



VILLAGE OF NORTH BALTIMORE
Special Council Meeting - February 3rd, 2026 (2/3/26)

February 03, 2026
4:30 PM Meeting

Agenda

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Mayor Aaron Patterson – HERE, Ms. Beaupry – HERE, Ms. Hefner – HERE,
Mr. Richmond – HERE, Mr. Engard – HERE, Mr. Sweat – HERE

III. Approval of Minutes

1. Council Special Meeting - January 6th, 2026 (1/6/26) (Amended)

Ms. Hefner made a motion to approve the Minutes for the January 6th, 2026,
Council Special Meeting, seconded by Mr. Engard. All members approved.

IV. Letters and Communications

Mayor Patterson presented a letter from Ms. Lydia Swain, a North Baltimore
Dispatcher. The letter requested that dispatch employees be provided with the
opportunity to receive additional training and improve the department. She
emphasized the importance of the Village's dispatchers having local knowledge.

V. Public Discussion on Dispatch (5-min limit)

Ms. Lori Hicks stated that she had been asked by Sergeant Broshious to
provide information on potential expenses to upgrade North Baltimore's
dispatch equipment. She estimated that basic equipment would cost \$40,000-
\$45,000 and be scalable – meaning that additional equipment, such as foot
switches or door releases, could be added on later.

Sergeant Broshious stated that the current equipment did not record audio for
incoming phone calls and that it was a liability issue. He stated that this upgrade
would add this capability.

Mr. John Harden asked why the dispatch decision was being rushed.

Mayor Patterson replied that the decision was partly based on the time frame to adopt the Centralsquare software [for the Police Department]. He stated that the decision had not been rushed, and that he and Administrator Bender visited the Sheriff's Office to discuss dispatch several months prior. He estimated that the transition had been in discussion for approximately 2-3 months.

Mr. Harden asked when this topic was first discussed with the public.

Mayor Patterson replied that the first public meeting on dispatch was in January [1/6/2026 Special Meeting].

Mr. Harden asked Administrator Bender if any funding sources had been identified for dispatch upgrades.

Mr. Mason Davis, Economic Development Specialist for the Village, stated that he had reviewed existing grant opportunities. He stated that existing state and federal grants were not applicable for dispatch upgrades.

Mr. Harden stated that he had searched the FEMA website and identified 10 grants.

Mr. Davis stated that he had reviewed the FEMA website during his research. He stated that some FEMA grants titles appear as if they are suitable for dispatch services but are focused on specific emergency response programs [eg. weather-related disasters, forest fires, etc.].

Mr. Bender stated that grant opportunities are contingent on preparing applications, a long waiting period, and the award process, which would not be suitable for the timeframe of the dispatch decision.

Mayor Patterson asked Mr. Harden if he wanted to provide the list of grants he had found.

Mr. Harden declined, stating that it was the administrator's job [Mr. Harden provided a copy of the list to Mr. Davis following the meeting].

Ms. Paige Cotterman discussed a recent house fire in North Baltimore, stating that dispatcher Lydia Swain had provided coffee, water, and hot chocolate to the firemen after their work. She stated that the American Red Cross had not been contacted after the fire, and that Ms. Swain had informed them. She stated that this was high-quality work.

Mayor Patterson responded that his previous comments about "quality of service" were not intended to be an insult to North Baltimore's dispatch employees. He stated that these comments referred to the advanced technology and training offered by Wood County.

Ms. Cotterman asked why a maximum of 3 meetings were being held if the decision was not considered an emergency.

Mayor Patterson replied that 3 meetings were the requirement for legislation to be passed [as a non-emergency resolution]. He stated that Council members could table Resolution No. 01-2026, but that it was not his choice.

Ms. Cotterman requested that Council table Resolution No. 01-2026. She asked what would occur if the Village completed the transition of dispatch services and then was not satisfied. She inquired if this was something that residents could vote on.

Mayor Patterson explained the steps for residents to file a referendum petition.

Administrator Bender stated that if Resolution No. 01-2026 were passed as an emergency, a referendum petition would not be possible, as emergency legislation is not subject to these provisions. He stated that the Village's legal counsel had recommended Resolution No. 01-2026 be passed as an emergency due to the potential for disruptions of services if dispatch employees resigned during the transition period.

Ms. Cotterman asked if dispatch employees would receive payment for their sick time.

Administrator Bender replied that all accrued vacation time would be paid out, and sick time could be transferred to other employers if they accepted.

Ms. Cotterman asked if there were still 2 open dispatcher positions at the Sheriff's Office.

Captain Gregory Panning replied that there were openings and that the North Baltimore dispatchers would have priority consideration if they applied.

Ms. Cotterman stated that she urged council members not to pass Resolution No. 01-2026 as an emergency.

Mayor Patterson moved to the next speaker, Ms. Heather Bressler.

Ms. Bressler stated that she was in attendance for her interview for the vacant council member position. She stated that she had worked as a dispatcher for the Village briefly and emphasized the importance of expanded training.

Ms. Becky (last Name not registered) asked about tabling a resolution. She inquired if this would result in 3 additional readings of Resolution No. 01-2026 being required. She also asked if tabling the legislation would allow it to be voted upon by residents.

Mayor Patterson stated that the referendum process he had explained earlier in the meeting, or an initiative petition, would be applicable in this situation.

Mr. Harden inquired about a comment that Mayor made earlier in the meeting, in which he stated that the lack of training and upgrades was the fault of the administration. He asked how this was a reward for the dispatch employees' positions being transferred to Wood County.

Mayor Patterson replied that Mr. Harden's remarks were not an accurate representation of his statement. He replied that the lack of development in dispatch services had occurred over the course of 30 years and that he did not see any decision as a reward. He stated that whatever decision council members made for dispatch services was intended to fix this.

Ms. Cotterman stated that the county would be rewarded in this instance, as they were receiving Village funds.

Mayor Patterson replied that Wood County would be paid to provide a service to the Village, similar to other contracted services.

Mr. Richard Bosak spoke about his experience as a former dispatch employee and trainer for Toledo Fire Dispatch. He stated that Lucas County's technologies had a lot of advantages and that upgrades to Village equipment would be expensive. He stated that liability was a concern at the time and that the ability to record calls was necessary.

Mr. Andrew Coup stated that he agreed with Mr. Bosak.

Ms. Marissa Swain asked if any grants had been identified for dispatch equipment.

Mr. Davis explained his research process for grants, utilizing the Grants.Gov platform, reviewing department websites, and other sources to review opportunities. He stated that many grant opportunities were no longer offered for emergency services, and most are not applicable for dispatch equipment.

Mr. Bosak stated that his experience with Lucas County Fire Dispatch had led him to a similar conclusion, that it is difficult to obtain grant funding for communications equipment.

Ms. Cotterman stated that she did not believe that Resolution 01-2026 should be passed until more information was acquired.

VI. Third Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

- 1. Resolution NO. 01-2026: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A DISPATCH SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Ms. Beaupry made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 01-2026 as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Sweat. All members approved.

VII. Vacant Council Seat Applicant Interviews

The following candidates for the vacant council seat were interviewed during the meeting: Mr. Michael Woodruff, Mr. Andrew Coup, Ms. Heather Bressler, Mr. James Chaffin, Ms. Jordan Thomas, and Mr. Richard Bosak.

VIII. ~~Executive Session: To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official under ORC 121.22(G)(1), with potential action to follow~~

The executive session outlined in the agenda was not taken.

IX. Other New Business

Administrator Bender requested a motion from the council to provide a severance payment equal to 3 months of pay to dispatch employees whose employment continued through March 3rd, 2026.

Mayor Patterson asked Administrator Bender to confirm that vacation days would be paid out to employees.

Administrator Bender confirmed this was correct.

Mayor Patterson stated that employees who continued to work for dispatch until the official transfer of services to Wood County would be eligible for severance pay. If employees choose to leave the position prior to this date, they would forfeit the severance payment.

Ms. Hefner made a motion to authorize severance payments equal to 3 months of pay to North Baltimore Dispatch employees who work until March 3rd, 2026, seconded by Mr. Richmond. All members approved.

X. Other Old Business

Nothing of note.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:28 PM.

Approved:

Mason Davis, Clerk of Council

Aaron Patterson, Mayor

Paul Skaff, Attorney

Dee Hefner, Pres of Council

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