

**SPECIAL MEETING
July 13, 2026**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Barbara J. Lloyd with the recitation of the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

**Roll Call: In Attendance - Paul Lowe, Ed Harlan, Don Stillion,
and Greg Gibson**

Absent: Bo Coconis & Tim Adams

Fiscal Officer Taylor Bennett explained that Resolution 1150 had been submitted to the Muskingum County Auditor's Office but was rejected because portions of the levy language were incorrect. Bennett stated that she participated in a conference call with the Village Solicitor and representatives of the County Auditor's Office, and the wording was corrected. Council was therefore asked to adopt the corrected resolution as Resolution 1151 in place of Resolution 1150. Bennett further explained that the corrected resolution was necessary for the County Auditor to issue the official certificate containing the estimated levy revenue and tax impact. Once that certificate was received, another special meeting would be required to consider the next resolution in the levy process.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

**RESOLUTION 1151 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY TO
LEVY AN ADDITIONAL TAX IN EXCESS OF THE
TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR THE FIRE
DEPARTMENT, ITS EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES AND AMBULANCE SERVICES IN THE
VILLAGE OF SOUTH ZANESVILLE, OHIO AND
DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY**

Greg moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Resolution 1151 and declare it an emergency. Seconded by Paul. Lowe – yay, Harlan – yay, Stillion – yay, and Gibson – yay. Motion Carried.

Paul made a motion to pass Resolution 1151. Seconded by Don. Gibson – yay, Stillion – yay, Harlan – yay, and Lowe – yay. Motion Carried.

MISCELLANEUS

STREET DEPARTMENT EMPLOYMENT

Council discussed the Personnel Committee's recommendation concerning the vacant Street Department position. It was reported that the committee had reviewed prior applications and recommended hiring Chad Cunningham, who had previously been interviewed for the position. Council was advised that the required background check and drug screening had been completed and that the physical examination was scheduled for the following day. A motion was made to hire Chad Cunningham for the

Street Department, including street, maintenance, and park-related duties, contingent upon completion of all pre-employment requirements. Greg seconded the motion. Roll-call vote: Paul - yes; Ed - yes; Don - yes; Greg - yes. The motion carried unanimously among the members present.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Council and Village officials discussed the proposed additional three-mill fire and emergency medical services levy, the existing fire levy, and the importance of clearly communicating to residents that the proposed levy is additional millage. Concerns were raised regarding prior misunderstandings about the levy language and the need for the Village Solicitor, Council, and Village officials to remain fully informed and consistent in their explanations. It was emphasized that the proposed levy would be submitted to the electors for their decision and that future public information should explain the Fire Department's financial condition, staffing and equipment needs, and the services provided to the community.

The discussion also addressed the anticipated water-rate impact associated with the proposed water-system improvement project. Council members noted the importance of providing residents with a thorough explanation of both the Village's accomplishments and the financial needs supporting proposed tax or rate increases. Officials discussed holding public meetings and providing factual information so residents would understand the reasons for the proposed improvements and associated costs.

Council also briefly discussed the condition of the alley behind the pharmacy. It was reported that the County had provided an estimated cost of approximately \$8,700 for a temporary stone or cinder-type improvement. Village officials further reported that there may be an opportunity to obtain grant funding during the following year for a more permanent asphalt improvement, with the potential project estimated at approximately \$50,000. No formal action was taken on the alley matter.

NEXT SPECIAL MEETING

Council discussed scheduling another special meeting after the County Auditor issued the certificate of estimated revenue and tax impact required for the next step in the levy process. Members tentatively agreed to meet the following Monday, subject to confirmation and proper notice.

ADJOURN

Ed moved to adjourn, seconded by Don. Mayor Lloyd asked all to vote by stating I. All did. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Barbara Lloyd - Mayor

Taylor Bennett - Fiscal Officer