

## **Executive Summary: Committee as a Whole Meeting – April 9, 2026**

**In Attendance:** Councilpersons Koss, Martin, Paessun, Camara, Grant; Mayor Southard, Attorney Joe Bachelor (filling in for Jesse Champ), Chief Delp

The Committee as a Whole convened at approximately 6:33 p.m. to discuss matters related to finance, public safety, and legislation, along with several operational updates impacting Village services and infrastructure.

### **Finance**

No formal finance presentation was delivered; however, a report was circulated in advance. Discussion centered on fuel purchasing for Village vehicles, specifically the transition from Speedway to Sheetz due to billing issues and cost efficiency. The Police Department confirmed the switch was operationally beneficial, citing improved reliability and slightly lower fuel costs.

### **Public Safety**

The Police Chief highlighted an upcoming **Operation Unity** initiative scheduled for May 6. This coordinated, multi-agency enforcement effort will involve several jurisdictions, including township police departments, the Sheriff's Office, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Officers will be temporarily deputized to operate across jurisdictions during a 12-hour period focused on traffic enforcement and crime suppression, particularly along Cleveland Avenue and State Route 161. The initiative is expected to result in increased traffic stops and enforcement visibility.

Additionally, ongoing concerns regarding residential street parking were discussed. Complaints have been received about excessive on-street parking, visibility issues, and blocked access (including mailboxes). Current ordinances do not adequately address some of these issues, such as mailbox obstruction. Council acknowledged the need to explore potential legislative solutions, including permit systems or restrictions on the number of vehicles per household.

### **Legislation**

Two ordinances were reviewed:

- **Pool Concession Discounts Ordinance:** Reauthorization of existing employee and end-of-season discounts, consistent with prior years.
- **Fee Schedule Ordinance:** Administrative correction to reinstate previously approved fees (e.g., conditional use applications and chicken coop permits) that were inadvertently omitted. No fee increases were proposed.

### **Infrastructure & Public Works**

- **Pothole Repairs:** A.J. Asphalt was selected as the lowest bidder and is expected to begin repairs within the following week, weather permitting.
- **Road Striping:** Newly completed striping on Minerva Lake Road and Northland Plaza Drive received positive feedback, improving visibility and traffic safety.
- **Stormwater & Grading Project:** Coordination is underway with contractors to address grading issues near Minerva Lake Road properties. A shift from retaining wall construction to regrading was agreed upon with affected residents, potentially reducing costs.
- **Lakefront Paver Erosion:** A deteriorating paver area along the lake was identified as a larger structural issue likely requiring professional intervention. Preliminary cost estimates range from \$15,000–\$25,000. The issue may be addressed as part of broader lake improvement projects.

## Pool Operations

Significant operational adjustments are planned for the 2026 pool season:

- **Concession Stand:** Reduced hours (primarily afternoons and weekends) to better align with attendance and control costs. Weather-based closures will also be implemented.
- **Inventory Management:** A shift toward smaller, more frequent purchases to reduce waste. Previous over-ordering contributed to financial inefficiencies.
- **Menu Changes:** Simplified offerings, including microwaveable items (e.g., Hot Pockets), to streamline operations.
- **Special Events:** Consideration of food trucks and a potential resident-only event prior to Memorial Day weekend opening.
- **Plumbing Repairs:** Minor repairs were completed at a cost of approximately \$175 to maintain facility standards for the season.

## Staffing Challenges

The Village continues to face difficulties hiring a part-time maintenance worker. Despite paid advertising and outreach, candidate no-shows and lack of qualified applicants persist. As a temporary solution, a current lifeguard (and son of a council member) may assist with maintenance duties. Transparency and conflict-of-interest precautions were emphasized, including council awareness and potential recusal from related votes.

## Additional Updates

- A sewer-related reimbursement issue remains under review, with funding available in an existing maintenance account pending Council direction.
- Community engagement strategies for hiring (e.g., outreach to local families and colleges) were discussed but have yielded limited success to date.

## **Conclusion**

The meeting focused on operational efficiency, infrastructure maintenance, and proactive planning for the upcoming summer season. Key priorities include addressing parking concerns through potential legislation, managing pool operations more cost-effectively, advancing infrastructure repairs, and resolving ongoing staffing shortages.

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Jeffrey Wilcheck, Fiscal Officer

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Tiffany Southard, Mayor