

## **Executive Summary: Committee as a Whole Meeting**

**Date:** April 23, 2026

**Time:** 6:31 PM

**Attendees:** Councilpersons Martin, Grant, Passion, Koss, Pinter, Camara; Mayor Southard, Fiscal Officer Wilcheck, Chief Delp, Planner Fischer

---

### **Meeting Overview**

This session primarily focused on operational updates across **Services, Streets, and Parks & Recreation**, along with emerging governance and infrastructure concerns. No formal committee agenda items were scheduled; discussion was driven by updates and active issues.

---

### **Key Discussion Areas & Outcomes**

#### **1. Services – Community Cleanup Initiative**

- **Topic:** Planning a lake/community cleanup with dumpster support.
  - **Plan:**
    - Coordinate with vendor (Local Waste) for dumpster delivery.
    - Proposed **May 2 (primary)** and **May 9 (rain date)**.
    - Consider keeping dumpster up to two weeks depending on vendor availability.
  - **Enhancements Discussed:**
    - Community engagement (food, drinks, incentives).
    - Clear guidelines on acceptable waste (e.g., no treated lumber).
  - **Action Items:**
    - Confirm vendor availability and rules.
    - Publicize event once confirmed.
- 

#### **2. Services – Waste Collection Contracts**

- Trash bid documents finalized and will be distributed to **4 vendors**.
  - Leaf collection contract:
    - Currently under discussion; preference for **multi-year (2–3 year)** agreement for budget stability.
- 

#### **3. Streets – Infrastructure & Emergency Repair Concerns**

##### **A. Increasing Emergency Repair Costs**

- Multiple recent incidents where residents initiated emergency repairs (e.g., sewer/plumbing issues) resulting in **high-cost invoices to the Village** (example: ~\$16,000).
- Concerns:
  - Lack of oversight and verification.

- Potential contractor overcharging.
- No requirement for multiple estimates.

## **B. Permit & Oversight Gaps**

- Current gap: **No permit required for certain external plumbing work** unless it impacts right-of-way.
- Incident highlighted:
  - Contractor hit a **gas line**, causing road closure and safety risk.
  - No prior notification or permit.

## **Consensus / Direction:**

- Develop a **formal emergency repair policy**, including:
  - Clear definition of “emergency.”
  - Required **notification to the Village**.
  - Possibly **mandatory multiple estimates**.
  - Exploration of **street opening permits** and deposits.
- Benchmark against other municipalities (e.g., Westerville).

## **Action Items:**

- Research best practices and draft policy.
  - Consult legal counsel.
  - Improve resident communication on reporting procedures.
- 

## **4. Streets – Ongoing Projects**

### **A. Minerva Lake Road Project**

- Retaining wall construction pending.
- Resident complaints about **lawn damage (grading/grass quality)**.
- Contractor (Strawser) unresponsive regarding restoration concerns.

### **Next Steps:**

- Continue outreach to contractor.
  - Consider Village intervention (reseeding) if unresolved.
- 

## **B. Tree Management**

- Multiple fallen/damaged trees from storms.
- Some removals complicated by **utility lines**.
- Additional estimates being obtained.

### **Strategic Consideration:**

- Evaluate broader tree removal/maintenance while contractors are onsite.
- 

## **5. Parks & Recreation – Pool Operations**

### **Membership**

- Current: **97 members** (target ~200+; typical ~250).
- Discount promotion active through end of April.

## Maintenance & Readiness

- Pool preparation underway.
- Target fill date: **by May 14** (for certification).
- Weather dependency noted.

## Events Approved

### 1. Resident Preview Day

- **Date:** May 16
- **Time:** 12:00–4:00 PM
- **Details:** Free entry for residents (ID required)

### 2. Memorial Day Event

- **Date:** May 25
- **Time:** 12:30–2:30 PM
- **Details:** Hot dogs (donation-based), community event

## Operational Notes

- Food must be donation-based (not sold).
- Staffing/logistics need coordination.

---

## 6. Parks & Recreation – Pool Aesthetic Proposal

- Proposal to paint “America 250” mural.
- Concerns:
  - **Safety (visibility in water)** if dark colors used.
  - Maintenance and longevity.
- **Outcome:**
  - Tentative agreement:
    - Proceed only with **non-dark design (e.g., “250” only)**.
    - Final approval pending design adjustments.

---

## 7. Governance – Solicitor Permit Reform

- Current system:
  - Fixed expiration dates (inefficient).
  - Requires Social Security numbers (privacy concern).

### Proposed Changes:

- Shift to **time-based permits** (6 months / 1 year).
- Remove Social Security number requirement.
- Potential fee restructuring (e.g., higher for longer permits).

### Considerations:

- Must align with legal constraints (fees tied to administrative cost, not deterrence).
- Compare with neighboring municipalities.

### Action Items:

- Draft revised ordinance and fee structure.

- Present for future approval.
- 

### **Key Themes & Strategic Takeaways**

- **Need for stronger procedural controls** around emergency infrastructure repairs.
- **Increased contractor oversight** and accountability.
- Continued focus on **community engagement initiatives** (cleanup, pool events).
- Importance of **clear communication with residents** to prevent costly misunderstandings.
- Ongoing effort to **modernize administrative processes** (permits, contracts).

---

Jeffrey Wilcheck, Fiscal Officer

---

Tiffany Southard, Mayor