



Meeting Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Spesia called the Coal City Village Board Meeting to order on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 7:00 PM. A roll call was conducted with Trustee Dan Greggain, Trustee Ross Bradley, Trustee Bill Mincey and Trustee CJ Lauterbur present. Also in attendance were Attorney Mark Heinle, Ryan Hansen from Chamlin Engineering, Chief Mike Imhof and Matt Fritz, Village Administrator. Absent, Trustee Dave Togliatti and Trustee Pam Noffsinger.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Spesia presented the meeting minutes from November 19, 2025, for approval. No comments, questions, or corrections were raised.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes for November 19, 2025, was made by Trustee Lauterbur, seconded by Trustee Mincey. Motion carried with all Trustees voting yes.

Approval of Warrant List

The Mayor inquired about an item on the warrant list regarding BSNA software, which was clarified as the annual financial software expenditure. No further questions or comments were raised regarding the warrant list.

Motion to approve the warrant list was made by Trustee Greggain, seconded by Trustee Bradley. Motion carried with all Trustees voting yes.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Ordinance 25-30

Village Administrator Matthew Fritz presented the final property tax levy for 2025, which had been previously reviewed by the Finance Committee. The overall levy represents a 3.32% increase, which is less than the overall EAV increase for the village. This results in a predicted tax rate decrease of 2.65%, going from \$1.78 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation down to \$1.73.

Mayor Spesia noted that workers' compensation costs had decreased by approximately 12% this year, which follows a significant decrease last year as well. He commended village employees for their safe work practices, emphasizing that their efforts directly impact residents' tax rates.

Motion to adopt Ordinance Number 25-30, adopting the 2025 property tax levy, was made by Trustee Bradley, seconded by Trustee Lauterbur. Motion carried with all Trustees voting yes.

Resolution 25-17

Village Administrator Fritz presented the 2026 annual meeting dates. The schedule has the first meeting in December without a second meeting that month, and Monday meetings for November.

Motion to adopt Resolution Number 25-17, establishing the regular meeting of village affiliated boards for the upcoming year, was made by Trustee Greggain, seconded by Trustee Mincey. Motion carried with all Trustees voting yes.

Resolution 25-18

Village Attorney Mark Heinle explained that he had conducted a review of previously approved executive session minutes. He recommended releasing the dates identified in the resolution as they relate to matters that have been resolved or no longer require confidentiality. The resolution also approves closed session minutes more than 18 months old for destruction.

Motion to approve Resolution Number 25-18, releasing certain closed session minutes and allowing them to be available to the public, was made by Trustee Bradley, seconded by Trustee Mincey. Motion carried with all Trustees voting yes.

Acceptance of the FY25 Audit

Brian from Sikich Auditing Firm presented the fiscal year 2025 audit findings via teleconference. He reported that the Village received an unmodified opinion on the audit, which is the highest level of assurance. The audit included a compliance audit on federal funds due to IEPA loans, with \$2.7 million in expenditures. No issues or findings were reported regarding compliance with major programs.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis was highlighted as a significant undertaking, prepared by the Village Treasurer. Brian also reported on the pension fund status, noting that IMRF is 97.64% funded, and the police pension plan has improved to 61.13% funded, up almost 35.5% since 2016. Returns on the police pension fund have been strong at 9.54% and 9.68% over the last two years.

Mayor Spesia thanked Village Treasurer LeAnn Vota for her work on preparing the MD&A.

Motion to adopt the fiscal year 25 audit regarding the financial operations for the fiscal year May 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025, was made by Trustee Mincey, seconded by Trustee Lauterbur. Motion carried with all Trustees voting yes.

Authorize the Purchase of the Building Official Truck

Village Administrator Fritz explained that this purchase was planned in the budget, contingent on receiving an anticipated payment from the new senior subdivision development. The current truck will be reassigned to Public Works, and a new F-150 will be purchased for the building inspector. The truck is being purchased at the state bid price from Morrow Brothers, as local vendors were unable to match or beat the price.

Trustee Lauterbur asked why an F-150 was selected rather than an F-250 that could be used for plowing. Fritz explained that the F-250 is scheduled for replacement next year, and the F-150 is sufficient for the building inspector's needs.

Motion to authorize the purchase of a new F-150 truck for the building inspector at a cost not to exceed \$49,573 was made by Trustee Mincey, seconded by Trustee Bradley. Motion carried with all Trustees voting yes.

Lead Service Replacement Project Payment Authorization

Village Engineer Ryan discussed the lead service replacement project, reporting that of 539 suspected water services, 421 were found to be lead or lead-based galvanized pipes. The project included 55 services that needed replacement all the way to homes due to lead on the homeowner's side, with 49 requiring full replacement to the meter. The project came in under the grant award of \$2,174,000, with construction costs totaling \$1.7 million. Engineering costs were reduced proportionally as well.

Motion to authorize payments to Brandt Construction in the amount of \$408,463.80 and Chamlin Engineering for \$64,612.50, which will bring the project to 81.5% of the total projected cost, was made by Trustee Greggain, seconded by Trustee Mincey. Motion carried with all Trustees voting yes.

Authorization of Water Influent Pump Station Risers Replacement

Village Administrator Fritz presented a proposal from Rachke Plumbing for \$22,000 to replace the third and fourth risers at the sanitary treatment plant's wastewater influent pump station. This project was budgeted for and is part of ongoing maintenance. A diagram showing the previous work (risers F) and the current work (risers G) was included in the board packet. The original contractor (Island City Piping) had gone out of business, necessitating finding a new contractor.

Motion to authorize Rachke Plumbing to conduct the necessary maintenance at the sanitary treatment plant replacing its wastewater influent pump station risers for an estimated \$22,000 was made by Trustee Lauterbur, seconded by Trustee Bradley. Motion carried with all Trustees voting yes.

Report of the Mayor

Mayor Spesia highlighted some village accomplishments for 2025, including:

- New police leadership (Chief and Deputy Chief) and four new officers
- Two new trustees joining the board (CJ Lauterbur and Bill Mincey) and one returning
- Appointing a new village clerk
- Remodeling the boardroom
- Reducing the tax rate for the second year
- Eliminating the grocery tax starting in January
- Helping finance businesses in town
- Putting Well 7 online, exceeding production expectations
- Completing the wastewater treatment plant
- Completion of the North Broadway Bridge
- Lead service line replacements
- Property purchases and demolition of dilapidated buildings
- Construction starting on a senior living facility
- Completing a comprehensive park plan with 3 additional acres donated for park space
- Installation of pickleball courts in North Park

The Mayor thanked the village board, appointed boards, and village personnel for their hard work and expressed optimism for 2026.

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees offered holiday greetings and thanks to fellow board members and staff.

Report of Village Clerk

Village Clerk Kayla Melvin thanked the board for their support and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to grow in her role.

Report of Village Attorney

Village Attorney Mark reported that the Village is under contract to purchase two neighboring parcels of unimproved property on Broadway. Environmental reviews are ongoing, with final information expected the following week. The sellers would like to close before the end of the calendar year.

Report of Village Engineer

Village Engineer Ryan reported that the water treatment plant is up and running, with training scheduled for the following day.

Report of Chief of Police

Police Chief reported strong safety statistics for the community, highlighting the proactive efforts of the Grundy County Pro Act unit. In the past two months, they have made 35 arrests and seized significant amounts of drugs (1,084 grams of cannabis, 11.4 grams of crack cocaine, 88 grams of fentanyl), 12 firearms, and one recovered stolen vehicle.

Report of Village Administrator

Village Administrator Fritz reported that the Kris Kindle market would be bypassed this year due to predicted frigid weather. He also mentioned that the North Broadway design project would be ramping up after the new year.

Fritz provided a summary of the village response to the recent 10-inch snowfall, including the use of 250 tons of salt and beet juice brine for temperatures under 11 degrees. The Police Chief confirmed there were zero accidents during the snow event, with only one car assisted in a ditch.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Greggain, seconded by Trustee Bradley. Motion carried with all Trustees voting yes.



Kayla Melvin
Village Clerk