

**Village of Middlefield Finance**  
**November 13, 2025**  
**6:00 PM**

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The Finance & Ordinance meeting was called to order by roll call at 6:00 pm with the following members present: Mr. Chris Michalakes, Mr. Sam Morrow and Ms. Kaitlyn Arganti.

**Also present:** Mayor Garlich, Ms. Leslie McCoy- Village Administrator, Mr. Nick Giardina- Fiscal Officer, Mr. Scott Klein, and Chief Tucholski.

**Agenda:** No additions/deletions.

**Approval of Minutes:** October 7, 2025 meeting minutes were presented for approval. ***Mr. Michalakes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, motion seconded by Ms. Arganti. All in favor: Yeas (3).***

**OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Village Finances – Discussion:** Mr. Giardina included a report. Mr. Giardina stated income tax is down compared to the prior month. The main three categories of water, sewer, and income tax are up about .2% compared to the prior year. Mr. Giardina stated total receipts are up about 9.5% and total expenses are up due to big projects that were expected. Withholdings are still strong and individual deposits are up compared to the prior year. Mr. Giardina stated business deposits are still down but businesses have until November 15<sup>th</sup> to file. Mr. Giardina stated total wages are in check even with the employee head count being lower. Mr. Giardina stated all Village finances are strong and everything is going well.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. RESOLUTION 25-20 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UPDATED GEUGA COUNTY NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN, FISCAL YEAR 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Morrow introduced Resolution 25-20 by title only. Ms. McCoy stated this is a request from the county emergency management agency to accept the Geauga County Plan. Both Mayor Garlich and Chief Tucholski have participated in this plan. Mr. Morrow stated he feels that the plan is weak. Mayor Garlich stated the Village has their own backup plan as well in case it is needed. **Mr. Morrow made a motion to recommend Resolution 25-20 to Council, motion seconded by Ms. Arganti. All in favor: Roll Call. Yeas (3).**
- 2. RESOLUTION 25-21 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GEUGA COUNTY AUDITOR TO PROVIDE TAX ADVANCES FOR THE 2026 COLLECTION PERIODS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Morrow introduced Resolution 25-21 by title only. Mr. Giardina stated this is standard for real estate tax advances. **Ms. Arganti made a motion to recommend Resolution 25-21 to Council, motion seconded by Mr. Michalakes. All in favor: Roll Call. Yeas (3).**
- 3. ORDINANCE 25-150 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK SECTION 3.8(A) ENTITLED "INSURANCE WAIVER OPTION," AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Morrow introduced Ordinance 25-150 by title only. Mayor Garlich stated a situation came up where usually a stipend of \$1,000 is given if an employee does not take the health insurance. Mayor Garlich stated there are two Village employees who are married and have requested that they receive the

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\$1,000 stipend due to only having one insurance policy through the Village. Mayor Garlich stated it makes sense to him that they would get it. **Ms. Arganti made a motion to recommend Ordinance 25-150 to Council, motion seconded by Mr. Michalakes. All in favor: Yeas (3).**

**General Discussion:** Mayor Garlich stated Chief Tucholski would like to discuss police wages. Chief Tucholski has included a report in the packet to show costs to the Village if there was an increase in police wages. Chief Tucholski stated the biggest issue with policing is hiring and retention. Starting wage for the Middlefield Police Department is \$24.20. Chief Tucholski stated after doing a study comparing other departments police have left Middlefield for in the last 3 years the lowest pay someone has left the Village for is \$31.71. Chief Tucholski stated that pay rate is close to what the Village top out pay is for the police. Chief Tucholski stated the Middlefield Police Department is currently drastically below the average pay for police officers. Mayor Garlich stated he does believe the focus needs to be on the starting pay because the first thing applicants ask about is the starting pay rate. Mr. Giardina stated this is not giving the whole police department a big pay increase. It is only increasing the starting rate.

**ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Morrow made a motion to adjourn at 6:32pm, motion seconded by Ms. Arganti. All in favor: Yeas (3).**

These Finance Meeting Minutes are to be supplemented by any audio recording of the Meeting, to the extent any such audio recording exists and is kept by the Village.