

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
VILLAGE OF DEGRAFF COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION**

The Legislative body of the Village of DeGraff convened in regular session on July 15th, 2025 from 7:00 P.M. to 8:29 P.M. at 107 S. Main St., DeGraff, OH 43318.

Mayor Stephanie Orsborne called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with the following Council Members and staff Present:

Mayor Stephanie Orsborne – Present
Sue Walls, Council Member – Present
Gabe Kean, President Pro Tempore – Absent
Nancy Hall, Council Member – Present
Sandra Short, Council Member – Present
Tom Rowley, Council Member – Present
Heidi Duckro, Council Member – Present

Staff Present: Gregory Beatty – Fire Chief

Mrs. Duckro made the motion to excuse Mr. Kean due to being out of town for work, seconded by Ms. Short. Roll Call – All Ayes

MOTION

Ms. Short made the motion to suspend the reading and accept the July 1st, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Walls. Roll Call – All ayes.

MOTION

Visitors – None

Zoning – Mrs. Orsborne stated there are 17-18 permits so far this year. Mrs. Walls asked about the shrubs in the alley that need trimmed back. Mrs. Orsborne stated that they could let the Village Administrator know and he would take care of this issue.

Solicitor – None

Village Administrator – Mr. McAlexander not present, but Mrs. Orsborne presented the following information from Mr. McAlexander:

- She presented three documents – one document was an example of Morgan Township's bank loan and there were 2 emails from Michael Burns from Ohio Public Finance.
 - She stated that the Administrator would like to know if the Council wanted to go with a Conventional Loan or a USDA Loan. She stated that the conventional loan would be a quicker option. The interest rate for USDA is currently 4.375%, but the winning bank for Morgan Township was only 4.55% for a fixed rate for 10 years and then a balloon payment after those 10 years. She said the USDA is a longer process and they look at everything, not just the project. She had the Council examine the documents and they asked questions. One question was if we had to pay Mr. Burns and the answer was that yes, we pay him for his assistance with the loans, either USDA or a conventional loan. They also discussed the land for the new Fire House.
 - Mr. Rowley made the motion to move forward with a conventional loan for the new Fire House, seconded by Ms. Hall. Roll Call – All Ayes
 - They updated Ms. Short regarding the last meeting. They informed her that they decided they would prefer to purchase the property for the new Fire House instead of leasing the property. It would be 2-3 acres at possibly 10-11,000 dollars per acre. They said the next steps would be to advertise for architects and do a bore sample.
- Water Treatment Plant – just waiting on final drawings.
- Landscaping is done – The administrator looked at all the troubled areas that were brought up last meeting and all troubled areas have been reworked. Engineer has to come in and look at,

MOTION

then everything will be finished. Karen Young spoke with Mr. McAlexander about her yard and that she was going to have another company come in and fix her yard. Mr. McAlexander stated if she did do that, the 1-year warranty would be null and void. Mrs. Orsborne stated Mr. McAlexander stated that Mrs. Young apologized.

- Ms. Short stated she looked at the Cemetery ground that had previously had ruts and it looked fine.
- Mrs. Orsborne they will be having a special meeting on August 26th at 6 pm with the Safety Committee and the Fire Department to discuss the new Fire Department project, including discussing the needs of the Fire Department/Vehicles.

Safety Committee

Fire: Mr. Beatty went over the following:

- Runs for June: 2 MVC, 1 Fire Alarm- Smoke detector malfunction, down power lines – this was a mutual aid call for Miami Township Fire Department, which was cancelled as they were not needed for this run.
- Runs for the year: 26 Total, 6 fires, 11 accidents, 8 others (nuisance burns, gas line strikes, EMS assist)
- Engine 31 steering gearbox has a significant leak. Mr. McAlexander (Ken) approved the estimate from Wren's for \$2500 to repair. The parts were ordered on 07/11/2025 and hoping to have to have this repaired this week. This is a backup vehicle and the Firefighters are aware what to do if this vehicle must leave the building.
- Chief Beatty attended OFIRS reporting class on 7-9-25 at the Ohio Fire Academy. Received a link for the NIFRS Compliance Guide, downloaded and will be using to aid in writing reports. This will aid in correct documentation for the state and federal reporting. This will also help them generate end of year reports that are more detailed.
- We had someone who had some old wireless router equipment and donated to the association. It is wired and in use at the station. They have moved the computer to the meeting room in the back, so that they can use the TV screen to show educational videos.
- On 7-12-25 DeGraff Fire had a crew and a truck to support the Logan County Fair Truck and Tractor pulls. They were there for a couple hours and then were rained out.
- On 7-14-25 they had Joint fire training with Miami Township Fire Department (MTFD) for water rescue.
- DeGraff Fire Association has decided to buy 2 sets of turnout gear for the remaining members to wear, so that they have their own. This will allow return of MTFD gear and will allow them to stop sharing gear.
- On 7-16-25 Fire Safety is scheduled to stop in with a model Spencer Fire truck and to let them look at it and they will show them some of the features Spencer has to offer.
 - Ms. Short asked if the vehicle was similar to the one that they had looked into and Mr. Beatty stated that it would be a different vehicle, but may have some of the same components. Mr. Beatty then discussed why he thought a pumper tanker for around \$800,000 would be beneficial for community, since some public funds may be used to purchase the vehicle. Mrs. Orsborne stated that with the construction of the Fire Department, there will not be enough funds for the purchase of a Fire Truck, so a grant will be needed.
- Hoping to complete hose testing on 07/19/2025.
- The chicken dinner will be on 8-2-25 from 3-7 pm and it will be \$10/ticket. Dine in or carry out. Chicken leg quarter, green beans, mac & cheese and a roll.
- Greg said he gave Kaitlyn an updated item list for the insurance. He stated she gave him a list last month to review from the insurance company and he has some updates.
- Working on equipment needs list for next year, radios and pagers. He said Ken told him that they may be able to use the Police Department radios, as there is not a use for them now for the Police Department.
 - Mr. Rowley moved to approve the use of the Police Department radios by the Fire Department, seconded by Mrs. Duckro. Roll Call – All Ayes

MOTION

- Greg stated he would like to get an IPAD to have in the Fire Truck to be able to take pictures at the scene.

Police: Logan County Sheriff's Department provided 24 hours of coverage for June. Mrs. Orsborne stated it seems like there are less issues around town in her opinion.

Finance: Mrs. Bailey stated that she only had the ordinance that need approved, so she would discuss that later when ordinances are discussed.

Park Committee

- Kaitlyn stated that they had received a complaint that the bathrooms at the park on Sunday were not clean, that there were rocks and chewing tobacco on the tables, and that the trash was full. Mr. Rowley stated that the bathrooms were clean, other than some dirt on the ground, but it is a park, so that is normal. He said he checked them the morning of and it was not bad. He did not notice any other issues, but he did mention he did forget to leave bags, so he did empty their trash for them. The council decided that she would get the normal \$15 cleaning fee returned only.
- Mr. Rowley mentioned the second park parking area had large weeds that were mowed over. It was discussed that they should be sprayed. There was discussion about the bushes and trees that needed either cut back or removed. Mr. Rowley stated that the Village Administrator had gotten quotes on removal. Mr. Rowley mentioned around the bathroom and equipment needed weed whacked.
- Ms. Short stated she spoke with Pat, the seasonal helper regarding not blowing the grass into the shelter houses. Pat stated that going forward he would mow away from the shelter houses and would also blow the grass out as well with the blower.

Cemetery

- Ms. Short stated they just had their meeting last evening. She said that the ruts at the Cemetery, once it fills in, it won't be a big deal.
- They have a new product that is being used at the Cemetery instead of straw. They are using a pellet that expands with water.

Joint Sewer Board

- General maintenance in June. All results were good.
- A PEP grant was received. An electric hoist, hearing protection, and a mower lift jack has been purchased so far. There is still \$ 421 remaining to use for safety related items.
- The Monthly flows for June are Quincy 32% and DeGraff at 68%.
- Stephanie stated the annual average was not available at the last meeting, but she has now received them. The new rates for 2026 are DeGraff: 61% and Quincy 39%. She stated that there will be a discussion about this large change, but has been reassured by the JSB operator that the meters are working correctly.
- Next meeting is August 4th, 2025 at 1 pm.

Ordinances & Resolutions:

Ordinance 2025-29 AN ORDINANCE REALLOCATING FUNDS FROM APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND AMENDING THE APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR PURPOSES PAYING OPERATING EXPENSES FROM APPROPRIATED FUNDS ANDDECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN THE VILLAGE OF DEGRAFF, OHIO.

- Kaitlyn explained that the top 4 lines are in regard to the loan they have for the white utility vehicle with Buckeye Bank. She said that she doesn't have enough funds to pay the remaining principal and interest for these accounts for the rest of the year, so she needs funds reallocated. She said that the Fire Departments portion for worker's compensation is around \$1400 per year and out of the Fire Department Fund they have only spent \$170.00 this year. She spoke with the Village Administrator and he stated it would be ok to take the funds out of the Fire Department for the remaining invoice, but she needs permission to reallocate the funds. The remaining lines are in regard to the police contract for the remainder of the year. She said that she would like to reallocate funds from the salary and OP&F portions of the general fund contractual services for police.

Mrs. Walls made the motion to suspend the 3-reading rule for Resolution 2025-29, seconded by Ms. Short. Roll Call – All Ayes.

MOTION

Mrs. Duckro made the motion to accept Resolution 2025-29, seconded by Ms. Short. Roll Call – All Ayes.

MOTION

Ms. Short made the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-29, seconded by Mrs. Duckro. Roll Call – All Ayes.

MOTION

Old Business: Stephanie stated that the car show will be this Friday from 4-7 pm. They will be shutting down the main street around noon.

New Business: Ms. Short presented information about the new siren on the South End of town. She said she has concerns. She stated she following:

- She has had conversations with Kenny (Village Administrator) about the decibel output, the angles, and positioning of the siren after it was installed.
- She said the siren currently blows into homes instead of over them.
- She said that the decibels range from 104-121 decibels. FEMA's recommendation is 70.
- She bought a TS501 meter. She has been documenting since January. Sometimes the siren runs as long as 3 minutes.
- There were no guidelines when installing the siren. She said the Kenny gave her information on the 2 places the siren could be installed.
- She thinks that the siren either needs to be higher or angled.
- She said she would let Kenny use the meter when he needs.
- She said the decibel reading does depend on if it is clear or if it has snowed or if there are trees/ foliage.
- She said that 110-120 decibels for 2 minutes can cause deafness. She said there is a health concern out there. She said she needs someone to check on what can be done.
- She is testing the decibels from 50-100 feet away from the siren.
- She said that most people work on Fridays outside the home.
- She has information she would like Kenny to look over.
- Mrs. Orsborne stated that it is a conflict of interest for Ms. Short to bring this to council due to being one of the property owners. Ms. Short stated that it is a health hazard.
- Mrs. Orsborne stated that she needs to have a neighbor or family member represent her at a meeting, due to the conflict of interest. Mrs. Orsborne said she has spoken with the Village Administrator and he is supposed to be investigating.
- The Park siren was brought up and Ms. Short stated she planned on doing some readings out there as well. Mrs. Orsborne stated she hasn't had a complaint about either siren, except for Ms. Short.
- Ms. Short stated that it isn't Kenny's fault, as he told her that he did not receive any information or guidelines.
- Mrs. Orsborne stated she could call Helen at the Logan County EMA about the siren.

Mrs. Duckro made the motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mrs. Walls. Roll Call – All Ayes

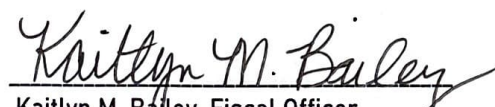
MOTION

Ms. Short made the motion to adjourn at 8:29 PM, seconded by Mrs. Duckro. Roll Call – All Ayes

MOTION


Mayor Stephanie Orsborne


Gabe Kean, Council Pro Tempore


Kaitlyn M. Bailey, Fiscal Officer

All formal actions of the VILLAGE OF DEGRAFF COUNCIL concerning and relating to the adoption of Ordinances, Resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.