

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

March 23, 2026

The Council of the Village of Coldwater held its regular meeting in the Village Council Chambers on March 23, 2026, with Mayor Doug Bertke presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll call was responded to by: Buschur, Seitz, Rutschilling, Niekamp, Bettinger, and Davis. Also present were Village Manager Jason Eyink, Law Director Judy Koesters and Finance Director Dylan Schwieterman.

Invocation by Seitz.

Guests included Ryan Griesdorn and Georgia Rindler.

A motion was made by Seitz, second by Buschur to approve the minutes from March 9th, 2026. Roll call resulted in the following ayes: Buschur, Seitz, Rutschilling, Niekamp, Bettinger, and Davis. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Niekamp, second by Bettinger to approve the agenda. Roll call resulted in the following ayes: Buschur, Seitz, Rutschilling, Niekamp, Bettinger, and Davis. Motion Carried.

Comments from the Public: None

Reports:

Police: Officer Griesdorn thanked everyone involved for their help with the windstorm damage. He also added that the police department purchased new tactical vests. These were purchased with a donation given to the police department.

Finance: Schwieterman received a letter to renew retail liquor permits. Annual permits are set to expire June 1, 2026. Schwieterman checked with the Coldwater Police Department and there were no issues with any liquor permits from last year.

Manager: Eyink said there was a lot of damage that will need repaired throughout the community due to the recent windstorms. There were a few power lines down, two trees and a light pole fell at the park damaging some fencing. Eyink reported on a few ongoing street projects. All water lines are installed on East Plum Street, the storm line on 2nd Street has been installed, Terrace Ave will begin their road repair between North Dogwood Dr and E Vine St, and Enbridge is finished with their new gas line and will start to patch up the roads they were on.

Mayor: Bertke recently attended the Mercer County Transportation meeting and mentioned that the area is looking for transportation services for the public in Mercer County. This is still in the early stages so nothing specific has been announced.

Committee: A Finance committee meeting was held on March 9, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Those in attendance Eyink, Schwieterman, Bertke, Wynk, Seitz, Bettinger, Rutschilling, Niekamp, and Buschur. Discussion on the possible increase in rates for providing water, sewer, and storm services to the village. The goal is to replace all water lines as we do the streets. This is more cost effective, and streets will not need to be torn up later. Cost to replace water lines and operation costs have increased and the increase rates will help maintain those funds. Eyink mentions that the village is redoing the streets and money for those repairs comes from income tax levy that was passed. Water and sewer lines are to be paid for from the money in the water and sewer funds. Rates haven't changed since 2023. The committee agreed to move ahead starting June 1st, 2026. Water rates would increase from \$8 per 1,000 gallons to \$9 per 1,000 gallons and wastewater rates would increase from \$7 per 1,000 gallons to \$8 per 1,000 gallons. Storm utility surcharge will be placed on all water and sewer bills at \$2.67 per month for residential water users. Effective June 1, 2028, a water improvement fee and wastewater improvement fee will be placed on all water and sewer bills. The charges will be \$2 per month for each water and wastewater improvement funds for residential users.

The committee also discussed health insurance. Anthem plans on increasing health insurance premium expenses by 24%. Other towns are experiencing the same issues. We are looking at other quotes in hopes of reducing the premium cost.

Old Business:

Ordinance 1774: An ordinance accepting the plat of RK Development phase two to the Village of Coldwater, OH; Accepting the dedication to public use of the streets shown on said plat, and declaring an effective date. Ordinance 1774 received its second reading.

New Business:

Ordinance 1775: An ordinance fixing the rates and charges to be charged to the user of water service, wastewater service, cistern water treatment, and a storm utility surcharge. Repealing all inconsistent legislation and declaring an effective date. Ordinance 1775 received its first reading.

Council Call-Final Comments:

The Village of Coldwater is now District 1 in ODOT.

Rutschilling asked if there were any plans for the alley condition near Roqster Joe's. Eyink said he would look at it to determine if there needs to be an immediate fix.

Rutschilling also mentioned to add a frequently asked questions on the Village's website for the rate increases. This will be made available after Ordinance 1775 passes.

Bertke, Bettinger, & Niekamp thanked the village crews and the community for coming together and help clean up the town after the recent windstorm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Niekamp, second by Davis. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.



Douglas Bertke, Mayor

Attest:



Dylan Schwieterman, Clerk of Council