

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Village of South Amherst
October 27, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jones at 7:00 p.m., commencing with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer followed by the Pledge Allegiance.

LORD'S PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Michele Jeffers	P	Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke	P
Councilmember Robb Koscho	P	Records Clerk Laurie Beran	P
Councilmember Michael Sangiacomo	P	Law Director Matthew Mishak	P
Councilmember Becky Siesky	P	Utility Admin. David Valentine	P
Councilmember David Troike	P	Assistant F.O. Wendy Kolmorgen	P
Council Pro Tempore Jeanne Maschari	P	(EA – excused absences)	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA October 27, 2025

Councilmember Koscho moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES October 14, 2025

Councilmember Siesky moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Jeffers seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

VISITORS

South Amherst Residents

Annis: 110 Virgil Dalton, 112 Dustin Hill, 320 Brad & Evelyn Titchenell, 330 Michelle Tibbs & Richelle Costello, 375 Shaila Teter, 390 Chris Gallagher, 392 Ed & Ellen Gonos, 460 Anthony & Lauri Salib, 463 Dennis Burdue
Charles: 208 Amanda Watte, 214 Joe & Michelle Smith, 218 Jim Smith & Dawn Howell, 220 Joshua Fox
E. Main: 116 Brian & Ashlea Steiner
Erie: 203 Sarah & Erika Howard, 220 Megan Robbins
Kenwood: 107 Patrick & Patti Baier, 109 Jerry & D. Smith
Maroy: 107 Lynn Obechi, 118 Diana Hobart, 135 John Muska
N. Lake: 311 Dennis & Christine Hevener
Oakdale: 221 Ron Crowe
Pyle/S.A: 1004 James Chalik
Russia: 5910 John & Debbie Gresh, 6034 Bob Laeng, 6240 Chad Arcaba, 6280 Jim Graham, 6281 Chad Conrad, 6425 Marty Sofia
S. Lake: 239 Preston Kirschner, 269 Mary K. Kirsch, 592 Mark Leshinski, 596 Corey Linn, 667 Anthony Savage, 717 Oscar Duncan, 885 Tara Dewitt
Squires: 110 Annesia Truman
Sunnyside: 405 Penny Becker
W. Main: 215 Bill Riddle, 220 Scott Dolan, 231 Paula Lawson, 237 Hannah Vale, 249 Steve Iwanek, 255 Hope Myers & Sophia Pohorence, 617 Charles Pullins, 619 Timothy Gratz
SAFD: Chief Grimm, Assistant Chief Zaleha, FF Jason Barnard
SAPD: Lt. Harvan

Lorain County Representatives

David J. Moore County Commissioner

2025850

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

Rob Duncan Director Community Development
Donald Romancak Stormwater and Community Development Coordinator
Karen Perkins Deputy Administrator to Armbruster
Anne Hecz Administrative Assistant to Marty Gallagher

Albrecht: 44123 Timothy Jaskolka, 44405 Rob & Mary Henes, 44508 Jeff Kudlo, 44511 DJ & Kim Johnson,
44635 Bill & Sally Carter
Baumhart: 9318 Robert & Danica Johnson
Bechtel: 8822 Hanna McMullen, 9099 Ryan Nolan, 9138 Jeremiah & Angela Shuty, 9227 Sharon Mickelson
Becker: Brittany Cartillo
Butternut Ridge: 45248 Cheryl Lawrie, 45277 Patricia Cindric, Geoff Kucillo
Crocker: 243 Kristi Harker
Edgewater (Vermilion): 3240 Jean Anderson
Fawn Circle: 52102 Greg Butchko
Forest: 233 Jennifer Clark & Falon Varao
Fowl: 1957 Jesse Z, 2118 Brandon & Katie Farsie
Garfield: 47491 Brent & Tracy Sharp, 47880 David Sliman, 48715 Cari Walts
Gifford: 9918 Marilyn Siekeres, Kyle Kudela
Hallauer: 44405 Stephen Burrer
Hawthorne: Annie Kincade
Hume Hill: 49 Nicholas Molnar
Jerusalem: 3889 Bobbie Clark
Lakeview Dr: 33 Rich & Karen Johnson
Leavitt: 10481 Jason & Katlin
Middle Ridge: 47564 Demetria Miller, 47600 Mark & Kathie Tylicki
Murry Ridge: 10295 Dennis & Debi Smith
N. Prospect: 41 Eboni Johnson & Tyrone Wicks
Oberlin: 8689 Keith & Carole Holzhauer, Mike & Glenda Johnson, 10768 Sharon & Norm Percez,
11206 Wayne Wright
Parsons: 43612 Andrea Barlow
Pyle/SA: 11382 Tim Abraham
Quarry: 9660 Barney & Paula Freeman, 10388 Mark Johnson & Cassie E., 10736 Anton & Cheryl Maichl,
10776 Brandon Gates
Ridgeland: 160 Mike Ehman
Russia: 44045 Maureen Egan, 44143 Nick & Deanna King, 44625 Rich & Kim Polen, 45100 Mark, Karla & Jeffrey
Schmiedlin, 45309 Jeff & Erin Davis, 45549 James Roman, 45589 Erin Mason,
St Rt 113: 48264 Brittany Wesley, 48274 Paul Scaglione, 49341 Ken Keressi
St Rt 303: 38097 Jean Craig
Telegraph: 44425 Rebecca & Kyle, 482638 Marilyn Miller, 48318 Lynn Schnitz, 50187 Heath Cazeau
Vermilion: 11090 Mary King Sekdic – Jennifer King Sekdic – Aaron Joseph
W. Hamilton: 47894 Ryan Dadon
W. Ridge: 10886 Rachel Cromer, 11740 George & Brian Lauer, 12264 Rich & Ann Hamker
Whitehead: 19361 Deb Balmert

LORAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER – DAVID MOORE

Mr. Moore introduced himself and acknowledged the presence of several individuals from the County. He shared that approximately ten days prior, he received a call from Councilmember Maschari regarding the Mega-site and/or Advanced Technology Campus and related development. He emphasized that public awareness is lacking, largely because many residents do not attend meetings where these topics have been discussed for over three years. Mr. Moore aimed to provide clarity on how residents can stay informed about county and township-level developments. He noted that there has been ongoing activity on Russia Road and Baumhart Road, and he intended to conclude his remarks with updates on those areas. Mr. Moore pointed out that many residents do not attend or watch county and local government meetings, which contributes to the lack of awareness. He encouraged attendees to review the county agenda, which is where significant developments are first introduced. He recommended reaching out to Theresa Upton (TUPTON@loraincounty.us) for agenda access and mentioned that updates are also available on the County's Facebook page. He referred to July 2022 agendas as a starting point for understanding the ongoing development discussions.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

As a commissioner, Mr. Moore explained that their responsibilities include infrastructure, budgeting, and taxation. He shared that about four to five years ago; commissioners began attending the Lorain County Township Association meetings to provide monthly updates. The site in question has been discussed for over two and a half years at these meetings, which are attended by township and village officials to stay informed. If you want to stay informed about what's happening in your community, it's important to attend meetings where your elected officials are present. Unfortunately, many people don't attend, which means they miss out on key updates and decisions. You and your fellow council members can benefit from participating in gatherings like the Mayor's Association and the Lorain County Township Association. These meetings are designed to foster collaboration between local and county officials and ensure everyone is aware of what's happening in their own backyard. County commissioners make it a priority to attend these meetings—at least one of them is always present. You'll also see the county auditor, state representatives, senators, and other officials there monthly. These meetings are where important decisions and ideas are discussed, which directly impact your community.

For example, the decision to implement a \$5 license tax countywide came from feedback at township meetings. Initially, the plan was to tax only the townships, but officials pointed out that everyone uses county roads. That input led to a fairer solution that benefits all residents and helps secure federal matching funds for road repairs. Other ideas that originated from these meetings include development projects and changes to property tax laws. Thanks to discussions at the local level, the State of Ohio now allows counties to double the owner-occupied credit and homestead exemption. If you're over 65, or if you own and occupy your home, you should check your property tax records and apply for these exemptions before December 31. There's also a statewide petition drive underway regarding property taxes, which could affect every county, township, and village. As a county, we receive \$25 million from levies that support 911 services and the general fund. We're exploring the possibility of replacing some of that property tax revenue with a sales tax to reduce the burden on homeowners. While we didn't have time to act on it this year, we're watching the petition closely and may revisit the idea next year.

The main concern about the limited taxing authority of townships, noting that unlike counties, townships lack the same ability to generate revenue, which can hinder their capacity to maintain essential services. He explained that if property tax revenue is lost, townships may face dissolution unless they restructure by voting to become cities or villages—an option that would allow them to implement income taxes. This restructuring is currently one of the few viable paths for townships to achieve financial stability, and he urged council members to consider this reality in their future planning and partnerships. Commissioner Moore emphasized the importance of preparing for the end of the year, particularly in light of a statewide property tax petition that, if successful, could place significant financial pressure on cities and especially on school districts. He encouraged council members to stay informed about these developments, which are regularly discussed at county and township meetings.

Mr. Moore also reported on the establishment of a countywide communication network for safety forces, funded by \$13 million from American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds and \$15 million from the State of Ohio. Despite political challenges over two and a half years, the infrastructure project was completed without drawing from the county's general fund. The system is now operational, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for this month. Commissioner Moore acknowledged that the project became controversial due to radio equipment sales and compatibility issues. Many agencies purchased radios that now require costly upgrades—estimated at \$1,000 per unit—to integrate with the new system. The county is exploring grant opportunities to help offset these expenses for villages and townships that lack sufficient funding.

Commissioner Moore reflected on a major initiative from four years ago involving the county airport. Early in his term, the county was approached by multiple entities, including Team NEO and JobsOhio, regarding the potential decommissioning and relocation of the airport. While he opposed decommissioning, he supported exploring relocation options. Sites considered included areas near South Amherst and Vermilion, though cost and feasibility limited progress. The airport project was part of a broader effort to attract a major employer—an Intel competitor—with the potential to bring 5,800 jobs and thousands of construction workers. Although the opportunity ultimately went to New York, the process elevated the county's visibility and led to increased interest in surrounding properties. At that time, we did sign NDA's (non-disclosure agreement).

Currently, 600 of the airport's 1,100 acres are being farmed under a bid awarded to an Erie County entity, which drew concern from local officials. Meanwhile, agencies have begun placing options on nearby properties, signaling continued interest in development. Commissioner Moore concluded by reiterating his long-term focus on

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

infrastructure and development along the Baumhart Road corridor between the Turnpike and Route 2. Recognizing an opportunity to leverage funding from the State of Ohio and the federal government, we began pursuing support to build a wastewater treatment plant in the Vermilion area. This initiative led to infrastructure work starting in July 2022, when we invested \$814,000 in AARPA funds to begin improvements on the infrastructure along Baumhart Road.

Recently, the county received \$67 million from the State of Ohio, reflecting the state's interest in expanding business activity near the airport. Commissioner Moore noted ongoing conversations with developers regarding the airport, which has been a focus of county efforts for the past two years. Of the 1,100 acres surrounding the airport, development was previously restricted without federal approval. However, the federal government has now authorized development of 315 acres north of the runway. Additionally, approximately 155 acres on the southern side of the airport are already prepared for development. These two areas fall under the direct control of the county commissioners and are central to current planning efforts.

Moore also discussed the importance of land use planning, referencing Brownhelm Township's concerns about uncontrolled development. He emphasized that communities must choose whether to guide their own development or allow developers to do so. The county partnered with Brownhelm Township to strengthen their land use plan, providing financial support to help them create a more robust framework. Such plans, often referred to as master plans, are essential tools for managing growth and protecting community interests.

Addressing public concerns about data centers, Moore acknowledged that while some residents oppose them, they are part of ongoing development discussions. He confirmed that data center developers are currently evaluating sites in Lorain (steel plant), Oberlin, and Grafton, including a 600-acre parcel near the prison. He mentioned the redevelopment efforts near the former Geauga Lake site, which now includes apartments, Menards, and Meijer stores. The same developer involved in that project has received a final extension on the Midway Mall and is expected to lead redevelopment efforts in area.

Moore concluded by introducing members of his team available for questions: Bob from the Engineer's Office, Don Romancak Stormwater & Community Development Coordinator, Robert Duncan Director of Community Development, Karen Perkins Deputy Administrator.

The meeting transitioned to public comment, with a designated timekeeper managing three-minute speaking intervals for each participant.

Commissioner Moore responded to a question about the potential closure of Burke Lakefront Airport and whether Lorain County Airport should be closed by, stating that he does not support shutting it down. Instead, he advocates for expanding aviation activity at the county's regional airport, which he believes can absorb business from Burke. Moore noted that there is already a contractor at the airport that supports important defense-related operations and that enhancing aviation activity would be a more productive path forward.

James Chalik: A resident thanked Commissioner Moore and his team for attending and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak. The speaker shared concerns about the proposed development near their home, specifically the plan to develop approximately 1,000 acres just a mile away. They compared this to the 300-acre vacant Ford plant in Lorain, noting that the scale of the new development would be more than triple that size and could significantly alter the rural character of the community. The speaker recounted a conversation with another resident who had previously lived near a steel mill and moved to South Amherst for a quieter, family-friendly environment. That resident, while still working in Cleveland, chose South Amherst for its rural lifestyle and is now concerned about the potential impact of industrial development.

The speaker acknowledged that community members may have been late in becoming aware of the project but emphasized that many local leaders and residents were unaware of the mega-site plans. They expressed frustration over the lack of transparency and community engagement.

Examples were given from local zoning meetings to highlight the contrast in regulatory scrutiny: in New Russia Township, a resident seeking to add an in-law suite was told it would be classified as a duplex; in North Ridgeville, a prospective coffee shop owner had to provide data proving that the drive-thru speaker wouldn't disturb nearby residents. In contrast, the speaker noted that the county is now discussing a 2,000-acre industrial complex with no clear restrictions or guarantees about its use.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

While acknowledging the potential economic benefits of large employers like Intel, the speaker voiced strong opposition to data centers, citing their low employment numbers—estimated at 20 to 30 employees per 300 acres—and the disproportionate impact on the township's character. They urged the commissioners to consider starting with the existing Ford plant site and evaluating outcomes before expanding further. The speaker concluded by emphasizing the importance of preserving the rural environment, stating that they value being able to walk outside and see the stars, something they fear could be lost with unchecked industrial development.

Visitor: Inquired about the status and location of the wastewater management plan.

Commissioner Moore responded that the county had just received the proposal and had not yet hired a firm. He explained that the area under consideration is north of Route 2 and Baumhart, and that a company is expected to be hired within the next two weeks to evaluate three potential sites. Once a site is selected, development activity will begin. The visitor asked whether the infrastructure would be routed through the Quarries or via Russia and Baumhart Roads. Commissioner Moore confirmed that the primary route would be through Russia and Baumhart Roads. He also clarified that the initial estimate of \$67 million for the project was outdated, and the current projected cost is approximately \$180 million.

Anthony Savage: Asked the commissioner to clarify the current legal and financial status of the proposed mega-site project, as well as what decisions remain open to public input and when related votes are expected to occur. Commissioner Moore explained that the term "mega site" simply refers to a large area of land available for development. The site itself already exists. Currently, the county is focused on infrastructure improvements, including sewer installation, to support future development. JobsOhio and Team NEO are the entities holding options on the Ceres property, which includes approximately 600 acres. These organizations are actively working with external businesses interested in locating them to the area. The county's role at this stage is to ensure the infrastructure is in place to support potential development in order to do that we need a wastewater treatment plant. Savage asked if there was land near the proposed site of the wastewater treatment plant where this project could be placed that would be better than New Russia Twp.? Moore – yes, people are already placing option on property between the Turnpike and Route 2, where I think it should be. Savage inquired into the number of acres available. Moore responded that the county has no control over that but there is a lot of acreage. Questions about environmental impact assessments for the New Russia Township area remained unanswered, as the county only controls the airport land (315 and 165 acres) and not the surrounding areas. The community member expressed a desire for more involvement in the decision-making processes of land use. Commissioner Moore emphasized the importance of attending township and commissioner meetings to voice concerns that could influence outcomes. It was noted that local governments already have zoning boards and land use plans, but some communities may need to update or develop master plans to guide future growth.

Chad Arcaba: A resident of the Village and a fifth-generation farmer from Russia Road, voiced strong opposition to the project with the commissioners turning their backs on agriculture, citing a lack of economic benefit to the township due to its designation as an Enterprise Zone, which exempts new businesses from local taxes. He also highlighted technical issues with the proposed sewer line, which would require a pressurized system that his property could not connect to, further questioning the project's value to the community. The resident concluded with a shared sentiment of frustration and concern that the project may not serve the interests of local residents, and that more transparency and community engagement are needed moving forward.

Visitor: Expressed serious concerns about the environmental and health impacts of the land surrounding the airport, particularly referencing the area of Oberlin and Albrecht Roads with the use of toxic sludge on farmland in the area. They noted that this sludge contains "forever chemicals" and other harmful substances which pose long-term risks. The speaker emphasized that when this contaminated land is disturbed—such as through digging or development, these toxins could become airborne and affect nearby properties, gardens, and food sources like vegetables and fruit trees. They shared a personal account of having experienced illness due to similar exposure in the past and urged officials to carefully evaluate the consequences of disturbing such land.

Lynn Schmitz: We're already preparing infrastructure for a mega site that we don't even know what is going in, so if there isn't going to be a mega site over here, why do we need the infrastructure here? The commissioner replied that along with the opportunity to bring development and infrastructure to the western portion of the county, they have been working with Vermilion to replace their failing wastewater treatment plant.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

Visitor: Noted that in New Russia Township, all land west of Oberlin Road is currently zoned for agricultural use. The term "mega site" was clarified to refer to land east of Oberlin Road, as no zoning changes have yet occurred west of it, though a rezoning request is currently in process. The key concern was whether the elected leadership of New Russia Township makes the decision to not rezone this area as industrial or whatever you want to call it, would you support or object to an annexation proposal from the City of Elyria? Commissioner Moore stated, "First of all, I don't think Elyria wants to annex. Wait a minute, let me say that I'm sure they would love to annex. But I am against annexation." The visitor rephrased the question – "Based upon the zoning decision of the leadership of New Russia Township would you accept that without pressure from your office?" Moore said, "we have nothing to do with that." Visitor replied, "you keep saying thousand acre and the request is across Oberlin Rd?" Due to level of disruption during the meeting, the remainder of the commissioner's response could not be clearly heard or recorded.

Visitor: The main issue is not the airport but the property west that extends between Oberlin Rd and State Rt. 58. First, they wanted 1,000 acres now 2,000 acres and that's where it comes into South Amherst. Second thing is the concern of the impact the airport expansion will have, particularly the extension of the runway, which could result in larger planes flying directly over residential areas. One resident, who lives near Russia Road, voiced concern about noise and safety, asking whether the county would provide mitigation measures such as insulation or new windows for affected homes.

The conversation continued with concerns about the scope and timeline of the mega site development. It was noted that JobsOhio has a five-year agreement to secure additional land beyond the initial 600 acres, and once the county signals readiness to build, the project could move forward rapidly. While smaller developments like an Amazon facility were mentioned, the primary concern among residents centered on the proposed data centers. One speaker pointed out that such facilities may only employ around 40 people, including cleaning staff, raising doubts about the broader economic benefits for the community.

There was confusion about the actual acreage under county control, with clarification that only 1100 acres is controlled by the county which is airport property. A major point of contention was the proposed sewage line, which is designed to serve the mega site by connecting to a nearby force main. Residents questioned the necessity and impact of this infrastructure, noting that an existing system already serves the airport area. The funding for this sewer line reportedly came from government sources specifically to support the mega site. Commissioner Moore reiterated that, yes, the 67 million came from the State of Ohio.

Jeri Leigh Siss, a former council member, addressed the group to express frustration over the lack of transparency and communication from county officials. She recalled multiple instances where the council invited the county to discuss development plans, including meetings with Mr. Romancak. Despite these efforts, no clear information was provided about the scale of the project. Approximately two years ago a \$14 million request was made to Senator Sherrod Brown's office and noted that when asked whether South Amherst was included in the sewer plans, the response was that geological issues made it too expensive to extend sewer service to the village. When asked for a timeline, the answer was vague—"sometime between five and twenty-five years." Siss emphasized that while residents are being encouraged to participate more actively, past attempts to engage with county leadership yielded few answers. She concluded by asking Commissioner Moore to share the schedule for county commissioner meetings so residents could attend and stay informed. The meetings were confirmed to take place on Tuesdays at 3:30 PM and Fridays at 9:30 AM following low attendance at the previous 6:30 PM time slot. Ms. Siss suggested that by the number of people in attendance that critical issues like the mega site project should be held at more convenient times to allow broader public participation. The turnout at the current meeting, which included residents from multiple townships including Eaton, New Russia, Carlisle, and Brownhelm—demonstrated the importance of the issue and the need for more inclusive engagement.

Visitor: Reference was made to recent media coverage, including News Channel 5, which reported that negotiations are underway for 1,000-2,000 acres for land between Route 58 and Oberlin Road, which is currently zoned agricultural. What negotiations are taking place? That is where we have no answers. Attendees asked where the development maps were coming from and who had access to them. It was clarified that JobsOhio holds options to purchase the land and is in talks with outside developers who would be interested in moving here. The option agreement reportedly spans five years, with about three and a half years remaining. If it stays agriculture, what happens then? The county stated that was a zoning question for New Russia Township.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

Visitor: Voiced concern about the lack of clear answers from officials, comparing the responses to bureaucratic deflection. They emphasized that the issue affects multiple communities and called for cross-community communication led by county officials. They proposed regular monthly meetings to keep residents informed and allow for meaningful input on development plans. The speaker also challenged the use of the term "mega site," noting that it has a specific business definition and that the land in question is not unused but long-standing farmland. They stressed the importance of preserving agricultural land, especially given rising food prices and global trade instability, and advocated for investing in local farms instead of industrial development. Finally, the speaker highlighted the need for more accessible meeting times, pointing out that many residents have full-time jobs, families, or other responsibilities that prevent them from attending weekday morning meetings. They urged county officials to recognize that low attendance does not equate to lack of interest and called for a more inclusive approach to public engagement. Moore stated that he was aware of Oberlin because they purchased the land near the Nexus property and agreed with continued meeting such as the one this evening.

Greg Butchko (Brownhelm Twp. Trustee): Acknowledged the unexpectedly high turnout and the broad representation from various townships and villages, including Amherst, Brownhelm, Carlisle, Eaton, and New Russia. He noted that the presence of so many concerned residents indicated the significance of the issue at hand.

Visitor: A question was raised about Team NEO's interest in the airport and why county officials didn't propose reinvesting in existing industrial sites, such as former manufacturing facilities in Lorain County. The airport, for instance, lacks the necessary infrastructure, whereas other sites already have sewer and water access. The suggestion was to clean up and repurpose these sites, which are located in communities where residents could benefit from nearby jobs, especially those without access to transportation. County officials responded that they are actively working with those sites, but many are privately owned by parties unwilling to sell or invest in redevelopment due to the high cost of environmental cleanup. For example, the former steel plant is owned by a Mexican company that would be liable for EPA remediation if sold. Similarly, the owner of the former Ford plant has taken decades to improve the site. Officials emphasized that while they promote the county at developer expos and seek to list available lots, they are limited by property ownership and infrastructure readiness.

Visitor: Stated that she had spoken with State Representative Gayle Manning and State Senator Nathan Manning who claimed to have secured the grant for 67 million. She quoted Ms. Manning stated that the grant money could be used anywhere in Lorain County, it didn't just have to be used at this mega site. Secondly, is this going to be put to vote for Lorain County Residents. Mr. Moore stated that he would call Ms. Manning tomorrow and ask if it was true that the grant money could be used anywhere. The visitor repeated the question for a public vote for the residents of the county to decide if the mega site should be located in the county. Mr. Moore restated that is why the townships need to have a land use plan and zoning regulations that control development.

Visitor: Criticized the tone of earlier remarks that seemed to blame residents for not attending meetings, pointing out that many people have jobs, families, and responsibilities that prevent them from attending weekday sessions. Resident opinions should be considered about what goes on in their community. The speaker urged officials to consider generational health and community sustainability over short-term economic gains. We don't want these mega sites. Commissioner Moore was asked, "When you keep saying that the mega site is already here what do you picture as the mega site? He responded, "the land." The speaker said that when we (residents) picture the mega site we're picturing the future project. When we criticize the mega site, it is not the land we are referring to but to the project.

Visitor: Requested information regarding the schedule for the forced main project. Mr. Moore replied that the project would take 5-7 years. Five years alone for the wastewater treatment plant and the forced main pipe would be laid simultaneously.

Visitor: Stated concerns about the lack of transparency and public input surrounding the mega site development, stating that the project appears to have been in progress for five years without adequate community awareness. They expressed frustration that decisions are being made without a public vote, particularly in the townships, where residents feel excluded from the process. The sentiment was echoed by others who questioned whether the township would have any say in the development, or if it was simply being imposed from higher levels of government.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

Visitor: A former Vermilion resident questioned the financial implications of the water treatment infrastructure, noting that residents were previously told they would bear the cost, which would triple their water bills. This concern led them to relocate to New Russia Township, only to now face similar financial burdens. They asked whether New Russia Township would be responsible for covering costs related to Vermilion's water system failures and whether township residents would see increased taxes or property values as a result.

Commissioner Moore responded that, "Vermilion will be paying quite a bit of money to participate in this project." Water services are managed by the local water provider and not by the county. However, questions remained about whether township residents would indirectly bear financial responsibility through grants or infrastructure funding. One resident emphasized the need for clarity on who pays for what, especially as property values and taxes may rise due to development.

Visitor: Shared a personal experience of receiving a surprise bill for \$120 with little notice, highlighting a broader issue of poor communication from the county. They cited an example from Middle Ridge and Baumhart Road, where a large tower was installed without informing nearby residents, some of whom only learned about it when construction began. This lack of notice, even in areas where commissioners reside, was seen as problematic of a broader failure to engage and inform the public.

The conversation concluded with a call for better communication methods beyond websites and meeting notices. Residents expressed that monitoring multiple government websites is unrealistic for working families and emphasized the need for proactive outreach and transparency. They urged county officials to prioritize generational health and community well-being over short-term economic interests and to involve residents meaningfully in decisions that affect their lives.

Visitor: Shared their experience of receiving a surprise bill from the Department of Health (septic fee) with little notice and cited a lack of communication regarding a large tower installation near Middle Ridge and Baumhart Road. Despite a commissioner living nearby, residents were not informed until construction began. This was seen as another example of poor transparency and community engagement. Commissioner Moore responded by noting that newsletters had been issued discussing infrastructure developments, including sewer line plans along Baumhart Road. However, residents pointed out that these newsletters did not mention the mega site project or its full scope.

Karen Johnson, a resident of Carlisle Township, spoke about her involvement in leading a successful referendum (Issue 19) that stopped heavy industrial expansion with an 84% vote. She emphasized that the community had clearly voiced opposition to such development. Ms. Johnson stated that ten years ago she worked with county commissioners on a failed referendum that proposed dividing the county into seven districts, each representing approximately 45,000 residents, so that townships could have a bigger say. Now, it is the county's chance to let the townships have a bigger say. Regarding the mega site she raised concerns about environmental risks. Currently, she learned that the EPA has launched a SEI (Social Environmental Index) report. It measures the risk levels for facilities that have EPA permits, essentially those permitted to pollute. The RSCI score for the Eaton Twp. facility is 14 times higher than average. She wants to make sure that county residents are aware of what the RSCI report will project for the mega site before any major infrastructure goes in, or before any changes are finalized. Changing the zoning from agricultural to heavy industrial is a major concern for all the citizens.

Commissioner Moore thanked Ms. Johnson for helping them with the initiative to have a charter county government with 7-11 commissioners that would enable more localized decision-making and equitable representation across Lorain County's population of 322,000.

Visitor: a professional negotiator for a global company, expressed deep frustration with the lack of transparency surrounding the mega site project. She criticized county officials for not informing residents earlier, stating that non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) do not prevent general public awareness only confidential concerns, and that she negotiates NDAs regularly. She emphasized that the community could have been made aware of the project five years ago, and the failure to do so was unacceptable. She argued that the proposed development, particularly data centers or chip manufacturing facilities, would not bring meaningful long-term jobs to the area. Instead, she explained, such projects typically involve specialized construction crews who complete the building and leave, with ongoing operations managed remotely. These facilities require minimal staffing and are attracted to Ohio due to its cool climate and abundant water resources, which are ideal for cooling servers.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

The speaker also highlighted the broader implications of converting farmland into industrial zones. She stressed that farmland is a vital asset tied to family, community, and food security, especially in a time of rising grocery prices and global instability. She urged officials to prioritize legacy, sustainability, and the values that brought families to the area, rather than short-term economic gains.

Aaron Grimm South Amherst Fire Chief raised critical concerns regarding emergency services planning in relation to the proposed mega site development. He noted that the majority of the land between Route 58 and Oberlin Road currently falls within the department's coverage area, yet there has been no prior communication about the project until approximately one month ago. With projections suggesting up to 6,000 workers at the site, the Chief emphasized that this would effectively double the population of South Amherst and require significant expansion of emergency services. The chief explained that accommodating such growth would necessitate additional apparatus, personnel, and potentially a new fire station in the area. Given current timelines, ordering and receiving a new fire truck alone could take three to four years, and planning and funding a new station could take five to ten years. The Chief stressed that emergency services planning must be integrated into the development process from the beginning, not as an afterthought. He also highlighted the need for fire protection infrastructure on-site, especially if commercial facilities and fuel storage are involved. This would require dedicated staffing and resources, which would fall under the jurisdiction of the current fire department unless otherwise reassigned. The Chief expressed frustration that the department had not been consulted and urged county officials to proactively engage with local emergency services to ensure coordinated planning.

In response, Commissioner Moore acknowledged the limitations imposed by non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), stating that they were only permitted to share minimal details—such as the projected size of the company and a five-year development timeline. While the representative admitted that public advertising was limited, they committed to future outreach and coordination as the project progresses.

Mayor Jones encouraged the audience to stay informed by checking the various websites for meeting schedules and noted that a designated contact person would be available to forward any unanswered questions to the commissioner.

VISITORS

CDE Penny Becker thanked everyone who participated in the Halloween Fest.

Anthony Savage 667 S Lake thanked the fire department for their participation in events over the weekend.

Mark Leshinki 592 S. Lake inquired on the status for the water leak drone. The village administrator responded that permits are being filed and then the testing will be scheduled. Mr. Valentine also confirmed that property owners are responsible for the water line from the curb stop to the house.

MAYOR

Halloween Fest

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped to organize.

FISCAL OFFICER

Payment Listing

Presented to council.

Financial Reports

The following October Financial Reports were presented to council: Revenue Summary, Fund Summary, Appropriation Summary

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Village of South Amherst

Employee Health Insurance

Discussion continued from the previous meeting regarding the 13% premium increase. The fiscal officer recommended increasing the \$750.00 monthly allowance by \$45.01 to total \$795.01.

Councilmember Maschari moved to approve the Employee Health Insurance Benefit not to exceed \$795.01. Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

County Piggyback Exemption

The Lorain County Commissioners' approval of a "piggyback" exemption for homestead and real property taxes will reduce the village's revenue appropriation by approximately \$5,536.15 starting in 2026.

Debt Summary

The debt summary was updated to reflect payments made in 2025 as of October 22.

RECORDS CLERK

Records Commission

The Records Commission meeting scheduled for this evening was rescheduled for November 10th at 6:30 p.m.

September Construction Report

B/Z	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	B/Z	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
B	112 Maroy	HVAC	B	102 Buckeye	Fence
B	323 Elm	Re-roof	Z	102 Buckeye	Concrete
B	402 Charles	Re-roof	Z	110 Maroy	Accessory Structure
B	121 E Main	Renovation	Z	323 Elm St	Concrete
B	513 W Main	Re-roof	Z	107 Kenwood	Shed
B	304 N Lake	Re-roof			
Z	108 W Main	Fence			

UTILITY ADMINISTRATOR

Street/Service

Tree Russia Rd

Councilmember Maschari moved to approve the removal of a tree at 5797 Russia Rd for an amount not to exceed \$3400.00. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

Discussion: Three estimated had been received.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

Water

RLCWA Board Response

Councilmember Maschari received a response from RLCWA on the reason why the village does not have a seat on their board. The reason being is that we are considered a public water system - we purchase our water from RLCWA, then turn around and sell it to our residents. Township residents are billed directly by RLCWA and that is why they have representation on the board and we do not.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Village of South Amherst

Hydrant Flushing

The village is required to perform hydrant flushing to comply with EPA regulations aimed at maintaining water quality and public health. Flushing removes sediment and ensures proper chlorine levels, helping prevent contamination and ensuring the integrity of the water distribution system. Flushing has been completed for the year.

DEPARTMENTS

Fire

Certified FF Approval Alex Justice

Councilmember Koscho moved to approve Alex Justice as a Certified Firefighter.

Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

ORDINANCE

Ordinance No. 1847-25 *(Final Reading)* An ordinance creating the position of Assistant Fiscal Officer and fixing the rate of compensation and declaring an emergency.

Councilmember Troike moved to adopt Ordinance 1847-25 as an emergency measure.

Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 1848-25 *(First Reading)* An ordinance authorizing the Village of South Amherst Fiscal Officer to prepare and/or accept Blanket Certificates and Super Blanket Certificates for the fiscal year.

Ordinance No. 1849-25 *(First Reading)* An ordinance adopting the Village of South Amherst Sales Tax Reimbursement Policy.

Ordinance No. 1850-25 *(First Reading)* An ordinance establishing updated fines, cost and fees for Mayor's Court.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 769-25 *(Emergency Reading)* Contribution to Qualified Employee Health Insurance Coverage

Councilmember Troike moved to adopt Resolution 769-25 as an emergency measure.

Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lorain County Recorders

Councilmember Maschari received confirmation from council to have a representative from the Lorain County Recorder's Office attend a meeting to present information on the "Alert Me" fraud system.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Village of South Amherst

Senior Meals

Councilmember Maschari received confirmation to have a speaker from the Neighborhood Alliance attend a council meeting to present information on Senior Meals.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

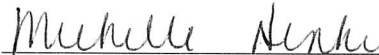
ORC Personnel: 121.22 (G)(1)

Councilmember Jeffers moved to enter Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. to consider personnel issues in accordance with ORC 121.22 (G)(1) Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion. Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

Re-enter time 9:11 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke



Mayor Scott Jones