

Village Of Castalia
August 25, 2026
Meeting Minutes

The Village of Castalia Council met in Regular Session on August 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village of Castalia Hall located at 126 Main Street, Castalia, Ohio. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Johnson with the following in attendance: Cindy Crawford, Si Nicholson, and Barb Weyer. Financial Consultant Diane Schaefer was in attendance as well as Fiscal Officer Kathy Niehm. Mrs. Artrip was absent and Mr. Smith will be late to the meeting.

Mayor Johnson advised that the agenda will need to be amended to include an Executive Session to discuss employment of a public employee under ORC 121.22(G)(1) with no business to follow the Executive Session.

Mrs. Weyer Made a Motion to Excuse Mrs. Artrip from the meeting and Mr. Smith will be late to the meeting tonight. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, unanimous.

Mrs. Weyer Made a Motion to Approve the 8/25/2026 Minutes. Mrs. Crawford seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, unanimous.

Mrs. Weyer Made a Motion to Approve the 8/5/2026 Special Meeting Minutes. Mrs. Crawford seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, unanimous.

Mrs. Crawford Made a Motion to Approve the Finance Report Dated 8/19/2026. Mrs. Weyer seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, unanimous. Motion carried.

Mrs. Crawford Made a Motion to Approve the Warrants Dated 8/11/2026-8/12/2026. Mrs. Weyer seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, unanimous. Motion carried.

Mr. Crawford Made a Motion to Approve the Receipts Dated 8/11/2026-8/19/2026. Mrs. Weyer seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, unanimous.

There was a lengthy discussion in regard to road bids due to extra amounts added for possible under surface repairs. Mr. Biglin to discuss with both 7L and Erie Blacktop.

Mr. Bob Biglin stated he will check on the storm sewer on Depot Street, Mayor Johnson stated the water level has gone down. Mr. Biglin stated he spoke with Erie County Treasurer Caleb Stidham and Mr. Stidham said there might be possible more money for the storm sewers. Originally the EPIC grant provided \$5,000 for the storm sewer project.

Mr. Biglin stated stone was placed in the sink hole on Mr. Whyde's property. Mayor Johnson stated he called Josh Hula regarding the Depot Street excavating that was previously done and Mr. Hula will get back to him.

Zoning Inspector Tom Johnson stated he will be sending certified letters on Monday for two junk vehicles located in the Village. Mr. Johnson stated he placed two telephone calls regarding high grass and the property owners took care of the issue. Mr. Johnson further stated he received the green certified card back for the property located at 711 Main Street.

Mrs. Weyer asked Mr. Johnson about zoning codes. Mr. Johnson responded that local zoning codes supersedes the international codes. Mr. Johnson stated he would like a Planning Commission meeting in September for the new Zoning Book and then have hearings in October and November.

Financial Consultant Diane Schaefer stated the real estate taxes will be deposited on Thursday and the settlement sheets have been online prior. Mrs. Schaefer stated the general fund will be short \$762.00, there will be \$2,500 more in the street lighting fund, the police fund will be short \$291.00, and the road fund will be short \$1,092.

Fiscal Officer Kathy Niehm stated the 2023-2024 audit was awarded by the Ohio Auditor's of State office four stars for Highest Achievement for Open and Transparent Government, the 2021-2022 audit was awarded three stars, and the 2019-2020 audit was awarded with 1 star.

Ms. Niehm stated she will prepare the Certificate of Transition (which is required by the Auditor of State) and a list of the user names and passwords for the new Fiscal Officer. Ms. Niehm stated she will turn in her keys to Mrs. Weyer on August 31, 2026.

Mrs. Weyer stated several candidates for the position of Fiscal Officer were interviewed this past Thursday.

Mrs. Weyer stated the audits for the years 2025-2030 were awarded by the State of Ohio to Charles E. Harris & Associates. The pricing is as follows: the 2025-2026 audit will cost the Village \$13,125, the 2027-2028 audit will cost \$13,650, and the 2029-2030 audit will cost \$14,175.

Mrs. Weyer Made a Motion to Approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc. for Audit Services from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2030. Mrs. Crawford seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mrs. Weyer, yes; Mrs. Crawford, yes; Mr. Nicholson, yes. Motion carried. Ms. Niehm will email the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) this evening as the deadline is tomorrow.

Mrs. Weyer Made a Motion to Approve Resolution #2026-7: Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies

and Certifying Them to the County Auditor. Mrs. Crawford seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mrs. Weyer, yes; Mrs. Crawford, yes; Mr. Nicholson, yes. Motion carried. Ms. Niehm will prepare the document and email to the Erie County Auditor's office tomorrow.

Regarding the EPIC Grant, Mayor Johnson stated one of the specifications on the grant is to do regular reporting. Mayor Johnson asked Mr. Biglin about the new school flashing lights. Mr. Biglin responded he has not received a date.

Mrs. Weyer stated when she was at the Budget Commission Meeting Erie County Treasurer Caleb Stidham stated after the 2030 federal census village residents will have the opportunity to vote whether they would like to merge with Margaretta Township. Mrs. Weyer stated Mr. Stidham encourage Council to educate residents on the process. Mrs. Weyer informed Mr. Stidham she sent an email to the Auditor requesting the tax estimates for properties in the village if it was at the township tax rate and hadn't received a response. Mrs. Weyer stated we need accurate figures to provide to our residents when educating them.

Mr. Smith arrived at the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

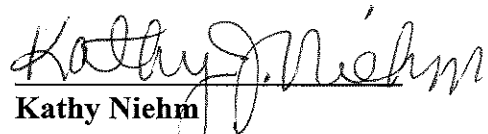
Mr. David Myers asked if there was any information on the sale of the Cement Street park. Mr. Biglin stated the parcel needs to be surveyed and other information is need such as setbacks, etc.

Mr. Nicholson Made a Motion to Exit the Regular Session and Enter the Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to Discuss Employment of a Public Employee Under ORC #121.22(G)(1) with No Business to Follow. Mrs. Weyer seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Nicholson, yes; Mrs. Weyer, yes; Mrs. Crawford, yes; Mr. Smith, yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Nicholson Made a Motion to Exit the Executive Session and Enter the Regular Session at 8:48 p.m. Mrs. Crawford seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Nicholson, yes; Mrs. Crawford, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mrs. Weyer, yes.

Mr. Nicholson Made a Motion to Adjourn at 8:48 p.m. Mrs. Crawford seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, unanimous. Motion carried.


James Johnson
Mayor


Kathy Niehm
Fiscal Officer