

**COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: JOINT GOVERNMENT ENTITIES MEETING
MINUTES**

Rooms A&B 1pm.

Thursday, July 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

COUNCIL ROLL CALL

Present were Council President DeVore Leonard and Council member Stephanie Pearce. Village Manager Johnnie Burns was also present.

TOWNSHIP ROLL CALL

Present were Township Trustees Marilan Moir and Lori Askeland.

SCHOOL BOARD ROLL CALL

Present were Amy Bailey, President, and Christy Myers, Vice President.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Notable Current Projects, Priorities or Dynamics.

Moir noted the high number of new members among all entities. Moir reported progress in setting budget, streamlining operations, improving procedures, etc.

Moir noted a new zoning administrator Brian Lucas who has updated the Township zoning resolution and improved accessibility. She noted some important updates to the zoning code, such as adding ADUs, regulating TGLs, and making permitting more inclusive.

Moir commented that the Township will be addressing the topic of growth.

Addressing the issue of Township Fiscal Officer, Moir noted that this is an elected position, and the person now in the role, Cindi Pauwels is working to assure fiscal compliance.

Chief Cannell stated that the Fire Department has moved from a primarily volunteer force to a primarily paid staff. Cannell stated that he has hired eleven staff persons in the last year, reducing FT positions and adding PT positions. Cannell noted a renewal levy passed November 2025 and an upcoming new levy which will be on the ballot November 2026.

Bailey noted the change in School Superintendent, from Dr. Holden to Dr. Winston. Facilities projects are the most significant undertaking, she said, with school starting in under two months.

Bailey noted retreats focused on team-building and creation of a Board handbook.

Myers commented that schools will be “ready for occupancy” but not complete by August 20th.

DeVore Leonard noted three major housing initiatives, Spring Meadows and the Windsor projects, which are and are expected to bring over 300 new units to the village.

DeVore Leonard noted hiring of Nia Holt as the new Planning and Zoning Director.

Burns provided an update on Phase II of Spring Meadows.

Burns noted an update to the Active Transportation Plan upcoming, with work now underway.

The new center circuit is under construction, Burns said. He added that Alta Fiber is working through town installing fiber for the backbone, with projection for live services by Fall.

Burns provided basic information on TIFs in response to a question from Moir.

Moir stated that the Township is funded only by property tax and asked to “be at the table” next time.

The workshop session on CRAs and TIFs was recommended.

Significant Upcoming Projects or Priorities.

Bailey stated that the preschool program now at Friends Care will move to Mills Lawn in the next year. She added that property maintenance priorities will be set for the new facilities.

DeVore Leonard noted the most significant project as potential development of Glass Farm for affordable housing, adding that this will take some period of time and will involve significant input from residents.

Burns noted several major capital projects upcoming. He noted work to re-asphalt village streets and the stormwater project along Fairfield Pike. Burns stated that the Village is looking into contracting for a CIP consultant to bring budget in line with capital needs.

Moir noted work with the Village on increasing fire inspections as one project upcoming.

Cannell stated that MTFR will be conducting fire inspections more on an annual basis rather than by request now that they are a full-time department.

Potential Collaborative Opportunities.

- *Fire Inspection
- *Dispatch

Burns commented on the significant increase in 911 service fees, stating that he has been working with Chief Cannell to come up with a solution. He noted that a number of services to villages have been cut or costs significantly increased. There are opportunities at hand, Burns said, if all the entities communicate and collaborate.

- *Solar Development

Bailey suggested a community meeting to disperse information regarding where property taxes go and what is funded. She acknowledged that the schools receive the bulk of property tax, but would like to set up such a session.

Burns added a suggestion to collaborate on production of a video that shows where all tax dollars go, and both ideas were favorably received.

DeVore Leonard suggested an annual meeting with the option to meet as needed.

DeVore Leonard noted land use issues that might be followed-up upon.

Current Budget Notes Including Upcoming Levies/ Considerations of New Levies.

DeVore Leonard noted getting a better handle on long term capital expenses and making some budget adjustments as working towards a balanced budget for the Village.

Bailey said that outside of the Facilities Improvement Levy, schools have not asked for a levy since 2012. They do plan to bring a new levy in 2029 to maintain adequate funding. This could change based on property tax changes.

Moir commented that the Township is generally in good shape. Township is putting a .8 mil levy on in 2026.

NEXT STEPS

There was general agreement to meet annually each summer.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:58pm, the meeting concluded by general acknowledgement.

The Village of Yellow Springs is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. Any person requiring a disability accommodation should contact the Village, Clerk of Council's Office at 767-9126 or via e-mail at clerk@yso.com for more information.