

VILLAGE OF LATTY

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June 9, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

Village Council met in regular session on June 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Latty Village Town Hall. Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM with a motion made by Mike Gray and seconded Kirk Stoller. Members present were: Kirk Stoller, Beth Stoller, Mike Gray, Shawn Gerber, Gabby Hook, and John Hatcher. Absent were Darlene Knapp and Barb Sinn.

Guests present included John Dagger and John Lichty with the Paulding County Veterans Service Commission, Jane Gray representing the Latty Church Festival Committee, and Amy Hoffman with Palmer Energy.

Prayer to start the meeting was given by Mayor Gerber.

Purple Heart Village Designation: John Dagger and John Lichty attended to present the Purple Heart Village designation to the Village of Latty. The Village of Latty becomes the twelfth village to receive this designation. Council was informed that the Purple Heart Trail extends across 48 states and nine countries, making it a nationally recognized honor. Mayor Gerber read and signed the Purple Heart Proclamation before those in attendance, officially placing the Village of Latty on the Purple Heart Trail. Council expressed that this designation is a tremendous honor for the village and extends its sincere gratitude to all servicemen and women who have served and sacrificed for our nation. The Village of Latty is proud to recognize and honor their service through participation in the Purple Heart Trail program.

Palmer Energy Aggregation Program: Amy Hoffman provided an update on the village's electric aggregation program. She noted that the Village of Latty entered into electric aggregation with Palmer Energy in 2017 and that 77 of Ohio's 88 counties currently participate in aggregation programs. Latty's current aggregation contract expires in May 2027. Palmer Energy is working to regionalize aggregation services with Allen, Van Wert, Putnam, and Hardin Counties, along with the Village of Paulding. Program implementation dates are scheduled for December 2026, May 2027, and August 2027. Amy provided contact information for residents needing assistance with enrollment or questions regarding aggregation services: Valerie at phone number 419-491-1040

Current electric rates were reviewed:

- Current village aggregation rate: \$0.0937
- AEP June 2026 rate: \$0.10117
- AEP July–September 2026 rate: \$0.10969

Discussion was held regarding governmental seating authority for aggregation services. Currently, the Paulding County Commissioners serve as the governmental authority. If the village chooses to remove itself from the county authority, it may participate under the Village of Paulding's authority and remain associated with the Ohio Municipal League and CCO.

Fiscal Officer Hook will provide Solicitor Hatcher with legislation regarding removal from the current authority for review. Council will revisit the matter at the July 14, 2026 meeting and notify Amy Hoffman of the village's decision. If council chooses to proceed, two public hearings will be required.

Latty Church Festival: Jane Gray provided several updates regarding the upcoming Latty Church Festival and Closure of Latty Methodist Church.

The final service for the Latty Methodist Church will be held on June 28, 2026, followed by a pizza luncheon. The church will retain possession of the building through June 30, after which the property will be listed for sale. Jane noted that declining membership, currently 19 members, led to the church's closure.

Jane discussed proposed locations for tree plantings associated with the church festival and noted that the committee has prepared letters recognizing former mayors and their families. The committee hopes to acknowledge those families during festival activities. Additional volunteers are needed for kitchen and registration duties. The committee is also planning a small celebration recognizing America's 250th Anniversary during the festival. Jane requested that Mayor Gerber share information regarding past mayors during opening ceremonies. Jane also reported that the Boy Scouts may provide an archery activity during the festival.

*A motion to accept March minutes and pay bills, first by Mike and second by Kirk. All bills were addressed by council and approved. 5-0

Council Discussions made by Mayor Gerber:

- Council will discuss filling the vacant council seat at the July meeting.
- The village signs have been completed. Mayor Gerber will pick them up on June 10, 2026, and Fiscal Officer Hook has issued payment.
- Mayor Gerber reported that Scott Strahley of the Paulding County Historical Society informed mayors of a grant opportunity for America's 250th Anniversary banners. Mayor Gerber has already contacted Mr. Strahley, and the village will be receiving a banner through the program.
- The next Church Festival Committee meeting will be held at the shelter house 6/10 at 6:30 p.m.
- Council again discussed improvements to the village playground and park facilities. The village currently has approximately \$10,000 available for improvements and continues exploring additional funding opportunities and grant programs. Mayor Gerber and Beth Stoller are continuing to evaluate potential improvements that would benefit both the playground and ballpark facilities. Council remains committed to enhancing recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.
- Mayor Gerber reported submitting a funding proposal to the Eagles organization requesting \$7,000. The organization approved a \$3,000 contribution to the Latty 501(c)(3), which will be utilized toward playground improvements, including the train project.
- Mayor Gerber reported that a planning meeting was held at Wayne Trace Schools with Kleinfelder, Barb Sinn, Joanne Pease, Gabby Hook, and Brandon Wobler regarding the proposed Historical Nature Trail. The project would consist of a one-mile walking trail with an estimated project cost of approximately \$1 million (completely funded), including restroom facilities. The trail will feature a train-themed design and include QR codes throughout the village and trail system highlighting local history and points of interest. Another planning meeting is anticipated in July.
- Mayor Gerber also reported discussions with Paula Mills of Kleinfelder regarding potential grant opportunities. It is believed that up to \$20,000 may be available to assist with concrete work for the pavilion.
- Council discussed tree planting locations associated with a Soil and Water Conservation District grant. Up to \$500 is available for the purchase of two trees. Appropriate locations must provide approximately 75 feet of growth area. A final decision will be made prior to the next meeting.
- Mayor Gerber and Tyson will begin painting pavement markings, mulching, and completing cleanup projects throughout the village in preparation for the Church Festival.
- The Village Hall roof replacement is expected to be completed within the next month.
- Mayor Gerber reported that he is reviewing invoices received from Ward Construction. Current invoices reflect approximately \$16,500 above the original quoted amount and are being compared against prior estimates.
- Mayor Gerber submitted all required election filings for council, mayor, and fiscal officer positions. He also submitted the village zoning map to Tim Copsey.
- Discussion regarding Real Waste contracts was postponed until the July meeting due to the absence of two council members.

Fiscal Officer – Gabby

Mayor Gerber read the Resolution Authorizing Application for Ohio NatureWorks Grant Funding. Council approved the resolution by a 3-0 vote.

Mayor Gerber signed signature pages sent by Paula Mills for NatureWorks Grant funding.

Fiscal Officer Hook provided an update regarding radar speed signs. A quote was received from Elan City for two radar speed signs and associated equipment totaling \$6,550. During discussions with the Ohio representative, it was noted that Elan City honored pricing previously provided to the Village of Oakwood in 2023. Council requested additional information regarding the possibility of making the signs portable. Fiscal Officer Hook will contact Elan City for additional details.

A motion to accept the financial reports and pay bills as presented was made by Mike Gray and seconded by Kirk Stoller. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Discussions

Beth Stoller- N/A

Michael Gray- Repaired a hole on Fifth Street. Purchased and donated an infant swing and flat swing from Menards for the village park. Purchased a parking lot striping sprayer. Purchased a flag and banner recognizing America's 250th Anniversary for display at the ballpark and will provide them to Barb Sinn.

Darlene Knapp-Absent

Barb Sinn- Absent

Kirk Stoller- N/A

Solicitor John Hatcher- reported that documents regarding the triangle property transfer have been prepared and should be completed by the following week

.Discussions for the July Meeting:

- Fill vacant council seat
- Real Waste trash service contract
- Location of planting of trees for festival

Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Council Member Beth Stoller seconded by Council Member Kirk Stoller. Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next Meeting will be July 14, 2026, at 6:00PM at the Village Hall