VILLAGE OF NORTH BALTIMORE
Council Regular Meeting - 1/13/26

January 13, 2026
5:30 PM

Minutes

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Mayor Aaron Patterson – HERE, Ms. Beaupry – HERE, Ms. Hefner – HERE, Mr. Richmond – HERE, Mr. Engard – HERE, Mr. Cook – HERE, Mr. Sweat – HERE

III. Swearing in of Council Member

Mr. David Richmond was sworn in as a council member.

IV. Approval of Minutes

1. Council Special Meeting - December 8th, 2025 (12/8/2025)

   Mr. Cook made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 8th, 2025 council special meeting, seconded by Mr. Engard. All members approved.

2. Council Regular Meeting - December 9th, 2025 (12/9/2025)

   Ms. Hefner made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 9th, 2025, council regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Richmond. All members approved.

3. Council Special Meeting - December 22nd, 2025 (12/22/2025)

   Mr. Sweat made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 22nd, 2025, council special meeting, seconded by Mr. Engard. All members approved.

4. Council Special Meeting - January 6th, 2026 (1/6/2026)

   Mr. John Harden stated that several comments he had made at the previous meeting were omitted from the drafted copy of the minutes. He stated that he had made comments regarding the proposed dispatch agreement with Wood County [Resolution No. 01-2026]. He stated that he had made comments about the fees that the village would pay for transition equipment and stated that his comments about the proposed start date for the contract were not included.

   Mayor Patterson responded that the start date listed on the contract was tentative and subject to change, depending on council's decision.

   Mayor Patterson asked Mr. Mason Davis, Clerk of Council, to revise the minutes to address Mr. Harden's concerns. He requested that the approval of the minutes be tabled until revisions were made.

Mr. Engard made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 6th, 2026, council special meeting, seconded by Mr. Cook. Mr. Engard – NO, Mr. Cook – NO, Mr. Sweat – NO, Ms. Beaupry – NO, Ms. Hefner – NO, Mr. Richmond – ABSTAIN

Mr. Engard made a motion to table the minutes for the January 6th, 2026 council special meeting, seconded by Mr. Cook. All members approved.

The minutes will be revised and reintroduced at a future meeting.

V. Letters and Communications

Mayor Patterson read a card that he had received from Mr. Bob and Ms. Patty Hurst, which thanked council members and Village employees for their work to improve the town.

Ms. Beaupry stated that she had received several messages from residents about the traffic light at the intersection of Broadway Street and Main Street. She had been asked when the traffic light would be fixed.

Mayor Patterson responded that the traffic light had been fixed earlier in the day. He stated that the light had been scheduled to be fixed in September, but the repair parts had been delayed in shipping.

VI. Public Discussion on Dispatch (5-Min. Limit)

Prior to opening the public discussion portion of the meeting, Ms. Hefner requested the floor to provide remarks regarding the previous meeting. She stated that Mayor Patterson had remarked that the decision regarding dispatch services was not based on financial considerations.

Mayor Patterson stated that the discussion about dispatch services was due to the level of service that the Sheriff's Office could offer, rather than financial considerations. He stated that this was his opinion and that he could not speak on behalf of council.

Ms. Hefner asked Mayor Patterson what his position was on this decision.

Mayor Patterson stated that he was concerned that Village residents had not been given enough time to express their opinions on the proposed resolution. He stated that residents should be given time and that this should inform Council members of what they want.

Ms. Hefner agreed with this statement and asked if the Mayor thought that the resolution could be beneficial for North Baltimore.

Mayor Patterson responded that the Village dispatch technology and training would need to be invested in if the Resolution was not approved.

He stated that he was concerned about the potential loss of employment for the 6 dispatch employees, and that he had spoken with Sheriff Wasylyshyn about dispatcher openings at his office. He asked if Council was prepared to offer a severance package.

He stated that factors such as severance would determine if he supported the proposed resolution or not.

Ms. Hefner stated that a majority of Council was considering the resolution with finances and officer safety in mind. She agreed that no one wanted to see Village employees lose work.

Mayor Patterson replied that he did not view this as a financial issue, but any cost savings would be beneficial to the Village as long as it was the right decision for residents.

Mayor Patterson opened public discussion, giving time to Ms. Paige Cotterman.

Ms. Cotterman stated that North Baltimore dispatch employees were familiar with the community and had knowledge specific to the area. She shared an account she had heard about an individual living outside of Bowling Green. She stated that the individual's grandparents had required EMS and Fire assistance from Wood County and that the response time had been 45 minutes. She stated that this was due to the individual's grandparents' address not being recognized by county dispatchers.

Mayor Patterson asked Ms. Cotterman how long ago the account had occurred.

Ms. Cotterman replied that she was unsure but would estimate that it occurred slightly over 10 years ago.

Mayor Patterson responded that technology has greatly improved since this time, and that County technology could identify where calls are coming from within a few feet.

Ms. Cotterman asked if the Sherrif's Office dispatchers were prepared to accept an increased number of emergency calls if service were transferred. She stated that this transfer would result in additional calls related to drugs and domestic violence; she stated that this would be more calls than other communities.

Mayor Patterson replied that he had observed the workers at the Sheriff's Office dispatch center and stated that they were efficient and calm. He stated that they would also be hiring additional personnel.

Administrator Bender agreed with Mayor Patterson, stating that additional upgrades occur frequently at the County. He stated that he would answer "yes" to Ms. Cotterman's questions.

Ms. Cotterman asked if plans were being discussed about after-hours calls to the water and street department.

Mayor Patterson responded that currently, dispatch takes emergency calls as well as non-emergency [after-hours] calls. He stated that a system would be put in place to route non-emergency calls to the appropriate location if services were transferred

Mr. Allen Jordan asked if the body could confirm a statement made at the previous meeting [1/6/2026 Special Meeting] that the budget to operate dispatch in North Baltimore was approximately $244,000.00.

Mayor Patterson replied that the funds allocated to dispatch totaled $243,160.00. He stated that this was an appropriation, and that the actual amount could be more.

Mr. Jordan asked how much the county has charged the Village to dispatch fire and EMS calls over the past 15 years.

Mayor Patterson replied that they dispatch fire and EMS calls at no cost.

Mr. Jordan asked where the revenue from citations issued by North Baltimore police is allocated to.

Mayor Patterson replied that these funds are placed in the Village's general fund.

Mr. Jordan asked why this was not going into a specific police fund.

Fiscal Officer Matt Clouse stated that these funds were divided between several areas. He stated that, a portion goes to the State of Ohio a portion goes to Bowling Green [Wood County operations], and a portion remains with the

Village. The Village's portion goes into a "drug and law enforcement", which is separate from the general fund.

Mr. Jordan asked why the Village has not invested in dispatch upgrades over time. He stated that maintenance should have been a priority, and that the Village could not afford to lose dispatch.

Mayor Patterson stated that the proposal to transfer services to the county was intended to address the Village's lack of upgrades.

Mr. Jordan stated that he felt that funds should remain in the Village, rather than transferring services to an outside contractor. He emphasized the role of local connections with dispatch and stated that their local knowledge was critical in cases such as domestic abuse or a dog incident.

Mr. John Harden shared a personal account. His father required EMS assistance. He stated that he had called 911, which routed him to the County dispatch. He said that it took 30 minutes for North Baltimore EMS to arrive. After arriving, Mr. Harden said that EMS workers told him that they had only just received the call from the county a few minutes before. He stated that the EMT's took note of this and were going to report this to Wood County.

Mayor Patterson responded that this was a concerning report, and that he had a report that the average time from a call to arrival was 7.03 minutes.

Administrator Bender asked when this incident occurred.

Mr. Harden replied that it had taken place in December 2025.

Mr. Harden inquired about what is defined as an emergency call.

Mayor Patterson stated that emergency dispatchers would determine if a given call constituted an emergency or not. He stated that systems would be set up to address non-emergency calls if the resolution is approved.

Mr. Harden shared remarks about the monthly police report [included in the meeting packet]. He stated that there was a total of 231 calls in December. He stated that he had determined that approximately 67%, or 154 out of 231 calls were non-emergencies. He asked if in cases of non-emergencies (such as traffic detail, junk detail, or complaints) residents would call 911.

Mayor Patterson responded "no", that residents would not call 911 for similar nonemergency calls.

Mr. Harden asked if the emergency phone and camera that would be installed in the police station would be reflected in an updated contract with the Sheriff's Office.

Administrator Bender replied that these additions would not be in the contract with the Sheriff's Office. He stated that these technologies would be the responsibility of the Village.

Mr. Harden asked when bullet-proof glass was installed in the police station and if the installation took place before or after the dispatch discussion began.

Mayor Patterson replied that the installation took place last year, and that the dispatch discussion began after the installation had already taken place.

Administrator Bender stated that bulletproof glass and mesh at the police station were needed regardless of what decision is made about dispatch.

Mr. Harden inquired about the proposed contract with the Wood County Sheriff's Office. He stated that Section II, "Sheriff's Responsibilities", Item B, "Equipment" contradicted Section III, "Village's Responsibilities". He stated that

Section II mandated that the Sheriff's Office would be responsible for equipment provision, maintenance and operations, while Section III required the Village to pay the "actual costs and user fees".

Mayor Patterson responded that these items in the contract require the Sheriff's Office to maintain equipment.

Administrator Bender replied, stating that the contract required the Sheriff's Office to assume responsibility for all equipment related to the County Dispatch Center, while the Village will be required to maintain equipment for radios in police cruisers and for officers.

Ms. Hefner stated that she had asked the Sheriff what additional costs the Village could expect outside of the contracted service. She stated that the Village would be responsible for the installation of the police department emergency phone and the implementation of an automated number system to help filter spam or robo-calls out. She stated that these would be a minimal fee.

Mr. Sweat stated that this automated system could connect non-emergency calls to the appropriate departments as needed.

Mr. Harden asked about Section IV, "Compensation for Services", and asked if the Village was still paying out.

Mayor Patterson confirmed that the details listed in this section are correct.

Mr. Harden stated that Section XI, "Independent Contractor" needed to be deleted from the contract.

Mayor Patterson asked Mr. Harden why he thought this section should be deleted.

Mr. Harden stated that the Village and the Sheriff's Office were public service agents rather than contractors.

Mayor Patterson stated that the Village was contracting services for dispatch.

Village Legal Counsel, Mr. Paul Skaff, stated that the county dispatchers were not employees of the Village constituting contracted services. He had no concerns about Section XI.

Mr. Matt Moreland, a part-time police officer with North Baltimore Police Department, stated that the North Baltimore dispatch center had the foundation to provide good service to the Village. He stated that improvements to equipment and the CAD system could be made as they have in the past.

Mr. Moreland stated that the Sheriff's Office dispatchers provide good service, but have several communities they serve. He stated that local calls could be put on hold if the county has multiple emergencies occurring.

Mr. Moreland stated that there are efficient CAD systems that work for smaller communities and stated that the Council should review the one used in the City of Port Clinton, OH.

Administrator Bender reported that the Village has already opted to utilize CentralSquare for their CAD system.

Mr. Moreland stated the Village should request a dedicated dispatch employee at the county, similar to what the city of Northwood, OH has received.

Mr. Larry Bateson, a former officer with the North Baltimore Police Department, asked if quotes had been obtained for how much an equipment upgrade might cost compared to contracting services.

Mayor Patterson replied that he had not obtained quotes as he was informed that the price for equipment upgrades would be very high and would not count the annual operating costs.

Mr. Bateson stated that the Village will already be responsible for installing equipment for officers to utilize the new CAD system.

Administrator Bender said the Village would be adopting CentralSquare software, but it would be provided at no cost to the Village for the first 5 years.

Mr. Bateson said that the proposal does not address the problem, and that the Village should maintain dispatch services. He stated that the Village could one day transition to become a city, and that services such as these would be important.

He stated that once the service is transferred to the county, North Baltimore would lose control.

Mr. Andrew Coup shared a personal account, stating that he had a positive service interaction with the Wood County Sheriff's Office dispatch in 2017 for EMS service. He felt that the dispatch resolution would be cost-efficient and beneficial to the Village.

VII. Administrative Reports

1. Fiscal Officer:

   Report submitted.

   Mr. Clouse stated that the EMS agreement for service with Jackson Township [Resolution No. 34-2025] had taken effect on January 1st, 2026 (1/1/2026).

2. EMS Chief:

   Report submitted.

3. Fire Chief:
   Report submitted.

4. Police Chief:

   Report submitted.

   Mayor Patterson shared a letter from Police Chief David Lafferty. The letter announced his retirement, effective 12/12/2025. He stated that the Village was currently advertising for a new Police Chief.

5. Utility Director:

   Nothing of note.

6. DPW Superintendent:

   Nothing of note.

7. Village Administrator:

   Administrator Bender stated that the final punch list items were underway for the E. Broadway roadwork project. Items include collars around catch basins and manholes that had been previously missed, which will take place in the Winter. Permanent centerline and crosswalk painting will take place in the Spring.

He also shared an announcement that the Village has been awarded a grant for $1,937,000 through the Ohio Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The application was prepared with assistance from American Structurepoint, Inc.

These funds will be used to construct a sidewalk on East Broadway, which will extend to Eagle Landing Homes & Sales. No local match is required from the Village for these funds.

He reported that designs for the park and State Route 18 stormwater improvement projects had been designed by Colliers Engineering and Design. He stated that the Village would seek funding assistance for these projects through Water Pollution Control Loan funding in August. Colliers and the Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) will assist in preparing an application. He stated that the Village is hoping that loan forgiveness will be included, but it is not likely.

He stated that the pre-construction meeting for the combined sewer overflow (CSO) modification project had to be postponed to January 15, 2026.

He stated that updates to the Village employee manual would take place, and that he was currently seeking information from consultants.

He stated that state-mandated cybersecurity policies were being reviewed with Intech, the Village's information technology manager. A representative will make a presentation at the February Committee of the Whole meeting. A supporting resolution is intended to be presented at the February 10th regular council meeting.

He stated that the Wood County Health Department would make a presentation at the February 10th regular council meeting regarding the development of the Village's Active Transportation Plan (ATP).

Mr. Andrew Coup asked Administrator Bender about the planned sidewalk development along E. Broadway mentioned earlier in the meeting. He inquired how the new sidewalk would be installed with the Eagleville Bridge.

Administrator Bender replied that he had met with engineers to discuss future improvements to the bridge. He stated that the County had already conducted a study of the bridge.

8. Clerk:

   Nothing of note.

9. Appointed Legal Counsel:

   Nothing of note.

10. Mayor:

    Mayor Patterson reported that the Village had been awarded a grant for $4,836.00 by the Wood County Park District. These funds will be used to install a vinyl chain link fence along the park sled hill and is expected to be installed this Spring. He stated that he was interested in shaping the hill more to better accommodate sledders.

VIII. Standing Committee

1. Economic and Community Development (Hefner) –
   Ms. Hefner expressed interest in setting a meeting with Administrator Bender and Mr. Mason Davis to discuss economic development.

2. Public Safety (Engard) –
   Nothing of note.

3. Personnel, Policy and Ordinance Review (Cook) –

   Nothing of note.

3. Public Works (Beaupry) –
   Nothing of note.

5. Public Utilities (Sweat) –

   Nothing of note.

6. Finance and Technology (Richmond) –

   Nothing of note.

IX. New Legislation

1. ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 01: AN ORDINANCE UPDATING THE TRAFFIC AND GENERAL OFFENSES CODES OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTH BALTIMORE, OHIO, TO CONFORM TO STATE LAW

2. ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 02: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2025-18 TO ADD INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA ESTABLISHMENTS AND TO ENACT SECTION 529.071 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES

3. RESOLUTION NO. 02 – 2026: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE VILLAGE OF NORTH BALTIMORE EVENT POLICY AND APPROVING THE ALL EVENTS PERMIT APPLICATION

4. RESOLUTION NO. 03 – 2026: A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TO THE VILLAGE

X. Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

1. ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 36: AN ORDINANCE, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION, AMENDING SECTION 1127.07(c) TO ALLOW ADULT USE CANNABIS OPERATORS AS A CONDITIONALLY PERMITTED USE IN THE B-2 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT; AND AMENDING SECTION 1105.03 TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR ADULT USE CANNABIS OPERATORS.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 01 - 2026: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A DISPATCH SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

   Mr. Cook made a motion to suspend the third reading of Resolution No. 01-2026 and pass it as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Sweat. Mr. Sweat – YES, Ms. Beaupry – NO, Ms. Hefner – NO, Mr. Richmond – YES, Mr. Engard – NO, Mr. Cook – YES. Motion failed.

XI. **Executive Session:** To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official under ORC 121.22(G)(1), with potential action to follow

Ms. Beaupry made a motion to enter an executive session, seconded by Mr. Sweat. All members approved.

The executive session began at 6:55 PM. Regular session was resumed at 7:25 PM.

XII. Other New Business

Mayor Patterson stated that Mr. Cook was set to resign as a council member [effective February 2nd, 2026]. He requested a motion to advertise for the vacant council position.

Ms. Hefner made a motion to advertise for the vacant council position, seconded by Mr. Sweat. All members approved.

XIII. Other Old Business

Nothing of note.

XIV. Payment of Bills: A motion was made by Mr. Cook to pay the bills in the amount of $726,818.23. Seconded by Mr. Engard. All approved

XV. Adjournment

Mr. Richmond made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Hefner. All members approved.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:27 PM.

Approved:

Mason Davis, Clerk of Council

Aaron Patterson, Mayor

Paul Skaff, Attorney

Dee Hefner, Pres of Council