

Executive Summary – Committee as a Whole Meeting (January 15, 2026)

Meeting Start: 6:34 p.m.

Purpose: Work session to review pending legislation, discuss committee assignments, and address new business items prior to the 2026 organizational session.

1. Charter Commission Ordinance (2025-23)

- **Purpose:** To place the question of establishing a Charter Commission on the ballot and select commission members.
 - **Key Discussion Points:**
 - The ordinance will combine two ballot questions: whether to form a Charter Commission and who should serve on it.
 - The petition filing deadline is **February 17, 2026**, leaving limited time for candidates to collect signatures.
 - **Action:** Council agreed to **amend the ordinance to include an “emergency” clause** to ensure immediate enactment and give candidates sufficient time to file.
 - **Transparency Concerns:**
 - Members emphasized the need to publicly announce and advertise the opportunity to serve on the commission through the village newsletter and website.
 - Consensus that failure to communicate broadly could undermine public trust.
 - Suggestion: include a QR code linking to an FAQ page for interested residents.
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2. Pool Renovation Project

- **Overview:** Discussion on legislation to move forward with pool renovation design and bid processes.
 - **Key Points:**
 - Consideration of **consulting Tim Patterson**, a local pool builder who worked on the baby pool, before finalizing architectural contracts.
 - Concerns raised about:
 - **Conflict of interest** if Patterson both designs and bids on the project.
 - **Transparency** and fair competition during bidding.
 - **Decision:** Table the vote for two weeks pending consultation with the village solicitor and construction group.
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3. Police Department Oversight Resolution (2025-36)

- **Purpose:** To define council oversight in police hiring and personnel decisions.

- **Action: Postponed** for further review and policy alignment between the handbook and ordinance.
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4. Sale of Decommissioned Police Cruiser (2026-01)

- **Summary:** Ordinance to sell a decommissioned cruiser deemed surplus property.
 - **Details:**
 - Vehicle recently received a new engine under warranty but has significant body wear.
 - Multiple sales options discussed: trade-in, auction, or sale to another agency.
 - **Emergency clause justified** to expedite sale and recover funds promptly.
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5. Tax Renewal Levy (2026-02)

- **Purpose:** Renewal (not increase) of an existing 3.2-mill levy, effective for tax year 2025/collection year 2026.
 - **Discussion:**
 - Levy expected to generate **\$144,478** annually.
 - Actual effective rate now **~1.5 mills** due to reduced millage over time.
 - Renewal preserves a **12.5% state homestead rollback credit** for residents.
 - **Outcome:** Council supported renewal as financially stable for the village and beneficial to taxpayers.
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6. Finance and Audit Update

- **Finance Director Report:**
 - 2025 annual report **90% complete**; audit scheduled for **mid-February 2026**.
 - Village preparing to officially close 2025 accounts.
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7. Committee Assignments and Meeting Structure

- **Committee Memberships:**
 - General preference to maintain current assignments.
 - Councilman JP requested continued involvement in Parks & Recreation due to pool-related initiatives.
 - **Meeting Scheduling Debate:**
 - Discussion on the **redundancy** of holding multiple meetings covering the same topics (committee, work session, council).
 - Consensus to continue **Committee as a Whole at 6:30 p.m.**, emphasizing efficiency and inclusivity.
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8. Income Tax Enforcement (RITA)

- **Status:**
 - Restart of **subpoena program** for non-filers delayed during holidays.
 - Approximately **20% of village households** had not filed returns.
 - Many initial notices were returned undelivered; the next round of subpoenas scheduled for **late January**.
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9. Community Center Rental Fee Concerns

- **Resident Feedback:**
 - Complaint received about **\$600 total rental cost** (\$300 fee + \$300 refundable deposit).
 - Concerns over accessibility and fairness for residents.
 - **Council Discussion:**
 - Fees reflect actual maintenance and staffing costs; not intended for profit.
 - Comparisons made to market rates (e.g., private venues charging similar or higher fees).
 - Suggestions for improvement:
 - Reassess refundable deposit process to avoid excessive upfront charges.
 - Explore credit card “hold” system rather than upfront deposit.
 - **Next Step:** Finance and administrative staff to explore alternative payment handling options.
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10. Other Business

- **Pool Memberships:** New tracking system provides weekly updates.
- **Resident Tax Issues:** Confirmed consistent enforcement—no exceptions to penalties or interest to avoid setting precedent.
- **Public Perception:** Council agreed on the importance of maintaining transparency and consistency in communication.

Jeffrey Wilcheck, Fiscal Officer

Tiffany Southard, Mayor