



AGENDA REPORT

New Haven, Michigan

Meeting Type

MEETING DATE:	11 August 2026
DEPARTMENT:	Village President
DATE SUBMITTED:	4 August 2026
PREPARED BY:	Brian Meissen
ITEM TITLE:	Council Vacant Seat Appointment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the July Village Council meeting, Trustee Hashem's seat was formally declared vacant. The opening was subsequently posted on the Village's website and Facebook page, and qualifying letters of interest were received from Matt Benoit, Brett Knybel, and Devon Burgess. An additional letter was not considered because the applicant was a resident of Chesterfield Township and therefore did not meet the residency requirements for appointment.

Each of the three eligible applicants has expressed an interest in serving the community. Both Mr. Benoit and Mr. Knybel currently serve on the Village's Zoning Board of Appeals, providing them with experience in municipal proceedings and exposure to matters affecting the Village.

Mr. Benoit has also established a consistent record of involvement beyond his appointed service. Since moving into the Village, he has attended nearly every Village Council and Planning Commission meeting, regularly follows the issues under consideration, and has provided thoughtful feedback during public comment. Although prior meeting attendance is not a prerequisite for appointment, this level of participation demonstrates familiarity with current Village matters, an understanding of the public decision-making process, and a sustained commitment to becoming involved in the community.

As Council considers the applicants, demonstrated engagement, familiarity with ongoing Village business, and readiness to contribute immediately may be relevant factors in determining who is best positioned to assume the responsibilities of the vacant seat.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Appoint an applicant to the vacated Council seat to serve until the next general election.