

## **Executive Summary: Committee of the Whole Work Session – May 14, 2026**

In Attendance: Councilpersons Martin, Grant, Camara, Pinter

Also in attendance: Fiscal Officer Wilcheck, Chief Delp

### **Overview**

The Committee of the Whole convened on May 14, 2026, to discuss key financial, infrastructure, public safety, and legislative matters impacting the Village. Major discussion topics included preparation for the 2027 tax budget, short-term financing concerns related to delayed county property tax settlements, ongoing pool and capital improvement planning, engineering challenges affecting road projects, public safety technology updates, and pending legislation.

The meeting highlighted several operational and fiscal priorities requiring near-term council action and strategic planning.

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## **1. Financial and Budgetary Planning**

### **Upcoming Finance Committee Meeting**

Council discussed the upcoming Finance Committee meeting scheduled for the following Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. The meeting is expected to focus heavily on:

- Development of the tax budget
- Long-term budget planning for 2027
- Wage increase discussions
- Pool operations and future direction
- Capital improvement priorities
- Police vehicle replacement planning
- K-9 program funding and logistics
- Administrative staffing/salary considerations

Council leadership emphasized the importance of establishing clearer strategic direction and measurable planning steps moving forward.

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### **April Financial Report**

Fiscal Officer Jeff Wilcheck reported that:

- April financial reports had been distributed earlier in the week.
- Additional materials included payment detail listings intended to improve council transparency into monthly expenditures.
- Income tax revenues remain positive and are approximately **5% higher than the same period last year**.

While encouraged by current trends, Wilcheck noted that income tax collections fluctuate significantly throughout the year and cautioned against overconfidence. Current projections suggest year-end growth could remain in the **3%–5% range** if trends continue.

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## 2. Immediate Cash Flow and Bond Payment Concerns

### Delayed County Property Tax Settlement

A significant operational concern involves delays at the county level due to software conversion issues affecting:

- First-half property tax settlements
- PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) distributions associated with the TIF district

The delays create a short-term liquidity problem because:

- A **\$133,000 bond interest payment** is due June 1.
  - The applicable fund currently contains only approximately **\$3,000**.
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### Proposed Financial Resolutions

To avoid a fund deficit and ensure timely debt service payment, two resolutions were introduced:

#### Resolution Purpose #1

Request an advance against anticipated PILOT payments from the county.

#### Resolution Purpose #2 (Backup Plan)

Authorize an advance from the General Fund to the TIF Fund if county funds are not received in time.

Both advances would be repaid once final county settlements are issued.

Council intended to move these resolutions forward at the next meeting.

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## 3. Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Projects

### Engineering Capacity Challenges

The Village is experiencing difficulties with its current engineering arrangement.

Key concerns include:

- The current engineering firm no longer maintains adequate local staffing.
- More expensive senior-level engineers are being assigned to projects.
- Engineering costs have risen substantially.

As a result:

- The Village plans to issue an **RFQ (Request for Qualifications)** to identify alternative engineering firms.
- The RFQ process will focus strictly on qualifications rather than pricing, consistent with government procurement standards.

Potential replacement firms were discussed, including EMH&T.

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## Road Project Status Updates

### Valley Road

- Engineering work continues.
- Tentative bidding timeline: Fall 2026.

#### **North Lake Court**

- Engineering work is ongoing.
  - Possible fall bidding anticipated.
  - CH2M Hill remains involved in this project.
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#### **Impact on Capital Planning**

The engineering transition is delaying several road and infrastructure projects, effectively pushing portions of the capital improvement schedule further into the future.

Council acknowledged the need for updated prioritization and planning.

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#### **4. Public Safety and Technology Initiatives**

##### **Flock Safety Camera System Review**

The Safety Committee recently met with representatives from Flock Safety to review the Village's automated license plate reader (ALPR) camera system.

##### **Topics Reviewed Included:**

- Data privacy protections
  - Cybersecurity measures
  - Data retention policies
  - User access controls
  - Public transparency practices
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##### **Data Governance and Security**

Council and Police leadership emphasized that:

- Vehicle images and metadata are retained for only 30 days under Ohio limitations.
- Data is stored through AWS GovCloud infrastructure.
- Access is restricted through:
  - Individual user logins
  - Multi-factor authentication
  - Audit tracking
  - Mandatory case numbers for searches

Police leadership stated that officers cannot perform casual or unauthorized searches.

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##### **Regional Information Sharing**

The Village participates in selective regional sharing agreements with nearby jurisdictions using Flock systems.

However:

- The Village does not broadly share data nationally.
  - Federal sharing is highly restricted, with limited exceptions for Secret Service-related security events.
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### **Operational Effectiveness**

Police leadership cited several practical uses of the system, including:

- Identifying suspect vehicles
- Assisting in criminal investigations
- Supporting missing persons cases
- School safety monitoring
- Real-time stolen vehicle alerts

One highlighted case involved suspects repainting a vehicle within hours after a criminal incident; the system still enabled successful tracking through license plate recognition.

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### **System Costs**

The Village currently operates:

- Four license plate reader cameras
- One pan-tilt-zoom live monitoring camera at the pavilion/basketball court area

Annual system costs are approximately:

- **\$13,000–\$14,000 per year**
- Under a five-year agreement

Council indicated continued evaluation of system effectiveness and public communication efforts.

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## **5. Traffic Safety and Community Concerns**

### **Ponderosa / Kerrwood Intersection**

Council discussed ongoing safety concerns at the Ponderosa and Kerrwood intersection.

Issues identified:

- Drivers missing the stop sign
- Poor traffic flow geometry
- Excessive pavement/open intersection design

Potential solutions discussed:

- Additional pavement striping
- Flashing solar stop-sign enhancements
- Possible redesign into a T-intersection
- Future traffic engineering review

Council generally favored beginning with lower-cost safety improvements before considering full reconstruction.

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### **Radar and Safety Signage**

The committee also discussed:

- Radar speed signs
- Enhanced crosswalk signage near schools
- Flashing pedestrian warning systems

Further review and coordination with administration were requested.

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### **Delivery Vehicle Complaints**

Concerns were raised regarding Amazon delivery drivers:

- Blocking streets
- Driving aggressively
- Parking improperly

Council members advised distinguishing between:

- Inconvenient behavior (reportable to employers)
  - Dangerous conduct (appropriate for police involvement)
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## **6. Legislative Matters**

### **Legislation Reviewed**

The committee reviewed several pending ordinances and resolutions, including:

#### **Ordinance 2026-06**

- Fee schedule updates
- Third reading
- Intended emergency passage

#### **Ordinance 2026-07**

- Solicitor permit regulations
- First reading

#### **Ordinance 2026-08**

- Council oversight procedures related to review of Village hires
- First reading

#### **North Lake Court Waterline Project**

- Second reading
  - Intended emergency passage upon third reading
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### **Procedural Limitations**

Due to attendance limitations, council clarified:

- Emergency legislation could proceed
- Readings could occur
- Some procedural actions requiring waiver of readings could not proceed

Additional legislative matters were deferred to a special meeting.

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### **Key Strategic Themes Emerging from the Meeting**

## **Fiscal Stability and Cash Flow Management**

Immediate attention is required to manage timing issues associated with county settlements and debt obligations while continuing long-range budget planning.

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## **Infrastructure Delivery Challenges**

Engineering staffing shortages and rising consultant costs are materially affecting project timelines and capital planning.

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## **Increased Emphasis on Transparency**

Council demonstrated continued focus on:

- Financial transparency
  - Public safety oversight
  - Data governance
  - Public communication regarding surveillance technologies
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## **Incremental Public Safety Improvements**

The Village continues pursuing practical, technology-driven approaches to:

- Crime prevention
  - Traffic safety
  - School security
  - Public accountability
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Jeffrey Wilcheck, Fiscal Officer

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Tiffany Southard, Mayor