



**VILLAGE OF NORTH BALTIMORE
Committee of the Whole (4/7/2026) - Amended**

April 07, 2026
5:30 PM

Minutes

- I. Call to order: Council President Dee Hefner**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Public Works – Paula Beaupry**

- 1. Seasonal Employee & Goose Harassment**

Administrator Bender proposed the creation of a part-time, seasonal, public works employee in the range of \$12.00-\$15.00 per hour. He stated that this position could be tasked with handling goose harassment and various tasks within municipal park (eg. mowing, public bathroom maintenance, etc.),

Ms. Hefner asked what goose harassment tasks might be entailed. Administrator Bender replied that the employee could use the RC boats [owned by the Village] and non-toxic goose repellent spray.

Ms. Hefner asked Public Works Director, Mr. Josh Long, for input. Mr. Long replied that he had researched the spray and found it to be expensive as it would need to be reapplied to the grass after rainfall. It would also required specialized equipment and a trailer.

Mayor Patterson stated that adding a new position was not the solution. He emphasized the importance of acting prior to goose nesting season. He added that once a plan has been decided upon, efforts must be continuous as geese can return the following season.

Mr. Sweat asked if a dog park had been considered at the park before. Mayor Patterson replied that former council member Bill Cook had raised the idea in the past.

- 2. Main Street STBG Application**

Administrator Bender stated that the recent East Broadway Street reconstruction project had been completed using Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds with an 80/20 match requirement. He expressed interest in applying for the upcoming STBG funding round to complete improvements in the Main Street corridor. He noted that all of Main Street is eligible for an application [STBG applications can only include streets that are federally eligible].

He proposed applying for the segment of Main Street from the East Broadway intersection to the roundabout. He stated that the next steps would be gathering cost estimates and sourcing feedback on what improvements should be made. He stated that items such as storm water system upgrades, repaving, and lighting upgrades could be eligible.

After a request for qualifications (RFQs) process, Kleinfelder, Inc. had been selected as the Village's professional service firm for transportation projects. Administrator Bender stated that they would provide assistance with this grant application. He mentioned that there was potential to supplement project expenses with funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC).

Mayor Patterson stated that a similar project had taken place on the North side of the railroad tracks and suggested that the Southern side be prioritized.

3. Public Works Building

Mayor Patterson raised a concern about the proposed public works department building project stalling.

He proposed that funding for this project be borrowed from the Village's general fund and paid back from JEDD funds, which collect approximately \$70,000 annually.

4. Sidewalk Projects

Mayor Patterson stated that the Village's sidewalk assessment fund should be utilized for a project, noting that common issues include brick sidewalks and small sidewalks.

He, Mr. Engard, and Administrator Bender had reviewed areas throughout the Village for sidewalk issues.

Mayor Patterson proposed a sidewalk development project starting on North Main Street at the Cherry Street intersection and going North. He stated that tree removal might be needed for specific areas.

Mr. Sweat stated that he would be interested in seeing a map developed with the Village's upcoming projects marked.

5. Salt Procurement

Administrator Bender stated that he had been made aware that salt procurement bids to the state were due on May 1st. 2026.

Mr. Josh Long, Director of the Public Works Department, stated that this would be the second year the Village has participated, and that it was previously due in October.

He confirmed that a bid would need to be submitted prior to the deadline to "lock in" a deal for salt.

Administrator Bender intended to present an emergency resolution on this matter at the next Council Meeting [5/12/2026].

IV. Public Utilities – Eric Sweat

1. Water Department Superintendent Report

Mr. Brian Roberts, Water Department Superintendent, reported that one of two clarifiers would be temporarily removed from service for essential repairs.

He stated that the EPA would be visiting the sewer treatment plant on 4/8/2026 for their annual inspection.

Mayor Patterson asked Mr. Roberts about the impact of the recent heavy rain and flooding on the reservoirs. Mr. Roberts stated that he expected them to be full by the end of April.

Council members and Mr. Roberts discussed a tree that Mayor Patterson had observed during the flooding located near Insley Road and Quarry Road; the tree was up against the bridge and preventing proper water flow. The tree was removed by the county. Members had a discussion about which party had the responsibility for removal of trees in different scenarios.

V. Public Safety – Tim Engard

1. Solicitor Ban

Administrator Bender stated that the ban on solicitation would take effect on Thursday [4/9/2026]. Signs are set to be installed at the Village limits indicating this.

2. Railroad Quiet Zone

Administrator Bender discussed the potential benefits of implementing a railroad quiet zone in North Baltimore including: improved safety measures at crossings, reduced noise for downtown events and business activities, and improved property values. He asked for the input of council members on this topic.

Administrator Bender stated that American Structurepoint, Inc. would serve as the consultant if the project were to move forward. They were selected as the best firm for railroad services after a QBS process held by the Village.

3. EMA Agreement

Administrator Bender reported that the Wood County EMA had contacted him about renewing the Village's agreement which covers hazard mitigation plan and emergency operations. He intended to present this as non-emergency legislation at upcoming meetings.

EMS Chief, Phil Walter, reported that both part-time and full-time employee schedules were in place. He stated that he had a truck at Findlay Ford currently and hoped to present the quote for repairs at the next meeting [5/12/2026].

VI. Economic and Community Development – Dee Hefner

1. June Festival

Ms. Hefner provided updates on the June 27, 2026, festival. An Economic and Community Development Committee meeting will be held on April 22, 2026 at 4:30 PM to discuss details further.

2. DORA

Ms. Hefner stated that the requirement for DORA participating establishments to name the Village as “additionally insured” [as outlined in Ordinance No. 2026-02] would help reduce the Village's liability and reduce insurance costs.

Mayor Patterson disagreed with this requirement. He stated that he opposed this requirement as the establishments already had insurance. He did not want these businesses to be charged additional costs to add the Village as “additionally insured”.

Ms. Hefner stated that this requirement would not cost anything for the establishments. Mayor Patterson stated that he had heard that it could cost \$200.00-\$300.00.

Mayor Patterson stated that he was concerned about the DORA cup requirement and potential costs for businesses to utilize these.

3. Event Policy

Administrator Bender stated that he had revised the proposed event policy to include suggestions made by Mr. Engard and Mayor Patterson.

Mr. Engard and Mayor Patterson were concerned that language in the policy that did not specify who would pay for the support of police officers for events.

Mr. Engard provided an example of a block party, and asked if the Village would be supplying additional police officers at its own expense for a private event.

Administrator Bender will include new language stating that the Police Chief would have discretion.

VII. Personnel, Policy and Ordinance Review – Richard Bosak

1. Public Records Request

Administrator Bender presented the revised Public Records Request form. He stated that the following changes were made in accordance with Ohio Revised Code:

Police body camera footage will no longer be provided free of charge to individuals who are involved with cases. Instead, this footage will be provided at no cost during the “discovery phase” of a trial.

He stated that this was to ensure that all requesters are treated the same.

VIII. Finance and Technology – Dave Richmond

1. Phone System

Mr. Richmond raised a concern about the phone system in the police lobby. He stated that the current system [a wall-mounted phone with an automated selection menu to call 911 OR other non-emergency options] was not representative of the system council had decided upon.

Mayor Patterson asked Administrator Bender to contact InTech, the Village’s IT consultant, and request that a red phone be installed. This phone should immediately call 911 without a menu.

IX. Administrator – Josh Bender

1. WCEDC Annual Dinner

Administrator Bender stated that the Wood County Economic Development Commission Annual Dinner was approaching, he asked which council members were interested in attending.

2. All Event Permits

The following event permits will be presented at the April 14th, 2026 meeting of council: “Dino Wheels on Main” event, North Baltimore Public Library [June 3rd, 2026], North Baltimore Little League Parade [May 9th, 2026].

X. Fiscal Officer – Matt Clouse

Mr. Clouse reported that the main office was back to full-staffing. He also reported that the first disbursement for the Wood County Sheriff dispatch had occurred.

XI. Mayor – Aaron Patterson

Nothing of note.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 PM.