

Village of Rothbury
July 21, 2026
Council Meeting Minutes

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Rothbury Village Council was called to order in the Village Hall at 7PM by President Mike Harris.

Council members present were Autum Drake, Juan Cano, Jim Fekken, Denise Kurdziel, Troy Voorhees and Dylan Zuniga.

Also present were Treasurer Deb Murphy, Police Chief Ethan Walker, Operations Director Scott Beishuizen, Attorney Brennan Gorman, MaryAnne Canales, Sandra Bailey, Mike Lewis, Ed Goerbig, Julie Trevino, Brian VanNett, Amy Sweeny, Joann Armstrong, Catherine Marcoux, Theresa Briggs, Bud VanBelzen, Marian Trevino, Jeff Krukowski, Andrew Heykoop, Vern Talmadge, Sonya Talmadge, Harold Drake, Carlos Canales, Andy Roberts, Ted Kurdziel, Paul Schrader and Janet Vanderleest. Various media outlets were also in attendance.

Following the pledge of allegiance, President Harris read a statement to the audience.

Good evening everyone, Before we begin tonight's agenda, I want to take a moment and address the recent tragedy that has touched our community.

A newborn child lost their life. This loss is a sobering and heartbreaking reality that none of us can set aside. We acknowledge the gravity of what occurred and the weight it carries for our community.

This matter is currently under active investigation by the Michigan State Police and the FBI. As such, it will not appear on tonight's agenda, and the Council will not offer comment or discussion on any aspect of the case this evening. The Council is committed to allowing the investigative process to run its course. It

would be premature to draw conclusions, engage in speculation, or take action before all of the facts are known, and we will not do so.

We understand that this is deeply frustrating for many in our community, and we do not take that frustration lightly. Your desire for answers and accountability is heard, and is shared.

During the public comment portion of our meeting, each speaker will have up to three minutes to address the Council. This will not be a back-and-forth with the Council. We ask that everyone conduct themselves respectfully and maintain appropriate decorum.

Thank you for your understanding. We will now proceed with tonight's agenda

The prior meetings minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer Deb Murphy gave the monthly Treasurers report, noting that the annual audit is set to start the next morning.

Police Chief Ethan Walker gave the monthly Police Report. Chief Walker requested permission from the Council to list the 2016 Tahoe on an auction site after it is decommissioned as the new Patrol Vehicle is currently being upfitted and expected to be in service by Labor Day. Council granted permission.

Planning Commission Chair Mike Harris reported that a Planning Commission meeting was held, and that a new member was appointed to fill the vacant seat left by Juan Cano.

The Council welcomed Ted Kurdziel to the Planning Commission.

A zoning permit was brought to the attention of Mr. Harris, with a request made to further research a previous land split made and that the new process published on the website be followed.

Recreation Director Brandy Williams had no updates.

Rothbury Community Center Director Deb Murphy had no updates.

Operations Director Scott Beishuizen updated on the Czarny Park project progress.

The proposal for the outside contractor to take over enforcement of zoning approved at the prior months meeting, was presented in contract form, signed and to be returned to the contractor.

Treasurer Murphy reviewed a quote from the Computer Refinery for software enabling a cloud base that trustees could access with set permissions.

Motion by Dylan Zuniga to accept the quote for the software and implementation, with support by Denise Kurdziel.

7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Treasurer Murphy then reviewed with the Council a proposal for a new laptop for Troy Voorhees who is taking on the Zoning Administration duties and working with the outside contractor.

Motion by Denise Kurdziel to move forward with the purchase of the laptop, seconded by Jim Fekken.

7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Public Comment by Mike Lewis, Catherine Marcoux, Paul Schrader and Julie Trevino.

Motion to pay the bills by Autum Drake, seconded by Jim Fekken.

7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn by Mike Harris, Denied by Clerk Williams.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Williams

Clerk