

November 3, 2025

A REGULAR MEETING of the Akron Village Board was held on this date at 7:03 pm. Present: Mayor: Brian T. Perry; Trustees: E. Peter Forrestel, Michael R. Middaugh, Darin S. Schultz and John W. Norton; Village Attorney Andrew Borden, Clerk Jayne DeTine, and Public Works Manager Jon Cummings.

The Mayor led us in the pledge to the flag.

RESOLUTION duly moved by Middaugh and seconded by Schultz that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 20, 2025 be and hereby are approved by the Village Board.

ADOPTED	BRIAN T. PERRY	- AYE
	MICHAEL R. MIDDAUGH	- AYE
	E. PETER FORRESTEL	- AYE
	DARIN S. SCHULTZ	- AYE
	JOHN W. NORTON	- AYE

RESOLUTION, duly moved by Forrestel seconded by Norton that the audit of the bills is approved, and the Treasurer authorized to pay same in accordance with the following abstract of audit vouchers:

General Fund	\$	18,853.53
Electric Fund	\$	85,331.13
Water Fund	\$	15,514.01
Sewer Fund	\$	8,707.69
Capital Projects	\$	37,618.36

ADOPTED	BRIAN T. PERRY	- AYE
	MICHAEL R. MIDDAUGH	- AYE
	E. PETER FORRESTEL	- AYE
	DARIN S. SCHULTZ	- AYE
	JOHN W. NORTON	- AYE

PUBLIC HEARING – None

APPEARANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – David Faron from Crittenden Ave who lives next door to the Village water tank came before the Board to request letters regarding the weed treatment and security lighting at the water tank.

Resident Kay Green reported that the DAR Chapter approved of the awards to be given to Akron Fire Company Members and Town of Newstead Fire Company members who provided assistance at the bus accident on the I-90 back in August 2025.

PROJECT REPORTS –

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade – Trustee Forrestel and Attorney Borden have been working with Eric Weis from Clark Patterson Lee on a “end of project” letter.

Electric Substation Upgrade – Public Works Manager Jon Cummings reported that the Village has been doing the civil work for the project such as transformer pads, trenching, etc. Waiting on new bolts for pads.

State Street Bridge – Nothing new to report.

East Avenue Water/Sewer Line Replacement – Nothing new to report.

Water Tank Improvements – Public Works Manager Jon Cummings reported that he is getting prices for hydrant bids. Blue storage building has been demolished, and a new one will be built to hold the Tank Site Equipment.

MONTHLY REPORTS –

Departments –

VILLAGE ATTORNEY – Village looks great as per the efforts of the DPW with fall flowers in the Main St pots and the overall cleanup of yard waste/brush and leaves.

CLERK – submitted report for October 2025. Reported: Village has collected 97.86% of the tax bills as of October 31, 2025 and will forward all balances to Erie County immediately; Ordered and received the Village Parking Tags for this winter season; Placed ad for Skilled Worker in the Akron Bugle and on INDEED; With the help of Public Works Manager Cummings submitted the CDBG projects for 2026-2027; Village Hall hosted the Early Voting and General Election Day; Continuing to work with Municipal Solutions on the Sewer Upgrade Project, Water Tank Improvements Project and the East Avenue Water/Sewer line replacement project.

CHIEF OF POLICE – submitted report for October 2025 and schedule for November 2025. Excused Absence.

PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER –reported: working on milling and paving the remaining portion of Newton Ave, continuing to work on the substation substructure for the new transformer, leaf pick-up is going well with help from the Electrical Dept, DPW will work on the sound system for Russell Park next week. New Truck that was ordered should be ready within 3 to 4 weeks.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – submitted report for October 2025. Excused Absence.

AKRON FIRE COMPANY – Reported in Work Session held earlier.

Elected Officials –

TRUSTEES – COORDINATORS

Trustee Norton – reported: Wanted to recognize the Police Dept for doing an excellent job on Halloween.

Trustee Forrestel – reported: HR Committee sent out response letters to Teamster Representative Nick Doran.

Mayor Perry – reported: Requested an executive session for Personnel and Contractual issues.

Trustee Middaugh – reported: reminding everyone to vote.

Trustee Schultz – Reported: Kudos to Chief Lauricella’s handling of the arrest on Halloween; Police Dept is looking to purchase laptops, radios, camera for back seat of patrol car with the tech grant they received; Officer Maria Westphal is organizing the Shop w/Cop and coat drop off at Akron Central School.

OLD BUSINESS

West Shore Property Development – Trustee Forrestel recommended approving the 2nd payment in the amount of \$30,600.00 to OB Custom Timber Framing for the shelter. Still waiting on the extension of the grant from Nancy Heath from Erie County Legislator Chris Greene office.

RESOLUTION duly moved by Forrestel and seconded by Norton to approve 2nd payment in the amount of \$30,600.00 to OB Custom Timber Framing for the shelter at the West Shore property as per the recommendation of Trustee Forrestel be and hereby is approved.

ADOPTED	BRIAN T. PERRY	- AYE
	MICHAEL R. MIDDAUGH	- AYE
	E. PETER FORRESTEL	- AYE
	DARIN S. SCHULTZ	- AYE
	JOHN W. NORTON	- AYE

American Legion/LL Tillman – Attorney Borden reported that the final amendment of the agreement will go back to the Legion. New storage building is in place.

Electric Rate Case – Treasurer Michel is waiting on the Union Contracts to be approved before sending wages to PLM.

Russell Park Shelter – Work is scheduled to begin in late winter early spring.

LOSAP Proposition –A Special Election has been scheduled for December 2, 2025, from noon to nine.

NEW BUSINESS – None

CORRESPONDENCE –

Letter from BankonBuffalo Universal Associate Jacob Halleck requesting to rename Monroe St to Bank St to honor the Bank of Akron/BankonBuffalo’s long history of being located on the corner of Main St and Monroe St since before the 1900’s. The Board decided to keep the name as Monroe St.

Letter from Keri Stark from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance informing that due to the federal government shutdown the opening date for the 2025-2026 Home Energy Assistance program (HEAP) has been postponed indefinitely.

Assessor’s Report for October 2025.

Letter from the Akron Newstead Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to use Main Street and Russell Park for the Light Up Akron Event scheduled for December 13, 2025 from 3pm -9pm and for the assistance of the APD and AFC to help with the parade route (Bloomingdale Ave – Russell park) and to close Main St from Buffalo St to Church St.

RESOLUTION duly moved by Middaugh and seconded by Schultz to approve the request from the Akron Newstead Chamber of Commerce for the use of Russell Park for the Light Up Akron Event scheduled for December 13, 2025 from 3pm-9pm and for the assistance of the APD and AFC to help with the parade route and to close Main St from Buffalo St to Church St be and hereby is approved.

ADOPTED	BRIAN T. PERRY	- AYE
	MICHAEL R. MIDDAUGH	- AYE
	E. PETER FORRESTEL	- AYE
	DARIN S. SCHULTZ	- AYE
	JOHN W. NORTON	- AYE

Resolution from Congressman Nick Langworthy (NY) and Senator Jim Justice (WV) to support the Energy Choice Act.

RESOLUTION MOVED BY TRUSTEE SCHULTZ AND SECONDED MY TRUSTEE MIDDAUGH SUPPORTING CONGRESSMAN NICK LANGWORTHY’S ENERGY CHOICE ACT (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) AND IN OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT-MANDATED NATURAL GAS BANS

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective, and clean-burning energy source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, New York State enacted the **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)**, which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and

WHEREAS, building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul has publicly supported these bans and related measures as part of her administration’s climate and energy agenda, despite widespread concerns that such mandates will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and

WHEREAS, these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the **Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945)**, federal legislation that ensures state and local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of the Village of Akron strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Langworthy (H.R. 3699) and Senator Justice (S. 1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State’s natural gas bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of the Village of Akron urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and preserve reliable access to natural gas for New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.

ADOPTED	BRIAN T. PERRY	- AYE
	MICHAEL R. MIDDAUGH	- AYE
	E. PETER FORRESTEL	- AYE
	DARIN S. SCHULTZ	- AYE
	JOHN W. NORTON	- AYE

Letter from Daniel Kowalik to the Town of Newstead to remain Emergency Manger.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Planning Board Chairman Brian Murray wondered if Akron Central School has gone before the Town Board to request annexation of the School property that is in the Town to be annexed into the Village. The Board has not heard that the School has gone to the Town yet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

RESOLUTION duly moved by Schultz and seconded by Middaugh to go into an executive session regarding the collective negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and regarding the medical, financial, credit, employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation at 8:05 pm be and hereby is approved.

ADOPTED	BRIAN T. PERRY	- AYE
	MICHAEL R. MIDDAUGH	- AYE
	E. PETER FORRESTEL	- AYE
	DARIN S. SCHULTZ	- AYE
	JOHN W. NORTON	- AYE

RESOLUTION duly moved by Forrestel and seconded by Perry to come out of the executive session regarding the collective negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and regarding the medical, financial, credit, employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation at 8:47 pm be and hereby is approved.

ADOPTED	BRIAN T. PERRY	- AYE
	MICHAEL R. MIDDAUGH	- AYE
	E. PETER FORRESTEL	- AYE
	DARIN S. SCHULTZ	- AYE
	JOHN W. NORTON	- AYE

On motion of Perry and seconded by Middaugh at 8:48 pm this meeting was ADJOURNED.