

This is a meeting of the Village Council of Woodstock in public for the purpose of conducting Village business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the agenda. Council may recognize you during their discussion for your comment.

**Village of Woodstock Village Council  
REGULAR MEETING  
Woodstock Municipal Building  
January 12, 2026  
6:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

James Weidner, elected to a vacant Council seat in November, took the oath of office administered by the Mayor prior to the beginning of the meeting.

**1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL**

Meeting was called to order by Phil Garland, Mayor  
Roll Call: Weidner, Y; Zizzo, Y.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. SET AGENDA**

Weidner moved and seconded by Zizzo to set the agenda.  
Floor is open for discussion on motion.  
Roll Call: Weidner, Y; Zizzo, Y.  
Motion Carried; Y.

Resident Kyle Barnhardt was appointed to a vacant Council seat by the Mayor and took the oath of office.

Resident Melinda Current was nominated by James Weidner to fill an additional Council seat and was confirmed by voice vote as follows:  
Roll Call: Weidner, Y; Zizzo, Y; Barnhardt Y.  
The oath of office was administered by the Mayor.

Weidner moved and seconded by Current to delay filling the remaining two open seats on Council.  
Floor is open for discussion on motion.  
Roll Call: Current, Y; Weidner, Y; Zizzo, Y; Barnhardt, Y.  
Motion Carried; Y.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Current moved and seconded by Weidner to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.  
Floor is open for discussion on motion.  
Roll Call: Current, Y; Weidner, Y; Zizzo, Y; Barnhardt, Y.  
Motion Carried; Y.

#### 4. FISCAL OFFICER REPORT

Total receipts for the month of December were \$16,413.33 and expenditures were paid for the month totaling \$41,167.40. Expenditures included \$22,482 to McMahon DeGulis in legal fees, about \$4,400 to Redmond and Covalen for pump parts, and \$550 to LUC for our annual membership. There were no unusual receipts.

The most recent North Lewisburg invoice (12/11/2025) shows a balance due of \$264,372.28.

Weidner moved and seconded by Current to accept the financial statements for December 2025 and approve December 2025 expenditures as presented by the Fiscal Officer.

Floor is open for discussion on motion.

Roll Call: Current, Y; Weidner, Y; Zizzo, Y; Barnhardt, Y.

Motion Carried; Y.

#### 5. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor stated that he and Herron were in Court today in a hearing that did not go well for the Village. Herron was deposed last week and the Mayor will be deposed later this week. The trial begins in April. Herron stated that we continue to try to come up with a settlement, but North Lewisburg is not willing to discuss it.

The concept of Village dissolution was brought up by the Mayor. Herron distributed an information sheet on the topic and recommended that the issue be discussed with legal counsel. Zizzo asked if our attorney was present for the hearing and what his reaction was. Herron stated that the attorney focused on the three primary issues: the amount due to North Lewisburg for services already billed, rates to be charged going forward, and sharing of costs if both communities regionalize to Logan County. Our attorney had earlier made a motion to stay the litigation so that these three elements could be negotiated between the two Villages. The Judge denied that motion using an analogy that essentially illustrated that North Lewisburg has already turned away this proposal multiple times. North Lewisburg's attorney then requested a stay of litigation for several months to allow time for filing a motion for summary judgment and a ruling on that motion. North Lewisburg noted that such a ruling would resolve most, but not all, of the issues. The Judge denied that request as well.

Herron stated that the Judge questioned the EPA about their likely reaction to an attempt to terminate services to Woodstock. The EPA stated that they would seek the Court's intervention. When asked about a timeline for Woodstock's alternatives, the EPA stated that the process to approve and build a Village treatment plant could take 5 to 10 years.

Weidner asked if North Lewisburg is willing to work with us. The Mayor stated that they aren't even willing to talk to us. Herron explained that North Lewisburg mistakenly believes that Woodstock walked out on an agreement reached at mediation. That agreement only required that the proposed terms be presented to each Village's Council after the mediation. The Mayor stated that the Judge said a number of times that Woodstock would just have to pay. Herron stated that the Judge also expressed that nothing he said should be interpreted to mean that he has made up his mind on the issues in this case.

Zizzo asked what would happen if it turns out to be feasible to build a treatment plant in the Village. Herron stated that, according to RCAP, the first step before funding would be a feasibility study by an engineer that looks at all of the alternatives available. He further stated he doesn't recommend a local treatment plant because of the difficulties associated with successfully operating one. RCAP could help identify funding opportunities after the completion of the study. The EPA is also a possible source of loans or grants.

Current moved and Zizzo seconded that the Mayor and Village Administrator identify and contact three professional engineering firms to estimate the cost to conduct a feasibility study of sewer service options for the Village and to select one based on cost and capabilities.

Floor is open for discussion on motion.

Roll Call: Current, Y; Weidner, Y; Zizzo, Y; Barnhardt, Y.

Motion Carried; Y.

Zizzo asked what would happen to the Village under the dissolution scenario. The Mayor and Herron stated that it would become part of Rush Township. Herron stated that the sewer might be managed by a board appointed by the trustees. Legal issues involving the Township would be handled by the County Prosecutor.

## 6. PUBLIC

Tim Kemper, a Rush Township resident in attendance, stated that he had found a list of ten apparently suitable engineering firms doing business in Champaign County on his phone and would share them with Herron.

A non-resident in attendance asked if Woodstock residents were still paying sewer bills and if North Lewisburg was still being paid. Herron explained that the residents are paying the Village and that Woodstock is paying what it believes it is contractually obligated to pay North Lewisburg.

Loretta Dillon, a resident in attendance, asked if the difference was being kept in escrow. Herron stated that rates were maintained at \$75.85 per EDU years ago to build a cash reserve for that very purpose. Legal fees in the last few months have eroded that reserve somewhat, but a reserve is still in place. Dillon asked if input from the residents was sought. Herron stated that Council has been extremely open with residents. Information is and has been openly shared. Attendance at Council meetings by residents has been low. Dillon complained that web site posting were not being kept current.

## 7. VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Herron stated that he and the Mayor had a phone meeting with the Director of the Logan County Sewer District. Regionalization and Logan County's willingness to work with Woodstock were discussed. The Director indicated that they were willing and the Logan County Commission is also willing. They also discussed possible maintenance of our lift station. He expressed interest in that as well. They requested a copy of the as-built plans for our system. Marked up originals were provided for them to digitize. They also provided a copy of the draft agreement used during discussions with North Lewisburg. They said that they'd be willing to do the same arrangement with Woodstock. The agreement has no numbers. Herron stated that he believes that they charge their own customers \$55. We would see additional costs associated with maintenance of our system and financing the pipe connection to the Logan County lift station. A feasibility study commissioned by North Lewisburg in 2023 showed a cost of \$2.8 million for that part of the project.

Herron recognized Rusty Pence's efforts to back up Ron as Ron's health limits his ability to work.

At last month's meeting, Council passed a resolution Authorizing the Administrator to approach the Champaign County Health District about residential septic systems in the Village. Herron spoke with Andy Russell, Director of Environmental Services, about the requirements. He stated that each property would need a professional soil evaluation. Then an authorized individual would need to draw up plans for an on-site septic system for each property. Each

property would require a permit to install. He expressed a number of concerns, including potential harm to the value of homes in the Village. Churches and any commercial or government buildings would require a permit from the EPA. He characterized the idea as a step backward.

There was an issue at the lift station Thursday evening. We were operating with only one pump as the second pump was removed for repair or replacement. The remaining pump failed and Ron called in a pumping service who was on-site from about 10:00PM to about noon on Friday. They hauled about 6,000 gallons to Urbana. Ron determined that it was an electrical issue which was repaired by a contractor. As an aside, Logan County stated that they would be willing to help maintain our lift station even prior to implementing an agreement with them.

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

Bryant Bailey asked about the blank sign on N. Main which he brought to our attention last year. Herron stated that the new signs are in and will be installed before too long.

Bailey also asked about the EPA's recommendation that he secure a signed waiver from the Village to release him from the requirement to connect to the Village system when it's available. Herron suggested that, because there are legal issues with ramifications extending far into the future, he allow his legal counsel to contact the Village's legal counsel

Bailey also asked about the status of the porch issue on his proposed structures. Herron stated that efforts would be made to fill the current BZA vacancies, but that he is not authorized to build the structures.

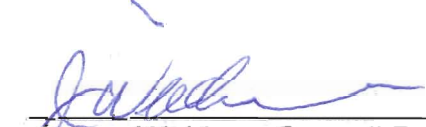
A non-resident in attendance asked about the status of the solar project. Herron stated that there is no new information.


10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Zizzo moved seconded by Current to adjourn.  
Motion Carried; Y.

This meeting was recorded.

  
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Tom Hallinan, Fiscal Officer

  
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James Weidner, Council President

  
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Phil Garland, Mayor