.

14. Old Business:

15. Public Comment:

Leslie Korenko: Under items from the mayor, the 150,000 local funds for park recreation project. What is that?

Mayor Ehrbar replies: There's a public project grant by the state and we put in for 500,000 and then we put in our part would be honored 150,000 if, if we get it.

Leslie Korenko asks: Is there a project in mind?

Mayor Ehrbar replies: There's been drawings in the past. It's a new parking lot, new pavilion, redoing the washrooms and then and then finally there would be basketball and pickleball courts.

16. New Business:

17. Correspondence:

18. Motion to adjourn,

RC: M. Gaither_N/A___, J.Wolfe__N/A___, G. Finger __1___, C. Kipfer, ___Y___ S. Stevenson__2___, J. Divoll__Y___

Meeting Adjourned At: 10:39



Lisa M Klonaris, Clerk-Treasurer



Mayor Ronald E. Ehrbar