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**VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS
COUNCIL AGENDA
FEBRUARY 17, 2026
5:30 p.m.**

**COMMUNITY HOUSE, 1460 CHAGRIN RIVER ROAD
(Livestream available on YouTube – click on the link on
www.gatesmillsvillage.com to watch)**

1. Roll call.
2. Minutes of Regular Council meeting of January 20, 2026. Clerk.
3. Pay Ordinance # 1306 \$679,010.52. Clerk.
4. Mayoral Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees. Mayor.
Planning & Zoning Commission for Term Ending 12/31/26: *Kendra Howley (fill unexpired term of Emily Hamilton ending 12/31/27)*
Other Committees – see Committee listing.
5. Gates Mills Land Conservancy Report to Council.
6. Mayor's Report. Mayor.
 - a. Aging Well.
 - b. 200TH Anniversary.
 - c. Arboretum.
 - d. 2026 Priorities.
7. Financial Report. Mayor.
8. Clerk's Report. Clerk.
9. Treasurer's Report. Spear.
10. Police Department Report. Minichello.
11. Service Department Report. Biggert.
Salt Bin.
12. Fire Department Report. Majeski.
13. Committee Updates.
 - a. Broadband – Deacon.
 - b. Levy Renewal Committee – Mayor.

14. **Motion** to name Janet Mulh as designee for Certified Public Records Training on March 18, 2026, for the Elected Officials of the Village of Gates Mills.

15. **Ordinance No. 2026-13** Mayor.

An Ordinance to Amend the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 2025-51 to Increase Certain Appropriations and Other Expenditures of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2026. (This is for the new fire engine.)

16. **Resolution No. 2026-14** Mayor.

A Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Transfer of Certain Sums from the General Fund to the Safety Fund.

17. **Resolution No. 2026-15** Turner.

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into an Agreement with Better Meadows & Woodlands, LLP, and Cleveland MetroParks for Services Regarding the Village's Ongoing Invasive Species Control Program; and Declaring an Emergency.

18. **Resolution No. 2026-16** Mayor.

A Resolution Confirming the Mayor's Formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to be Known as the "Aging Well Committee" and the Appointees Thereto and Declaring an Emergency.

19. Council Discussion.

20. Business from the Audience.

21. Adjourn.

Proposed Ordinances and Resolutions on the Agenda may be obtained by calling Village Hall,
440-423-4405.

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
January 20, 2026

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held at the Community House on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Siemborski presiding. The meeting was live-streamed to the internet.

1. Mayor Siemborski administered the Oath of Office to Treasurer Charles Spear at 1:48
2. Mayor Siemborski administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Karen Greco, Meghan Perez, Craig Steinbrink, and David Young at 3:01
3. Roll Call starts at 7:40

Councilmembers present: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.

Other Village officials present were Treasurer Spear, Clerk DeCapite, Service Director Biggert, Police Chief Minichello, Fire Chief Majeski, Assistant Fire Chief Jamieson, Fire Captain Feig, Finance Administrator Mulh, Village Engineer Courtney, and Law Director Hunt.

4. Election of Council President Pro Tem for one-year term starts at 8:03

Councilmember Steinbrink made a motion to nominate Sandra Turner to serve as Council President Pro Tem. Councilmember Broome seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

5. Mayor Siemborski administered the Oath of Office to Council President Pro Tem Sandra Turner at 10:00
6. Mayor Siemborski administered the Oath of Office to Firefighter Bruce Borthwick at 10:57
7. Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of December 16, 2025 starts at 14:53

Councilmember Broome referred to Agenda Item No. 10, 2nd paragraph and suggested the sentence "Councilmember Perez asked the Fire Chief if he was concerned that some fire truck vendors had declined to bid" be followed by "on the new fire pumper truck". This will distinguish from a different fire truck mentioned in the prior paragraph.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve the December 16, 2025 minutes as amended and Councilmember Greco seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner.
Abstain: Young
Nays: None
Motion carried.

8. Pay Ordinance # 1305 \$862,144.33 starts at 16:06

Councilmember Steinbrink moved to approve Pay Ordinance #1305, and Councilmember Broome seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

9. Mayoral Appointments to Administrative Offices starts at 17:00

Charles Spear, Income Tax Administrator
R. Todd Hunt of Roetzel & Andress, Law Director
Chris Courtney of C.W. Courtney, Village Engineer
Michael Cicero of Nicola, Gudbranson & Cooper, Prosecutor
David Biggert, Service Director, Building Official & Building Inspector
Trevor Murfello, Service Manager
Janet Mulh, Finance Administrator and Assistant Tax Administrator
D. Gregg Minichello, Chief of Police
Thomas Majeski, Fire Chief

Councilmember Turner moved to approve the Mayoral Appointments to Administrative Offices. Councilmember Broome seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

10. Mayoral Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees starts at 17:44

Planning & Zoning Commission for Term Ending 12/31/2026:

Council Representatives (One-Year Term):
Craig Steinbrink (Chair) and Scott Broome

Councilmember Greco moved to approve the Mayoral Appointments to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Architectural Board of Review for Term Ending 12/31/2028:

John Spirk (Chair) and Judi Embrescia

Councilmember Turner moved to approve the Mayoral Appointments to the Architectural Board of Review. Councilmember Perez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Historic Review Committee for Term Ending 12/31/2026:

Sara Welsh (Chair), Council Representative needed, Jane Lindmark, Greg Nosan, Chuck Spear, and architects David Ellison, Joseph Giglio and William Childs (alternate)

Councilmember Broome moved to approve the Mayoral Appointments to the Historic Review Committee. Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Gates Mills Land Conservancy for Term Ending 12/31/2029:

Scott Broome

Councilmember Greco moved to approve the Mayoral Appointment to the Gates Mills Land Conservancy. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

11. Mayor's Report starts at 21:20

a. Aging Well

Having heard no comments since last month, the Mayor is hopeful the Membership Agreement with Community Partnership on Aging (CPA), on its third reading tonight, will be approved. A second document providing more mechanical detail, the Operating Agreement, was drafted by CPA and distributed last month. Comments have been received and we can work on the Operating Agreement following approval of the Membership Agreement.

12. Financial Report attached and on the website starts at 22:45

Mayor Siemborski reported we ended the year with a \$250,000 surplus, and he proposed we use the surplus to begin to pay for the new fire truck at a cost of slightly under \$1,000,000.

Councilmember Turner observed lower speeds on Mayfield Road and high net collections are both positive accomplishments.

13. Clerk's Report - None

14. Treasurer's Report starts at 26:15

Treasurer Spear authored and distributed a two-page “Executive Summary of Memorandum - Real Estate Taxation in Gates Mills, Ohio” to assist in understanding how real estate taxes work. A current petition to ban real estate tax in Ohio would have serious effects on school systems and communities.

In our investment portfolio, managed by Ancora, \$850,000 will be maturing this quarter at an average rate of about 1.39%. Because we use a very conservative approach, we will roll those funds into a longer maturity, and we will put some money aside for the fire truck as well.

While it may appear tonight as if we are purchasing all varieties of vehicles, we really have been putting money aside for these purchases since 2020 when we had less than \$6,000,000 in the treasury. Today we have almost \$10,000,000 in the treasury.

15. Police Department Report attached and starts at 31:44

Chief Minichello reported the St. Francis Festival will be scaled back to a three-day event in June with reduced hours, no rides, and a focus on family-friendly activities. Details will be finalized at the March meeting. Councilmember Greco asked if less advertising and limiting attendance to parishioners and people in the area is going to solve the problem. If people appear that shouldn't be there, what are you going to do? The Police Chief's experience is teenagers come later in the evening, disruptions occur after closing, and closing earlier should help.

Councilmember Broome observed not just the speeds are down; safety has improved on Mayfield Road. Five million cars annually and we have not had any serious motor vehicles accidents in the past year.

16. Service Department Report attached and starts at 38:55

Service Director Biggert reported that Ted Zalewski, with just under 35 years on the Service Dept, is retiring at the end of the month. His talents will be missed. Mike Sanders, having medium-sized truck plowing experience and familiar with operating some of our equipment, will fill the open position.

Residents increased recycling with Rumpke by 348% in 2025 indicating the tote system is a tremendous success. That increase does not include the cardboard bins in the rear yard. All recycling results will go into the annual report to the County - we expect to exceed the results of some of our neighboring communities. If we continue this trend, we will have good data to ask for rate reductions when our contract with Rumpke is renewed. The Service Director will provide a breakdown of the recycling components - cardboard, plastic, glass, metal.

Salt Bin - Phase 2: Design and Drawings starts at 43:17

Last March Council approved a contract with R.E. Warner to provide three design sketches for a new salt bin in varying sizes (Phase 1 for approx \$5000) and to provide engineering and construction drawings necessary to go out to bid (Phase 2 for approx. \$80,000). Phase 1 is completed and the sketches (Site Plan) are in front of you tonight. Of the three options, the Service Director would prefer a 1000 to 1100 ton

capacity - roughly half our annual need - and not overbearing in size or cost. He is asking Council for approval to move into the second phase.

The Mayor asked what preventive measures R.E. Warner has suggested to avoid saline runoff into the river. The Service Director stated a set of doors primarily for off-season use and a gutter drain running along the front of the salt bin connected to the sanitary sewer. The Mayor asked for a construction cost estimate and was advised cost analysis is part of Phase 2, but the Service Director believes it would easily be a couple hundred thousand dollars. The Mayor asked for a timeframe for completion. The answer is dependent on the price and the budget.

Councilmember Onysko suggested finding another location for the salt bin to preserve the prime real estate next to the river. Service Director Biggert advised the Village owns other parcels of land further away, but they are either not large enough, not accessible enough, or not zoned commercial. Mr. Biggert has safety concerns when an operations center facility is meshed with public community facilities. Councilmember Onysko offered to work with the Service Director to explore how we could overcome that in some manner. Councilmember Greco agreed with Councilmember Onysko and would also like to explore another venue. Councilmember Broome cautioned moving the salt bin would require making a place for the loader. A loader malfunction requires getting tools back and forth to repair it, and a much bigger project starts evolving. Councilmember Perez asked if the new salt bin would be located where the current salt bin sits. No, the new bin would be to the right/north of where Rumpke is currently set up. That way any remaining salt would stay in the old salt bin, and the new salt bin could be built without any disruption in operations. A lean-to for undercover storage of expensive equipment would eventually take the spot where the old salt bin sits.

The Mayor suggested we take a pause, see if there are feasible alternate locations, and consider moving forward with Phase 2 at the next Council meeting.

17. Fire Department Report attached and starts at 56:39

Fire Chief Majeski advised probable causes for the increase in EMS calls from 2024 to 2025 are increased Aria House usage, an aging population, and earlier discharges from hospital to home. The Mayor added we have little control over the number of calls, yet there is a direct effect on our budget.

18. Committee Updates starts at 59:18

a. Broadband (Village Engineer Courtney)

- Pre-construction meeting at Town Hall with CVG was held about two weeks ago. Minutes will be emailed to Councilmembers
- Mainline installation has started with one crew down at Hunting Valley working north on Chagrin River Road. It will take about 18 months for installation of the mainline fiber optic lines throughout the village and about 30 months to provide connections to the first round of signed up residents
- We can expect as many as five CVG crews working at any given time. It is the job of the Village Engineer's two inspectors to ensure the crews do not damage the public infrastructure

- CVG will provide updated 16-week look-ahead schedules at progress meetings on the second Thursday of every month at 2 p.m.

Councilmember Onysko finds email communication from CVG has had some glitches, and he suggests using word of mouth to spread the word to sign up.

Councilmember Broome asked where our feed is going to come from, and do we have any feedback from Hunting Valley residents now that they are connected? Village Engineer Courtney replied there will be two feeds - one that comes from Hunting Valley and one coming down Mayfield Road from the west. We can easily obtain Hunting Valley resident satisfaction info.

b. Budget & Finance (Mayor Siemborski) - Nothing further to report.

c. Tree Canopy (Councilmember Turner/Mitch Bass) starts at 1:04:24

Mayor Siemborski stated this year the land conservancy levy will generate \$275,000 - \$280,000. Half of that money goes to the Land Conservancy; the other half stays with the village. We have planned to use the village portion this year to 1) continue year two of the existing invasive pilot project, 2) initiate invasive control on additional village-owned and Land Conservancy-owned parcels for an additional \$50,000 per year for ten years, and 3) thin out trees on year two parcels before replanting. These items total about \$130,000 this year - the calculation sheet will be emailed to Councilmembers.

Tree Canopy Chair Mitch Bass explained the rationale behind the ten-year 40 acre per year invasive control plan. Considering the compounding effect of the acreage and continuing re-maintenance on all parcels for at least 2-3 years, the Committee determined 40 acres per year for ten years to be ambitious numbers. We did 66 acres last year, so we'll approach 106 acres this year of village-owned and Land Conservancy-owned land. That does not include almost another 50 acres of Metroparks land approved for invasive control at their own expense and private land funded by a federal grant program, EQIP. There is going to be a lot of acreage under management requiring a tremendous amount of work, coordination, follow-up, oversight, inspection, etc.

Councilmember Turner commented on the collaboration between the Committee, the Village, the Land Conservancy, Metroparks, and state and federal government. The Improvement Society will be discussing a proposal to plant 200 trees for 2026, our 200th anniversary. Having an Arbor Day activity also meets the requirement for becoming a Tree City.

Councilmember Steinbrink asked what would be needed to shorten the ten-year timeline to five years. Mr. Bass listed a variety of considerations - monetary resources, skilled people resources, length of the process prior to replanting is difficult to shorten, and the seasonal aspect makes quickening the cycle difficult.

Councilmember Young asked is this a war that can be won and then we move on, or once we stop fighting the invasives, do they work their way back in again? From a budgetary standpoint, should we expect a yearly maintenance cost to keep the invasives at bay? Mr. Bass replied it is not a war - it is an ongoing marathon. Invasives

never go away. Properties continuously have to be maintained, but the work becomes much less and much faster. The Mayor stated the calculation sheet from the Committee indicates the annual budget on a long-term basis after cleanup is \$15,000 to the Village and \$22,000 to the Land Conservancy.

Councilmember Broome clarified that levy funds are being used only for Village or Land Conservancy parcels. Anything that is on a private parcel would be funded through independent programs.

The Mayor met with leadership of the Land Conservancy to discuss the plan laid out at the last Council meeting to create an ad hoc committee of three individuals to identify the overall need “to preserve and protect natural resources and open spaces” in the village and how to allocate the funds to do that. The Land Conservancy is on board and will meet to also go through what they think the need in the village is. This approach is fact based and will be brought back to Council.

Mitch Bass believes the land conservancy levy is an amazing one from a preservation and access standpoint, as do the contractors and ODNR folks he comes in contact with. For 35 years the Land Conservancy and the Village have partnered to preserve over 750 acres. There is still 70% or more of Gates Mills that remains unprotected. We need to do a good job as stewards to maintain this village.

d. Heritage Home (Chuck Spear) - No report

19. **Resolution No. 2025-48 (Third Reading)** starts at 1:23:05

“A Resolution Authorizing the Village of Gates Mills to Enter Into a Membership Agreement with Community Partnership on Aging for Older Adult Services” was read by Mayor Siemborski. See Agenda Item No. 11a.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-48, and Councilmember Greco seconded the motion.

Councilmember Turner asked if residents only age 60 and over are eligible to attend programs. Wendy Sattin, CPA Executive Director, answered age 60 and over is a guideline. Programs are open to everybody. Councilmember Broome reminded all that even with CPA services available, it is still important to check on your neighbors.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

20. **Ordinance No. 2026-1 (First Reading)** starts at 1:26:33

“An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2025-50 to Correct an Error as to the Compensation of Certain Village Employees; and Declaring an Emergency” was read by the Mayor. This is a typo correction of two rates on the compensation ordinance.

Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2026-1 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Ordinance No. 2026-1, and Councilmember Perez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Moved to Agenda Item No. 26. **Resolution No. 2026-7 (First Reading)** at 1:27:50

“A Resolution Accepting a Bid and Awarding a Contract to Johnson’s Fire Equipment Company for the Purchase of a New Fire Truck and Declaring an Emergency” was read by Mayor Siemborski. Two bids were received. The bid from Johnson for a Spartan product at \$974,119 was \$200,000 less than the bid from another vendor for a Pierce product. Both products would take close to two years to manufacture. The Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, and Fire Captain recommend the purchase of the Spartan fire engine from Johnson’s.

We were offered a 3.5% discount to pay fully upfront. Investment maturities in 2026 will allow us to reinvest at 4% or higher. The cash discount is not attractive. We looked at outside lender financing and were quoted rates from 4.76 to 5.36%. There is no advantage to borrowing money and paying 5%. It is the recommendation of the Mayor, Treasurer, Finance Administrator, and Fire Dept to pay for the fire engine at the end of two years using the two-year period to save up the money. The 2025 surplus of \$250,000 could be transferred from the General Fund to the Safety Fund, and every month until the end of December 2027 we could transfer \$31,500 into the Safety Fund. Price and specs are good only through January 31, and therefore emergency legislation is called for.

Fire Chief Majeski explained that the proposed fire truck is a Spartan with a Spartan firebox on it - it wasn’t until recently that Spartan built a firebox. The two other units we own, the Spartan Darley and the Spartan Alexis, have proven to be very good vehicles for us. The new Spartan will replace a 1987 Pierce Arrow fire engine that will be 40 years old when the new one is delivered and will solidify the fleet for at least ten years.

Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2026-7 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Greco seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-7, and Councilmember Greco seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

21. **Resolution No. 2026-2 (First Reading)** starts at 1:37:40

“A Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Transfer of Certain Sums from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund, Mayor’s Fund, Wastewater Fund and Police Pension Fund” was read by Mayor Siemborski. We have identified what we need over the first six months of 2026 to be transferred from the General Fund to the four funds listed so we can begin to spend money. The amounts are included in the budget.

Councilmember Turner moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2026-2 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Greco seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Turner moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-2, and Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

22. **Resolution No. 2026-3 (First Reading)** starts at 1:39:44

“A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Purchase Agreement with Rush Truck Centers for a 2026 International Truck Chassis Model HV507 SFA Under the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program and Declaring an Emergency” was read by the Mayor. This truck is in the budget and is replacing an existing truck. We would take possession later in the year, so this truck will not be available to service our roads currently. Resolution No. 2026-4 covers outfitting the truck with a plow and related equipment from a different vendor.

Councilmember Greco moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2026-3 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Broome seconded the motion.

Councilmember Broome asked if the reason for emergency legislation was to lock in price. Yes, and Service Director Biggert cautioned further tariffs would not be absorbed by the vendor.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Greco moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-3 and Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

23. **Resolution No. 2026-4 (First Reading)** starts at 1:43:30

“A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Purchase Agreement with Judco Truck Equipment for a Heavy Duty Front Plow Hitch, and Snowplow Under the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program and Declaring an Emergency” was read by the Mayor.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2026-4 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Greco seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-4, and Councilmember Greco seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

24. **Resolution No. 2026-5 (First Reading)** starts at 1:44:48

“A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Purchase Agreement With Lee Kinstle Chevrolet Buick GMC Inc. for a 2026 Chevrolet Blazer Under the State Cooperative Purchasing Program for Use by the Police Department and Declaring an Emergency” was read by the Mayor. The Police Chief stated that of the six police vehicles we have, two vehicles have over 100,000 miles and need to be replaced by a 2026 Blazer (Resolution No. 2026-5) and a 2026 Ford Explorer (Resolution No. 2026-6). The not fully equipped lower priced 2026 Blazer will be assigned to the Police Chief, and his 2020 vehicle with 80,000 miles will be re-assigned as the SRO vehicle, leaving the 2017 SRO vehicle to be traded in or sold off. The fully equipped 2026 Explorer will replace patrol car #4 which will be traded in or sold off.

The Mayor will email to Council a listing of the current six police vehicles by year with mileage as previously requested.

Councilmember Greco moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2026-5 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Perez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Perez pointed out the purchase of the two police vehicles comes in at \$2000 less than what we budgeted for.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Greco moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-5, and Councilmember Perez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

25. **Resolution No. 2026-6 (First Reading)** starts at 1:49:52

“A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Purchase Agreement with Statewide Ford for a 2026 Ford Interceptor Under the State Cooperative Purchasing Program for Use by the Police Department and Declaring an Emergency” was read by the Mayor.

Councilmember Greco moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2026-6 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Greco moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-6, and Councilmember Young seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

26. **Resolution No. 2026-7** - see 1:27:50

27. **Ordinance No. 2026-8 (First Reading)** starts at 1:51:35

“An Ordinance to Amend the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 2025-52 to Increase Certain Appropriations and Other Expenditures of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2026” was read by Councilmember Broome. This would provide for full upfront payment for the fire truck previously approved, and it was determined it would not be advantageous to do so.

Councilmember Broome moved to remove Ordinance No. 2026-8 from the agenda. Councilmember Perez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

28. **Resolution No. 2026-9 (First Reading)** starts at 1:52:55

“A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Purchase Agreement with Revize LLC for Website Design, Implementation and Support Services” was read by Mayor Siemborski. The cost is \$8,800. The Office has looked at a variety of vendors and has recommended Revize LLC.

Councilmember Onysko finds that Revize is a great choice, having met with them as well. Our current website is outdated and not capable of working on every device. The new website will be compatible with all devices, is consistent and professional, with clients such as Willoughby Hills nearby. Finance Administrator Mulh added ADA requirements will be satisfied.

Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2026-9 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Greco seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-9, and Councilmember Greco seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

29. **Resolution No. 2026-10 (First Reading)** starts at 1:56:25

“A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into an Agreement with Cuyahoga County for Payment of Legal Counsel Fees for Indigent Criminal Defendants and Declaring an Emergency” was read by Mayor Siemborski. The Law Director explained this applies to criminal defendants in the Lyndhurst Municipal Court who are being charged by the Village. If they are determined to be indigent under state regulations, the Village has to pay for their defense and would contract with the County to administer this for us. Prosecutor Cicero has said the amount is very small, if any, every year. We don’t know the amount. Every community in Cuyahoga County received the same contract in late December.

Councilmember Greco moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2026-10 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Onysko seconded the motion.

Councilmember Broome asked why is this emergency legislation. The Law Director answered because we may have had defendants as of January 1, and this contract will date back to January 1. Councilmember Steinbrink asked how this was handled previously. The Law Director does not know. We had this legislation last year.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.

Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Greco moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-10, and Councilmember Young seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

30. **Ordinance No. 2026-11 (First Reading)** starts at 2:00:09

“An Ordinance Amending Title Five, “Administration”, of Part One, The “Administration Code” of the Codified Ordinances of the Village, To Adopt New Chapter 167, “Elected Officials Code of Conduct” was read by Mayor Siemborski. It became apparent to the Mayor that we do not have a code of conduct, a standard governance and HR practice, so he asked the Law Director to draft one and that is before you tonight.

Law Director Hunt stated this draft is meant for discussion. His office looked at other municipalities’ codes of conduct. Not every municipality has a code. One of the better ones came from Green Bay, WI and was used for the draft. Our charter provides for the removal of any elected official, but it’s related to malfeasance, nonfeasance, and misfeasance in office. Some of the things in the drafted code of conduct may not rise to the level of removal, but some conduct may need to be sanctioned. So, the draft contains some proposed remedies and an escalation of remedies starting with a formal censure by Council, then a suspension from voting privileges for a period of time, and then the next escalator is to invoke the provisions in the charter.

Discussion starts at 2:04:35

Greco - How many communities around here have a code of conduct?

Hunt - He does not know of any in Cuyahoga County.

Greco - That’s a little odd. Is this something that we need?

Spear - This document says this Council can set the standard for the removal of an elected official, when we have a charter addressing this. One of the provisions in the draft code of conduct is four members of Council can start the process of removal. The charter says five members, not four. Council is taking an authority they’re not entitled to by the charter and coming up with a standard that is more restricted. He has some issue about the way conduct is described - facial expressions and things like that. It’s an infringement upon the right of the voter to put somebody on this Council.

Broome - These are all valid comments. Who is able to initiate? It would be difficult if the Mayor could initiate the process to remove.

Hunt - The Mayor has the authority to introduce legislation, but can not vote.

Perez - She appreciates the sentiment of the document and thinks we all want to ensure a respectful forum. She has concerns over how some infractions, like an eye roll or scowl, would be measured. If the communities looked at did not have a code of conduct ordinance, maybe their Council standards are addressed as part of a new member orientation or other option versus putting it in an ordinance?

Hunt - Council has the authority to adopt rules and regulations separate and outside the codified ordinances. It just memorializes it much better if it's in the codified ordinances.

Turner - She thinks the purpose paragraph of the draft summarizes what we would expect of Councilmembers and our elected officials. What follows in the draft would be good examples for use at an ethics training, which we already have and we incorporate the Ohio Ethics Law. However, going into that detail in an ordinance felt like we were usurping the right to have a personality on Council.

Greco - Sometimes when these kinds of things are put into writing, it backfires and it restricts people from being who they are. There should be spirited discussion. Right now we have a very good group of people. She found the draft offensive, did not appreciate the spirit, and does not see the need.

Steinbrink - He agrees with a lot of what has been said. The reality is the decorum over the last four years has not been what residents would expect of their elected officials. He proposed to have rules of Council, rather than a code of conduct. Basic Robert's Rules of Order - the Mayor is the one person to preside over the meeting, to bring discussion forward, to end discussion, and to say you're out of order. He is pained to say that after 200 years as a village that we find ourselves here, but something needs to be done.

Onysko - He assumed our rules were as just described.

Hunt - Almost every Council has rules of Council in the codified ordinances. This Council does not.

Greco/Turner - Rules of Council, rather than code of conduct, might be the way to go.

Siemborski - He is hearing this is too strong, may not be needed, and should be refashioned into rules of Council versus code of conduct. He will come back next month with another version.

Young - Not advocating for one or another, the issue here is not how we behave, but the consequence of misbehavior. Does the code have any teeth if there aren't consequences for violating the code?

Spear - Five members of Council can remove an elected official. It's in the charter.

Hunt - It's just not clarified, and it's for reasons of malfeasance (bad conduct), nonfeasance (not doing your duty), or misfeasance (a violation of law) in office. This was an attempt to lay out a code of conduct where sanctions could be issued without removal.

Broome - There's been acrimony on Council before. We should be careful as we consider this to not allow any past acrimony to cloud our judgement. We don't want to overdo it.

Ordinance No. 2026-11 remains on first reading.

31. **Resolution No. 2026-12 (First Reading)** starts at 2:21:14

“A Resolution Confirming the Mayor’s Formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to be Known as the “Land Conservation Levy Committee” and the Appointees Thereto and Declaring an Emergency” was read by the Mayor. Desiring a fresh and more robust approach in working with the Land Conservancy to identify the overall conservation and open space needs in the village, irrespective of who owns the land, the Mayor has asked the Land Conservancy to dedicate three individuals and Council to dedicate three individuals to serve on the Committee. The Mayor has asked Councilmembers Young, because of the freshness of his views, and Turner, because of her longevity with the Tree Canopy Committee and with the Land Conservancy, to join him in doing the yeoman’s work of slugging through the need, working with the Land Conservancy representatives, and coming back to Council with recommendations. The Mayor’s goal is an agreed upon understanding with the Land Conservancy of the needs of the village over the next five years and any language changes or allocation changes that would come based on the needs.

Councilmember Greco moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2026-12 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Perez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Greco moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-12, and Councilmember Perez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Onysko is 100% for this and wonders if Councilmember Turner being on the Board of the Land Conservancy is a conflict of interest. Neither Councilmember Turner nor Law Director Hunt see a conflict of interest.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

32. Council Discussion starts at 2:29:42

- a. Land Conservation Levy - see Agenda Item Nos. 18c and 31.
- b. Accessory Structures - Councilmember Steinbrink - No report
- c. 2026 Priorities - All Council - starts at 2:29:58

Mayor Siemborski distributed and read a draft of what he believes our 2026 priorities are. He asked Councilmembers to provide input any time between now and the next meeting.

33. Executive Session - None

34. Business from the Audience - None

35. Adjourn

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Broome, seconded by Councilmember Greco, and unanimously carried, that the council meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:

Steven L. Siemborski, Mayor

Payment Listing

January 2026

Payment Advice #	Post Date	Transaction Date	Type	Vendor / Payee	Amount	Status
1-2026	01/02/2026	01/07/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$436.25	C
	Purpose:	TRAFFIC LIGHTS				
2-2026	01/02/2026	01/07/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$494.76	C
	Purpose:	STREET LIGHTS				
3-2026	01/06/2026	01/07/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$391.16	C
	Purpose:	WASTE WATER PLANT				
4-2026	01/06/2026	01/07/2026	CH	THE HARTFORD	\$219.54	C
	Purpose:	LIFE INSURANCE PREMIUM				
5-2026	01/06/2026	01/07/2026	CH	CHASE BANK	\$2.50	C
	Purpose:	ACH FEE				
6-2026	01/07/2026	01/07/2026	CH	ENBRIDGE GAS OHIO	\$224.00	C
	Purpose:	TOWN HALL				
7-2026	01/07/2026	01/07/2026	CH	ENBRIDGE GAS OHIO	\$396.00	C
	Purpose:	MILLS BUILDING				
8-2026	01/07/2026	01/07/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$114.01	C
	Purpose:	BURTON COURT				
9-2026	01/07/2026	01/07/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$187.20	C
	Purpose:	SERVICE GARAGE				
10-2026	01/07/2026	01/07/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$1,113.95	C
	Purpose:	MILLS BUILDING				
11-2026	01/06/2026	01/07/2026	CH	PRIME PAY	\$96,204.25	C
12-2026	01/08/2026	01/08/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$102.28	C
	Purpose:	CHAGRIN RIVER BRIDGE				
13-2026	01/08/2026	01/08/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$103.65	C
	Purpose:	FOX HILL & MAYFIELD				
14-2026	01/08/2026	01/08/2026	CH	EQUIVEST	\$2,776.00	C
	Purpose:	DEFERRED COMP				
15-2026	01/08/2026	01/08/2026	CH	OHIO DEFERRED COMP	\$1,295.00	C
	Purpose:	ROTH CONTRIBUTIONS				
16-2026	01/08/2026	01/08/2026	CH	OHIO DEFERRED COMP	\$7,580.00	C
	Purpose:	DEFERRED COMP				
17-2026	01/09/2026	01/09/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$40.97	C
	Purpose:	1140 CHAGRIN - STR LIGHTS				

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Payment Listing

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Payment Advice #	Post Date	Transaction Date	Type	Vendor / Payee	Amount	Status
18-2026	01/12/2026	01/12/2026	CH	PRIME PAY	\$543.77	C
	Purpose:	PAYROLL PROCESSING				
19-2026	01/12/2026	01/12/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$101.50	C
	Purpose:	CARPENTER RD				
20-2026	01/12/2026	01/12/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$105.01	C
	Purpose:	MAYFIELD @ CARPENTER				
21-2026	01/12/2026	01/12/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$550.15	C
	Purpose:	COMMUNITY HOUSE				
22-2026	01/13/2026	01/13/2026	CH	ENBRIDGE GAS OHIO	\$435.58	C
	Purpose:	COMMUNITY HOUSE				
23-2026	01/15/2026	01/15/2026	CH	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$62.18	C
	Purpose:	CABLE				
24-2026	01/15/2026	01/15/2026	CH	HOME DEPOT CRC	\$414.02	C
	Purpose:	MECH TIMER, TANK LEVER, MAILBOX AND MAILBOX SUPPLIES				
25-2026	01/15/2026	01/15/2026	CH	CINTAS CORPORATION #259	\$1,313.90	C
	Purpose:	SERVICE UNIFORM CLEANING				
26-2026	01/15/2026	01/15/2026	CH	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$656.07	C
	Purpose:	PHONES/PAGERS				
27-2026	01/16/2026	01/20/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$98.35	C
	Purpose:	OBT BUILDING				
28-2026	01/16/2026	01/20/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$867.89	C
	Purpose:	TOWN HALL				
29-2026	01/20/2026	01/20/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$129.98	C
	Purpose:	OLD MILL XMAS LIGHTS				
30-2026	01/20/2026	01/20/2026	CH	PRIME PAY	\$105,422.03	C
	Purpose:	DIRECT DEPOSIT AND TAXES				
31-2026	01/21/2026	01/21/2026	CH	CLEVELAND ILLUMINATING CO.	\$1,088.80	C
	Purpose:	TOWN HALL				
32-2026	01/21/2026	01/21/2026	CH	CIGNA HEALTHCARE	\$45,475.19	C
	Purpose:	HEALTH, DENTAL AND VISION				
33-2026	01/22/2026	01/22/2026	CH	DIVISION OF WATER	\$70.69	C
	Purpose:	FIRELINE - MILLS BLDG				

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Payment Advice #	Post Date	Transaction Date	Type	Vendor / Payee	Amount	Status	
34-2026	01/22/2026	01/22/2026	CH	OHIO POLICE & FIRE PENSION	\$32,838.75	C	
35-2026	01/22/2026	01/22/2026	CH	OPERS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES	\$26,351.67	C	
36-2026	01/23/2026	01/22/2026	CH	LYNDHURST MUNI COURT	\$17,780.00	C	
	Purpose:	DECEMBER 2025 CASES					
37-2026	01/23/2026	01/26/2026	CH	PRIME PAY	\$578.37	C	
	Purpose:	PAYROLL PROCESSING					
38-2026	01/26/2026	01/26/2026	CH	FIRST COMMUNICATIONS, LLC	\$2,091.56	C	
	Purpose:	PHONE & INTERNET					
39-2026	01/27/2026	01/27/2026	CH	EQUIVEST	\$2,776.00	C	
40-2026	01/27/2026	01/27/2026	CH	OHIO DEFERRED COMP	\$1,295.00	C	
41-2026	01/27/2026	01/27/2026	CH	OHIO DEFERRED COMP	\$7,603.53	C	
42-2026	01/27/2026	01/27/2026	CH	BWC	\$8,163.00	C	
	Purpose:	TRUE UP 2025					
43-2026	01/28/2026	01/28/2026	CH	FP MAILING SOLUTIONS	\$200.00	C	
	Purpose:	POSTAGE UPLOAD					
44-2026	01/29/2026	01/29/2026	CH	DIVISION OF WATER	\$9.90	C	
	Purpose:	1481 CHAGRIN -PARK					
45-2026	01/29/2026	01/29/2026	CH	DIVISION OF WATER	\$9.90	C	
	Purpose:	596 CHAGRIN - BRIDGE					
46-2026	01/29/2026	01/29/2026	CH	DIVISION OF WATER	\$14.28	C	
	Purpose:	WASH HOUSE					
47-2026	01/29/2026	01/29/2026	CH	DIVISION OF WATER	\$154.64	C	
	Purpose:	TOWN HALL					
48-2026	01/29/2026	01/29/2026	CH	CHASE CARD SERVICE	\$3,739.44	C	
	Purpose:	AWARD, SHELVING, TONER, CHAIN SAW, CO DETECTORS, SUPPLIES, ZOOM, OFFICE SUPPLIES, BMV STICKERS TRUCK/2 TRLRS					
48-2026	01/29/2026	01/29/2026	NEG ADJ	CHASE CARD SERVICE	-\$64.34	C	
	Purpose:	REIMBURSEMENT FROM MISCH					
49-2026	01/23/2026	02/03/2026	CH	ANCORA ADVISORS	\$5,560.22	C	
	Purpose:	INVESTMENT MGR QUARTERLY FEE					
50-2026	01/30/2026	02/03/2026	CH	STATE TREASURER OF OHIO	\$375.00	C	
51-2026	01/30/2026	02/03/2026	CH	REDSS	\$50.00	C	
52-2026	01/30/2026	02/03/2026	CH	LYNDHURST MUNI COURT	\$15.00	C	

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Payment Advice #	Post Date	Transaction Date	Type	Vendor / Payee	Amount	Status
53-2026	01/30/2026	02/03/2026	CH	LYNDHURST MUNI COURT	\$225.00	C
9000	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	ABATE LANDSCAPING FLORIST	\$215.97	V
	Purpose: WINTERBERRY/POINSETTIAS					
9000	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	ABATE LANDSCAPING FLORIST	-\$215.97	V
9001	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	ADVANCED PLUMBING & DRAIN	\$593.60	V
	Purpose: REPAIR COPPER WATERLINE					
9001	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	ADVANCED PLUMBING & DRAIN	-\$593.60	V
9002	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	AKE ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.	\$3,163.70	V
	Purpose: ROUTINE MAINT, REPAIR, REPORTS/ANALYSIS/INSPECTIONS					
9002	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	AKE ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.	-\$3,163.70	V
9003	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	ASCENDANCE TRUCKS	\$43.26	V
	Purpose: VALVE, SAFETY, AIR TANK, M-22					
9003	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	ASCENDANCE TRUCKS	-\$43.26	V
9004	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	AUBURN PIPE & PLUMBERS SUPPLY	\$63.78	V
	Purpose: PIPE					
9004	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	AUBURN PIPE & PLUMBERS SUPPLY	-\$63.78	V
9005	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CARGILL, INCORPORATED	\$50,285.57	V
	Purpose: SALT					
9005	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CARGILL, INCORPORATED	-\$50,285.57	V
9006	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CHAGRIN VALLEY TIMES	\$108.00	V
	Purpose: RENEWAL- 2 YR PRINT AND DIGITAL					
9006	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CHAGRIN VALLEY TIMES	-\$108.00	V
9007	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	MICHAEL E. CICERO	\$1,250.00	V
	Purpose: RETAINER					
9007	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	MICHAEL E. CICERO	-\$1,250.00	V
9008	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CLARKTEL/TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC	\$695.00	V
	Purpose: POTS LINE W/ FIRST COMM					
9008	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CLARKTEL/TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC	-\$695.00	V
9009	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CLEVELAND PLUMBING SUPPLY CO.	\$59.39	V
	Purpose: 1412 DECK GUN REPAIR					
9009	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CLEVELAND PLUMBING SUPPLY CO.	-\$59.39	V
9010	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	ABATE LANDSCAPING FLORIST	\$215.97	C
	Purpose: WINTERBERRY/POINSETTIAS					

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Payment Advice #	Post Date	Transaction Date	Type	Vendor / Payee	Amount	Status
9011	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	ADVANCED PLUMBING & DRAIN	\$593.60	C
	Purpose:	REPAIR COPPER WATERLINE				
9012	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	AKE ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.	\$3,163.70	C
	Purpose:	ROUTINE MAINT, REPAIR, REPORTS/ANALYSIS/INSPECTIONS				
9013	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	ASCENDANCE TRUCKS	\$43.26	C
	Purpose:	VALVE, SAFETY, AIR TANK, M-22				
9014	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	AUBURN PIPE & PLUMBERS SUPPLY	\$63.78	C
	Purpose:	PIPE				
9015	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CARGILL, INCORPORATED	\$50,285.57	C
	Purpose:	SALT				
9016	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CHAGRIN VALLEY TIMES	\$108.00	C
	Purpose:	RENEWAL- 2 YR PRINT AND DIGITAL				
9017	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	MICHAEL E. CICERO	\$1,250.00	O
	Purpose:	RETAINER				
9018	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CLARKTEL/TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC	\$695.00	C
	Purpose:	POTS LINE W/ FIRST COMM				
9019	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CLEVELAND PLUMBING SUPPLY CO.	\$59.39	C
	Purpose:	1412 DECK GUN REPAIR				
9020	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CONCORD ROAD EQUIPMENT MFG	\$559.84	C
	Purpose:	CYLINDER HYDRAULIC				
9021	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	COPY KING	\$689.00	C
	Purpose:	GM PD ENVELOPES, VILLAGE LETTERHEAD				
9022	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	DISTILLATA COMPANY	\$120.20	C
	Purpose:	WATER COOLERS				
9023	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CUYAHOGA CO POLICE CHIEFS	\$200.00	C
	Purpose:	DUES				
9024	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	CUYAHOGA CO MAYORS & MGRS	\$1,056.69	C
	Purpose:	DUES				
9025	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	NORTHEAST OH MAYORS & MGRS	\$300.00	C
	Purpose:	DUES				
9026	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	DIVISION OF WATER	\$26,747.36	C
	Purpose:	ANNUAL - HYDRANT USAGE				

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Payment Advice #	Post Date	Transaction Date	Type	Vendor / Payee	Amount	Status
9027	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	DUSTBUSTER	\$575.00	C
	Purpose:	CLEANING				
9028	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	ARMANDO FARINACCI	\$87.54	C
	Purpose:	HEALTH REIMB 2025				
9029	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	MICHAEL FEIG	\$2,271.13	C
	Purpose:	HEALTH REIMB 2025				
9030	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	FIRST CALL	\$309.74	C
	Purpose:	PIN, CABLE, BATTERY				
9031	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	FLOCK SAFETY	\$12,500.00	C
	Purpose:	ANNUAL FEE FLOCK CAMERAS				
9032	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	\$616.26	C
	Purpose:	DEF, HOSES, BATTERY				
9033	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	HILLCREST COUNCIL OF COUNCILS	\$300.00	O
	Purpose:	DUES				
9034	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	LEXIS NEXIS RISK SOLUTIONS	\$600.00	C
	Purpose:	POLICE TOOL - DETECTIVE				
9035	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	LEXIPOL	\$8,619.56	C
	Purpose:	ANNUAL FEE - PD POLICIES/TRAINING				
9036	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	SENSYS GATSO USA, INC.	\$36,220.00	C
	Purpose:	TRAFFIC CAMERA PROG DEC 25				
9037	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	MILL SUPPLY, INC.	\$652.62	C
	Purpose:	CURB GUARDS CAST IRON				
9038	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	TREVOR MURFELLO	\$207.39	C
	Purpose:	HEALTH REIMB 2025				
9039	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	NATIONAL TESTING NETWORK	\$425.00	C
	Purpose:	MEMBERSHIP				
9040	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	NICK NEMASTIL	\$1,093.27	C
	Purpose:	HEALTH REIMB 2025				
9041	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	OHIO UTILITIES PROTECTION SERV	\$292.59	C
	Purpose:	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OHIO 811 CALL BEFORE YOU DIG				
9042	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	\$714.00	C
	Purpose:	ANNUAL DUES				

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Payment Advice #	Post Date	Transaction Date	Type	Vendor / Payee	Amount	Status
9043	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	JOHN PATA	\$1,644.08	C
	Purpose:	HEALTH REIMB 2025				
9044	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	REFRIGERATION SALES CORP	\$331.96	C
	Purpose:	FILTER PACKS				
9045	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	RUMPKE	\$88.82	C
	Purpose:	TRASH REMOVAL				
9046	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	\$628.81	C
	Purpose:	PRINTER TONER CARTRIDGES, COPY PAPER, GENL OFFICE SUPPLIES				
9047	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	T A C COMPUTER INC	\$4,776.90	C
	Purpose:	ANNUAL SUPPORT/INTERFACE				
9048	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	TECHSPERT DATA SERVICES LLC	\$3,033.91	C
	Purpose:	TOTAL CARE				
9049	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	TREASURER, STATE OF OHIO	\$50.00	C
	Purpose:	ANNUAL DISCHARGE FEE MS4				
9050	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	TREAS OF STATE (FUND 83F)	\$750.00	C
	Purpose:	LEADS				
9051	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	TURNERY HOME & AUTO	\$192.62	C
	Purpose:	FIRE LOGS, LED, CLEANERS, BATH DRAIN FACE PLATE, BULBS, METAL CUTOFF WHEELS				
9052	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	ULLMAN OIL COMPANY	\$3,140.50	C
	Purpose:	DIESEL FUEL				
9053	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	VALLEY ENFORCEMENT GROUP	\$13,000.00	C
	Purpose:	2026 DUES				
9054	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	WINZER	\$313.04	C
	Purpose:	HEX LAGS, TAPE, GLOVES, TIES				
9055	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	WITMER PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP	\$653.70	C
	Purpose:	GLOVES, UNIFORM, SUPPLIES - FD				
9056	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	XEROX BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	\$38.17	C
	Purpose:	XEROX MAINT AGR.				
9057	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	THOMAS J COOK	\$700.00	C
	Purpose:	DECEMBER INSPECTIONS				
9058	01/14/2026	01/14/2026	AW	WICHERT INSURANCE SERVICES	\$119,249.00	C
	Purpose:	COMMERCIAL, GOVERNMENTAL CRIME, CYBER LIABILITY INSURANCES				
Total Payments:					\$679,010.52	

Payment Listing

January 2026

Total Conversion Vouchers:	\$0.00
Total Less Conversion Vouchers:	<u>\$679,010.52</u>

Type: AM - Accounting Manual Warrant, AW - Accounting Warrant, IM - Investment Manual Warrant, IW - Investment Warrant, PM - Payroll Manual Warrant, PR - Payroll Warrant, RW - Reduction of Receipt Warrant, SW - Skipped Warrant, WH - Withholding Warrant, WM - Withholding Manual, WS - Special Warrant, CH - Electronic Payment Advice, IL - Investment Loss, EP - Payroll EFT Voucher, CV - Payroll Conversion Voucher, SV - Payroll Special Voucher, EW - Withholding Voucher, POS ADJ - Positive Adjustment, NEG ADJ - Negative Adjustment, POS REAL - Positive Reallocation, NEG REAL - Negative Reallocation

Status: O - Outstanding, C - Cleared, V - Voided, B - Batch

* Asterisked amounts are not included in report totals. These transactions occurred outside the reported date range but are listed for reference.

TOTAL \$679,010.52

Clerk

Mayor

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that at the time of making the contracts or orders for the expenditures provided for in the foregoing ordinance and at the time of the execution of such certificate a sufficient sum appropriated for the purpose of such contract was in the treasury or in process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances.

(This ordinance is not of "a general or permanent nature" and need not be read three times nor published)

Clerk

To: Gates Mills Village Council
From: Jamie Carracher, President
Subject: 2025 End-Year Report from Gates Mills Land Conservancy (GMLC)
Date: Feb. 17, 2026

Since our 2025 mid-year update to the Village Council, the following activities have transpired at the Gates Mills Land Conservancy:

Officer and Director Elections: During our annual meeting in October, the land conservancy's board re-elected Jamie Carracher, president; Nathaniel Smith, vice president; and Alex Bercheck, treasurer. Our full membership also voted to renew the directorship for Celeste McClung and Anthoni Fazio.

Conservation Easements on GMLC-Owned Land: In the fall of 2025, our board voted to proceed with protecting our fee-owned properties with conservation easements. We have always believed that the land we purchase should be protected forever. However, placing conservation easements on properties we own is not simple and requires meticulous legal documentation and time-consuming filings with the state and county. We began the process with two initial properties at the end of last year. We are using this process to learn how best to complete this work efficiently. Our goal is to place nearly all our fee-owned properties under conservation easements within the next 5 years.

New Website: Since 2024, a Task Force within the Conservancy has been hard at work on a new website, which went live just a few weeks ago. You can view it at www.GatesMillsLandConservancy.org. This new site aims to make information about our work easier to find for our members and village residents. Stay tuned to it for the latest updates, articles and events.

Stewardship: At the end of 2025, we completed inspections of all 57 properties we own or hold conservation easements or deed restrictions. As we do every year as part of our Land Trust Alliance accreditation requirements, our board completes inspections that require us to visit every property, take photos and document conditions, which we monitor for changes.

Similarly, we continue to update our management plans for all of our owned properties. These management plans do not contemplate any major changes to our existing policies but do require more detailed documentation, as part of our LTA accreditation.

Invasive Removal: Four GMLC directors, with Mitch Bass as its chairperson, continue to support the Village's Tree Canopy Committee. The Conservancy's Merkel Preserve just south of Mayfield Road on Chagrin River Road was included in the first wave of properties to begin invasive removal work, which will continue this spring. Our board also voted last year to extend invasive removal to the LoConti Preserve across Chagrin River Road from Merkel, which was funded through private donations. This year, we will continue our partnership with the Tree Canopy Committee by expanding to invasive treatment within the Kay Perkins Preserve, which is 13.8

acres on the north side of Mayfield Road just to the west of Chagrin River Road. This will be paid independently by GMLC, as well.

To supplement our invasive removal work on the Merkel Preserve, the GMLC has partnered with neighboring property owners to submit a funding request through the federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), administered by the USDA. If approved, this federal funding would support the removal of invasive plants and the planting of native plants. Because GMLC is a private landowner, we have the unique ability to help facilitate grant requests like this, which are not open to municipalities. We will learn the results of our request this spring, and we believe this could be an approach we can replicate with neighboring property owners elsewhere in the village.

Land Trust Alliance Field Trip: In September, the Conservancy hosted more than 50 conservation professionals from across the country and Canada as part of the national Land Trust Alliance Rally conference held in Cleveland. This field trip was hosted in partnership with Chagrin River Watershed Partners and Western Reserve Land Conservancy and included visits to the Merkel Preserve to see our work tackling invasives and restoring native habitat, as well as the village center around stream restoration work managed by CRWP. We also visited the WRLC's headquarters in Moreland Hills and saw stream restoration along the Chagrin River in Willoughby.

Community Outreach: GMLC published three online Newsletters in September, July and March that were distributed to more than 725 villagers. They were focused on celebrating our LTA reaccreditation, introducing our newest property the Kay Perkins Preserve, and illustrating our effort to create a home for Kestrel falcons at the Sherman Road Preserve.

We also hosted our annual meeting in October, which included a presentation about migratory smallmouth bass in Lake Erie tributaries from Zak Slagle, Fisheries Biologist, Sandusky Fisheries Research Station, Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Fundraising: As of the end of 2025, \$41,715.89 in membership contributions had been raised from 153 donors compared to a budget of \$40,000 for the year. In December, we were awarded an \$11,429 grant through a private donor to continue our work removing invasives with a focus on the LoConti, Merkel and Sherman Road Preserves. Early on in 2025, we received a generous unrestricted \$100,000 donation from the family of Mrs. Marguerite (Bonnie) Humphrey, which will support our ongoing land conservation and stewardship work. We worked with the village and the Humphrey family to honor her life-long contributions to the community with a memorial in the village center.

Financials: As of the end of December 2025, GMLC's Statement of Revenues & Expenses and its cash position were as follows:

<u>Statement of Operations</u>	<u>December YTD Actual</u>	<u>Full Year Budget 2025</u>
---------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Revenues	\$ 183,624	\$ 141,500
Expenses	<u>\$ 42,683</u>	<u>\$ 49,400</u>
Net	\$ 140,940	\$ 92,100

Levy Receipts: In 2025, we received levy funds totaling \$122,279. We spent \$10,789 on property maintenance (tree pruning, fence repairs, mowing) and property taxes, which are refunded to us upon tax exemption. As of the end of December, we held \$143,255.90 in levy funding.

Cash reserves at the end of December were as follows:

Operating Funds	\$ 529,078
Special Gift Fund	\$ 11,929
Levy Funds	\$ 143,255
Stewardship Reserves	<u>\$ 218,182</u>
Subtotal	\$ 902,445

VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING JANUARY 31, 2026

MONTHLY RESULTS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

The financial statements were provided to the Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer and Council prior to the February 17, 2026, Regular Council meeting.

GENERAL FUND

Revenue for the month was \$396,656, \$15,960 more than the prior year. The real estate tax advance was higher than received in 2025 by \$38,000. Municipal income taxes were \$11,422 higher this year than last year. Receipts from real estate taxes and municipal income taxes are based on collections by Cuyahoga County and RITA. The Village is dependent on the timing of those agencies' billing and collection activities and on the timing of taxpayer remittances. Real estate tax invoices were mailed out later this year, as the county was awaiting the state to certify values.

The traffic camera enforcement program gross receipts in January were \$122,120, which was \$11,620 more than January 2025. Vehicles pass through the Village at lower and safer speeds, thereby achieving the primary objective of road safety. Expenses for the program are to Lyndhurst Municipal Court and Sensys Gatso, which appear in the Police Department expenditure area of the General Fund. Expenses in January totaled \$54,000 for a net collection of \$68,120 for the month.

Other sources of revenue, excluding the traffic camera program, were \$36,654 compared to \$77,149 last January.

Expenditures for 2026, excluding transfers to other funds from the General Fund, were \$623,780 compared to \$645,593 in January 2025. Village expenses are budgeted and controlled by its four departments (Administration, Police, Fire and Service).

The Administration Department incurred expenses of \$161,214 in 2026, \$25,680 less than the prior year mainly due to an income tax refund payment last year. The Village paid for its property, casualty and general liability insurances in the month of January at a cost of \$119,249.

The Police Department recorded expenses of \$250,709, which were \$52,746 more than the prior January amount of \$197,963. The traffic camera program costs were \$54,000 this year compared to \$50,736 last January. Higher costs were attributable to higher wages due to payouts attributed to a retiring officer, traffic camera program fees and paying for the Flock Camera annual maintenance fee (previously paid from the Safety Fund).

The Fire Department costs of \$27,759 were lower than last year's amount of \$111,971. This is attributable to paying the EMS quarterly invoice in January last year.

The Service Department incurred \$184,098 in expenses in January, which is \$35,333 over last year's figure of \$148,765. Overtime wages of \$16,360 exceeded last year's amount of \$11,057 due to the

number of snow and ice storms experienced over the month. Salt expense was \$50,286 compared to last year's amount of \$27,297.

In summary, for the first month of the year, the Village operated with a General Fund shortfall of \$254,124. Last year, the Village had a shortfall in January of \$1,533,397, excluding transfers of \$1,241,500 to other funds from the General Fund, the shortfall was \$291,897.

The General Fund cash balance on January 31, 2026 was \$7,898,446 compared to the beginning of the year balance of \$8,152,570.

OTHER FUNDS

The Village is required to maintain other special purpose funds by statute or contract. Cash in these funds amounted to \$1,554,954 on January 31, 2026.

Janet M. Mulh, MPA
Finance Administrator

VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JANUARY 31, 2026

	2026 BUDGET	Current Month	2026 Year to Date	2025 Year to Date
General Fund (GF) Revenues:				
Taxes:				
Real Estate Taxes	2,652,850	61,000	61,000	23,000
Municipal Income Taxes	2,415,000	149,882	149,882	138,460
Share of Sales and State Taxes	-	-	-	4,587
Total Tax Revenue	5,067,850	210,882	210,882	166,047
Other Sources:				
Fines and Costs	60,000	1,068	1,068	2,184
Traffic Camera Gross Receipts	1,520,000	122,120	122,120	110,500
Building/Liquor Permits & Licenses	51,840	2,518	2,518	1,750
Interest Income	299,500	8,044	8,044	13,847
Rental Income	209,800	4,550	4,550	1,807
Mills Building Rental Income	144,994	11,689	11,689	35,742
Ambulance Income	80,000	-	-	20,369
SRO Reimbursement	99,180	8,266	8,266	-
Misc	316,750	519	519	1,450
Total Other Sources Revenue	2,782,064	158,774	158,774	187,649
Assessments:				
School Board/Property Assessment	-	-	-	-
Total General Fund Revenues	7,849,914	369,656	369,656	353,696
Add Year Beginning General Fund Balance		8,152,570	8,152,570	7,879,102
Less Expenses:				
Administration Costs	(see Page 2)	(161,214)	(161,214)	(186,894)
Administration - Transfers		-	-	(1,241,500)
Police Department Costs	(see Page 3)	(250,709)	(250,709)	(197,963)
Fire Department Costs	(see Page 3)	(27,759)	(27,759)	(17,732)
Fire Department Ambulance	(see Page 3)	-	-	(94,239)
Service Department Costs	(see Page 4)	(184,098)	(184,098)	(148,765)
Total General Fund Expenses		(623,780)	(623,780)	(1,887,093)
Current General Fund Balance		7,898,446	7,898,446	6,345,705
Plus:				
Other Fund Current Balances		1,554,954	1,554,954	2,933,495
Total Current Balance - All Funds		9,453,400	9,453,400	9,279,200

VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JANUARY 31, 2026

	2026 BUDGET	2026 Month Expenses	2026 To Date Expenses	2025 To Date Expenses
ADMINISTRATION:				
Salaries and Wages	175,500	13,165	13,165	12,624
Health Insurance	52,910	3,445	3,445	1,554
Worker's Comp/Medicare	6,000	503	503	299
Employee Retirement (OPERS)	29,870	2,216	2,216	2,081
PERSONNEL COSTS	264,280	19,329	19,329	16,558
Legal - Law Director	60,000	-	-	3,638
Legal - Prosecutor	78,000	1,250	1,250	3,313
Legal - Other	2,000	-	-	-
Engineering	50,000	3,050	3,050	2,911
Other Professional Services	188,400	9,796	9,796	10,707
LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL	378,400	14,097	14,097	20,569
General Insurance	136,500	119,249	119,249	107,729
Income Tax Expense	100,000	4,525	4,525	39,350
County Auditor Expenses	75,000	-	-	-
Office Expenses	24,500	1,643	1,643	421
Miscellaneous Expenses	6,000	2,371	2,371	2,267
OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	342,000	127,788	127,788	149,767
ADMINISTRATION OPERATING COSTS	984,680	161,214	161,214	186,894
Transfers to Other Funds	2,262,000	-	-	1,241,500
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION COSTS	3,246,680	161,214	161,214	1,428,394

VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JANUARY 31, 2026

	2026 BUDGET	2026 Month Expenses	2026 To Date Expenses	2025 To Date Expenses
POLICE DEPARTMENT:				
Salaries and Wages	1,345,750	127,472	127,472	89,162
Overtime	55,000	7,708	7,708	7,617
Health, OPERS, MEDI, Worker Comp	353,900	27,989	27,989	16,897
PERSONNEL COSTS	1,754,650	163,169	163,169	113,676
Gasoline	25,000	-	-	4,605
Repairs and Maintenance	17,000	-	-	56
Uniforms	17,000	-	-	-
Training/Conferences	12,000	200	200	1,975
Dispatch Operating Fee	144,500	-	-	11,419
Alarm System Fee	17,000	-	-	-
Maintenance Agreements/Radio Expenses	47,000	18,027	18,027	14,409
Traffic Camera Program LMC	336,000	17,780	17,780	20,340
Traffic Camera Program Gatso	405,000	36,220	36,220	30,396
Other Expenses	16,000	2,313	2,313	1,087
V.E.G.	13,000	13,000	13,000	-
OTHER POLICE DEPART COSTS	1,049,500	87,540	87,540	84,287
Vehicle Purchases	80,000	-	-	-
Equipment Purchases	39,000	-	-	-
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	119,000	-	-	-
TOTAL POLICE DEPARTMENT COSTS	2,923,150	250,709	250,709	197,963

FIRE DEPARTMENT:				
Salaries and Wages	314,000	19,077	19,077	14,990
PERS, MEDI, SOC SEC, Worker Comp	41,800	6,610	6,610	1,687
PERSONNEL COSTS	355,800	25,687	25,687	16,677
Vehicle Maintenance	11,000	59	59	10
Ambulance/EMS <i>see below</i>	539,000	-	-	94,239
Training/Conferences	14,500	-	-	-
Contracts & Annual Fees	28,000	284	284	783
Other Expenses	17,000	1,729	1,729	262
OTHER FIRE DEPARTMENT COSTS	609,500	2,073	2,073	95,294
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	138,000	-	-	-
TOTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT COSTS	1,103,300	27,759	27,759	111,971
<i>Ambulance Income on Cover Page</i>	80,000	-	-	20,369

VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JANUARY 31, 2026

	2026 BUDGET	2026 Month Expenses	2026 To Date Expenses	2025 To Date Expenses
SERVICE DEPARTMENT:				
Salaries and Wages	833,360	59,794	59,794	59,130
Overtime	45,000	16,360	16,360	11,057
Health, OPERS, MEDI, Worker Comp	388,000	35,746	35,746	24,503
PERSONNEL COSTS	1,266,360	111,900	111,900	94,690
Salt/Aggregate (snow removal)	143,000	50,286	50,286	27,297
Building Inspection	14,000	993	993	-
Equipment Maintenance	45,000	2,074	2,074	2,308
Gasoline Expense	40,000	3,249	3,249	8,180
Supplies/Uniforms	37,000	2,973	2,973	4,081
OPERATING COSTS	279,000	59,574	59,574	41,866
BUILDING OPERATION & MTC				
Village Hall	324,400	6,942	6,942	6,802
Village Houses	1,500	-	-	96
Community Building	50,700	986	986	1,223
Post Office	5,300	-	-	-
OBT Building	1,850	98	98	128
Wash House	5,700	14	14	28
Burton Court	4,500	114	114	124
Mills Building	80,270	2,157	2,157	697
BUILDING OPERATION & MTC	474,220	10,311	10,311	9,098
Street Repair	5,000	-	-	-
Ditch, Drain, Sewers	28,500	64	64	66
Tree Grinding (Contractors)	14,000	-	-	-
Street Lighting	16,000	1,181	1,181	1,168
Parks	31,000	957	957	1,160
Guardrails, Signs, Bridges	6,700	112	112	717
STREETS AND ROADS	101,200	2,314	2,314	3,111
Vehicles	262,810	-	-	-
Other Equipment	9,000	-	-	-
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	271,810	-	-	-
TOTAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT COSTS	2,392,590	184,098	184,098	148,765

VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JANUARY 31, 2026

	Beginning Year Balance	Year-to-date Actual Receipts	Year-to-date Actual Expenses	Unexpended Balance
Street Const Maint Repair	180,538	15,598	-	196,136
State Highway	24,467	1,275	-	25,741
Bond Retirement (KeyBank Loans)	2,730	-	-	2,730
	<u>207,735</u>	<u>16,873</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>224,607</u>
Capital Improvement	185,805	384	-	186,189
Water	293,183	-	26,747	266,436
Wastewater Plant	28,587	1,626	3,555	26,658
Park Recreation	18,908	-	-	18,908
Cemetery	92,675	1,500	-	94,175
Mayor's Court-Violations Bureau	380	401	665	116
Mayor's Discretionary	505	-	-	505
Purcell Trust	21,964	-	-	21,964
Land Conservation	407,341	8,286	-	415,628
Building Bond Deposit	181,755	-	-	181,755
Underground Storage Tank	11,000	-	-	11,000
Safety Fund	40,382	-	-	40,382
Police Relief & Pension	53,263	2,000	20,169	35,094
Law Enforcement	-	443	-	443
VEST Grant	-	-	-	-
OneOhio Fund (Opiod)	3,434	-	-	3,434
STATE Grants	30,365	5,914	8,620	27,660
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS	<u>1,577,282</u>	<u>37,427</u>	<u>59,755</u>	<u>1,554,954</u>
GENERAL FUND	8,152,570	369,656	623,780	7,898,446
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	<u>9,729,852</u>	<u>407,083</u>	<u>683,536</u>	<u>9,453,400</u>

STATE OF THE VILLAGE
JANUARY 31, 2026

	2026	2025
Total Current Balance - All Funds	9,453,400	9,279,201
Cash and Investments:	1/31/2026	1/31/2025
Cash:		
ANCORA	8,942,331	8,698,691
CHASE DDA	68,555	64,615
CHASE SAV - LAND CONS	-	1,498
STAR OHIO -LAND CONS	399,150	324,392
CHASE VIOLATIONS BUREAU	6,252	38,926
Star Ohio	<u>38,717</u>	<u>156,485</u>
Total Cash	9,455,006	9,284,607
(OUTSTANDING CHECKS)	<u>(1,606)</u>	<u>(5,406)</u>
Total Cash and Investments	9,453,400	9,279,201

** From Wastewater Fund

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY	BUDGET	JANUARY	2026 YEAR TO DATE	2025 YEAR TO DATE
Real Estate Taxes	2,652,850	61,000	61,000	23,000
Municipal Income Tax	2,415,000	149,882	149,882	138,460
Share of Sales and State Taxes	-	-	-	4,587
Other Sources	2,782,064	158,774	158,774	187,649
Assessments	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	7,849,914	369,656	369,656	353,696
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Administration Department	984,680	161,214	161,214	186,894
Police Department	2,923,150	250,709	250,709	197,963
Fire Department	1,103,300	27,759	27,759	111,971
Service Department	2,392,590	184,098	184,098	148,765
Transfers excluding Inheritance Taxes	2,262,000	-	-	1,241,500
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	9,665,720	623,780	623,780	1,887,093
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(1,815,806)	(254,124)	(254,124)	(1,533,397)

Project	January 31, 2026	BUDGET	JANUARY	YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES	COURTNEY	OTHER	SCMR/STHWY
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT							
2026 Road Program		1,118,000					
Culverts		156,500					
Sidewalk Project		78,125					
Storm Water Regulations & Issues		25,000					
Salt Bin Engineering		80,000					
Guardrail Replacement		64,500					
Broadband		705,000					
TOTAL	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	2,227,125	-	-	-	-	-

Village of Gates Mills

Division of Police
1470 Chagrin River Road
Gates Mills, Ohio 44040-9703
Phone: (440) 423-44505 Fax: (440) 423-2002
www.gatesmillsvillage.com

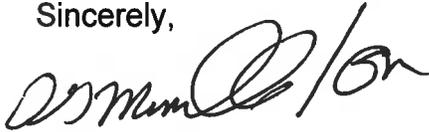
February 2026 Council Meeting (January Report)

- 1) Safety Town in partnership with Gilmour Academy has been scheduled from June 8-12 at their lower school.
- 2) Ptl. Angela Suchetka has been selected to join the Valley Enforcement Group (VEG) as a Hostage Negotiator. She will begin her training at the Cleveland FBI office in April.
- 3) Bowhunting season has concluded. 25 deer were harvested, compared to 22 from last year.

Monthly Totals:

- 19 Traffic Citations.
- 50 Warnings.
- 18 Incident/Accident reports.
- 8,375 Patrol Miles.
- 1,489 House Checks.

Sincerely,



Gregg Minichello
Chief of Police
Gates Mills Police Department
[Gminichello@gatesmillsvillage.com](mailto:gminichello@gatesmillsvillage.com)
440.423.4405 x 112

SGG USA

Gates Mills, OH - Summary by time periods

Date Range	Passes	@ 58	@ 59	@ 60	Speed	Citations Issued
August 2024 (08/01/2024 - 08/31/2024)	323,991	617	448	1,042	44.98	750
September 2024 (09/01/2024 - 09/30/2024)	315,742	639	462	1,104	45.41	1,488
October 2024 (10/01/2024 - 10/31/2024)	333,365	716	514	1,229	45.34	1,652
November 2024 (11/01/2024 - 11/30/2024)	280,084	641	431	1,132	45.36	1,409
December 2024 (12/01/2024 - 12/31/2024)	285,202	495	390	911	44.96	1,225
January 2025 (01/01/2025 - 01/31/2025)	335,446	453	285	719	44.59	1,049
February 2025 (02/01/2025 - 02/28/2025)	355,195	463	306	705	44.75	1,124
March 2025 (03/01/2025 - 03/31/2025)	393,904	644	437	1,081	45.37	1,702
April 2025 (04/01/2025 - 04/30/2025)	433,380	559	416	960	45.17	1,462
May 2025 (05/01/2025 - 05/31/2025)	409,057	542	362	929	45.10	1,478
June 2025 (06/01/2025 - 06/30/2025)	458,990	611	418	1,010	45.06	1,630
July 2025 (07/01/2025 - 07/31/2025)	463,812	637	434	1,200	45.15	1,722
August 2025 (08/01/2025 - 08/31/2025)	488,419	656	511	1,218	45.06	1,551
September 2025 (09/01/2025 - 09/30/2025)	486,634	615	485	1,052	45.05	1,367
October 2025 (10/01/2025 - 10/31/2025)	476,053	669	445	1,136	45.05	1,630
November 2025 (11/01/2025 - 11/30/2025)	397,076	517	336	934	44.60	1,168
December 2025 (12/01/2025 - 12/31/2025)	389,042	418	263	712	44.12	903
January 2026 (01/01/2026 - 01/31/2026)	342,152	337	242	498	43.84	716

Gates Mills Service Department

"Yours in service since 1920"

TO: Mayor
and Council Members

FROM: Dave Biggert, Service Director

RE: SERVICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – January 2026

1. In January, 7 building permits were issued for a total construction value of \$929,790.
2. In January 2025, 7 building permits had been issued for a total construction value of \$378,848.
3. Last month, the Service Department took delivery of approximately 352.60 tons of road salt. A total of 1,328.58 tons of salt has been delivered and stored to date. Approximately 1,086.42 tons of salt remain to be purchased under the current ODOT contract.
4. In January, the County notified us our application under the 2026 County Road Preventative Maintenance Program was approved. We have been approved up to \$58,000 for material cost reimbursement for paving work completed on County roads. The work performed will be crack sealing and striping on Chagrin River Road (south of Old Mill Road), County Line Road, Gates Mills Blvd., and Old Mill Road.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at (440) 423-1581.

Respectfully Submitted,



David L. Biggert, RBO, RBI, PI, MI, EMT-B
Service Director/Building Official

Gates Mills Fire Department

January 2026 Council Report

DATE	NFIRS NUMBER	Address/Location	Description of Incident
1-05-2026	2026-1	1990 Woodstock Road	Water Problem
1-08-2026	2026-2	34001 Cedar Road	Power Line Down
1-11-2026	2026-3	1960 Woodstock Road	Fire Alarm
1-12-2026	2026-4	28301 Chardon Road	Bldg. Fire-Mutual Aid-Willoughby Hills
1-14-2026	2026-5	Mayfield & West Hill Roads	Assist Police
1-15-2025	2026-6	Mayfield & Chagrin River Roads	Power Line Down
1-16-2026	2026-7	2105 Woodstock Road	Fire Alarm
1-22-2026	2026-8	Chagrin River & Deerfield Roads	Power Line Down
1-23-2026	2026-9	7830 Gatewood Oval	CO Problem
1-24-2026	2026-10	2045 SOM Center	Fire Sprinkler Activation
1-24-2026	2026-11	7547 Brigham Road	Odor Investigation
1-24-2026	2026-12	27600 Chardon Road	Building Fire-Mutual Aid-Willoughby Hills
1-25-2026	2026-13	Mayfield Road-East of Chagrin River Road	MVC-No Injuries
1-25-2026	2026-14	Mayfield & Chagrin River Roads	Assist Police
1-27-2026	2026-15	2105 Woodstock Road	Fire Alarm
1-29-2026	2026-16	County Line and Sherman Roads	MVC-With Injuries
1-30-2026	2026-17	540 County Line Road	Smoke Investigation
1-30-2026	2026-18	Chagrin River & River Oaks Trail	Power Line Down

CURRENT MONTH TOTAL	2026 YEAR TO DATE	2025 YEAR TO DATE
G.M. FIRE 18	18	18
M.V. EMS 17	17	17
Canceled & Signoffs 2	Canceled & Signoffs 2	

The January training topics were:

January 13, 2026 Yearly PPE check. Air Pack drill. Department Directives. Blue Card Command.

January employee anniversaries:
 Lieutenant Dave Biggert – 28 Years
 FF Bruce Borthwick—New Employee

Thomas Majeski, Fire Chief

February 4, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 13

BY MAYOR SIEMBORSKI

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE
NO. 2025-51 TO INCREASE CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS AND
OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS, OHIO FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026.**

SECTION 1. Be it ordained by the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio that the following amendment be made to the annual Appropriation Ordinance 2025-51 as passed by Council on December 16, 2025.

SECTION 2. That the appropriation from the General Fund to the Transfers to Other Funds be increased by \$596,500.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency ordinance necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, convenience and welfare for reasons apparent from the contents of said ordinance and therefore this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed the _____ day of _____, 2026.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk

APPROVED:

Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 14

BY MAYOR SIEMBORSKI

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN SUMS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE SAFETY FUND

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS, CUYAHOGA COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That, by the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, State of Ohio, the following sums be transferred between funds. The Finance Administrator is hereby authorized to make such transfer, as follows:

From the:	GENERAL FUND
To the:	SAFETY FUND
Amount:	\$596,500.00

SECTION 2. That this Resolution shall go into immediate effect.

PASSED: _____, 2026

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-15

BY COUNCILMEMBER TURNER

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BETTER MEADOWS & WOODLANDS, LLP, AND CLEVELAND METROPARKS FOR SERVICES REGARDING THE VILLAGE'S ONGOING INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Village, upon the recommendation of its Tree Canopy Committee, contracted with Better Meadows & Woodlands, LLP for services related to the Village's initial Invasive Species Control Pilot Program (the "Project") to conserve and improve the quality of forest lands in the Village of Gates Mills;

WHEREAS, the Project has been a success and has provided the incentive for the Cleveland Metroparks, a significant owner of forest lands in the Village, to also participate in invasive species control projects on its lands in the Village;

WHEREAS, Better Meadows & Woodlands, LLP has proposed to provide invasive species control services for the calendar year 2026 within the Village of Gates Mills for certain parcels and acreage owned by the Village of Gates Mills for a total cost of \$52,498.00 and for certain tracts and acreage owned by the Cleveland Metroparks for a total cost of \$34,807.20 for a total cost of \$87,305.20;

WHEREAS, the Village's Tree Canopy Committee has reviewed and analyzed, and is recommending to this Council to enter into a three-party agreement with Better Meadows & Woodlands, LLP of Avon Lake, Ohio, and Cleveland Metroparks at a cost not to exceed a total of \$87,305.20, which shall include the projects on both the acreage owned by the Village and the acreage owned by Cleveland Metroparks, and whereby, following payment for said services by the Village, Cleveland Metroparks will reimburse the Village for its share of the services in the amount of \$34,807.20.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, State of Ohio that:

SECTION 1: The Mayor is authorized to enter into a three-party agreement with Better Meadows & Woodlands, LLP, and Cleveland Metroparks pursuant to the proposals attached hereto as Exhibit A and Exhibit B for the services as generally set forth therein in an amount not to exceed \$87,305.20, payment of which shall come from the Village's Land Conservation Fund, of which \$34,807.20 will be reimbursed to the Village by Cleveland Metroparks.

SECTION 2: The Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 3: This Resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate protection of the public health, safety and general welfare and for the further reason that it is necessary to begin the invasive species control work during the upcoming seasonal months to obtain the optimal benefits of the services being provided; wherefore, provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of Council elected or appointed thereto, it shall take effect immediately upon its passage and execution by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed the ____ day of _____, 2026.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk

APPROVED:

Mayor

EXHIBIT A

Name	Acreage	Cost	Type	Parcels ↕
Feller's Field	37	\$7,215	retreat	343-02-006 ↕
Arboretum 26	2	\$1,000	retreat	842-17-005 ↕
Merkel 26	9	\$5,400	retreat	842-19-006 ↕
Chagrin River Rd 2026	13	\$7,150	retreat	842-21-001 ↕
				842-03-002 ↕
				842-03-001 ↕
Pump Station 26	2	\$750	retreat	842-32-005 ↕
Pump Station East 26	4.94	\$1,482	retreat	842-32-001 ↕
Old Mill Rd	8	\$8,000	new acreage	842-17-010 ↕
				842-17-009 ↕
				842-16-002 ↕
322 West	15	\$8,775	new acreage	842-10-002 ↕
				842-11-002 ↕
Chagrin River Rd	14.14	\$12,726	new acreage	842-02-004 ↕
				842-03-001 ↕
				842-03-002 ↕
Total:				
				\$52,498 ↕



INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL



LEGEND

-  AREA WITH NO TREATMENT 2005
-  AREA WITH TREATMENT 2006
-  INVASIVE SPECIES ZONE



EXHIBIT B



Better Meadows & Woodlands, LLP
33539 Park Place
Avon Lake, OH 44012
216.215.1115
www.better-woods.com
bryan@better-woods.com

28 November 2025

Cleveland Metroparks North Chagrin Invasive Species Treatment

The treatment area consists of two separate parcels (see maps). The southern parcel (#1) is located on the east side of the Chagrin River, south of State Route 322 and consists of 7.11 acres. The northern parcel (#2) is located along the Chagrin River, north of State Route 322 and consists of 27.84 acres. Both tracts are comprised of river bottom habitat with very heavy woody and herbaceous invasive species and limited access. Because of the variable access, maturities, and species, these tracts will require several different treatment techniques. Better Meadows and Woodlands guarantees an efficacy rate of 80%.

Tract #1: Tract #1 contains 5.19 acres (pink) of very dense, mature woody invasives that will be treated during the dormant season with a combination of cut stump treatment and a basal bark treatment to remove the seed source. This will be followed with a foliar treatment during the growing season. Additionally, the knotweed will receive a second treatment later in the season.

Dormant Season Treatment	5.19 ac @ \$400/ac = \$2,076.00
Heavy Foliar Treatment	5.19 ac @ \$400/ac = \$2,076.00
Medium Foliar Treatment	1.92 ac @ \$250/ac = \$480.00
Total:	\$4,632.00

Tract #2: Tract #2 (27.84ac) contains high densities of very mature woody invasives, large patches of Japanese knotweed, and expanses of porcelainberry. In an effort to increase access for future management, a forestry mulcher will be used to clear woody invasives in all areas with reasonable access. In conjunction with the mulching, we recommend a cut stump/basal bark application to be completed during the dormant season. Similar to Tract #1, these techniques will be followed by a foliar application on the entire acreage and an additional treatment on the Japanese knotweed.

Forestry Mulching	12 ac @ \$685/ac = \$8,220.00
Dormant Season Treatment	27.84 ac @ \$455/ac = \$12,667.20
Foliar Treatment	27.84 ac @ \$500/ac = \$13,920.00

Total:

\$34,807.20

Chemicals Treatments: The proposed chemical treatments for this project will be completed with the appropriate mixture of Triclopyr for basal bark treatments and foliar treatments will be carried out with glyphosate, 2,4-D, and triclopyr. Aquatic rated herbicides will be used in any sensitive areas.

ODA Licensed Pesticide Applicators: All employees or contractors of Better Meadows & Woodlands, LLP will be either licensed pesticide applicators, or trained servicepersons operating under a licensed pesticide applicator. Additionally, all pesticide reporting laws will be followed.

Intentionally Blank





RESOLUTION NO.: 2026-16

BY MAYOR SIEMBORSKI

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S FORMATION OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO BE KNOWN AS THE "AGING WELL COMMITTEE" AND THE APPOINTEES THERETO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section IV-5 (a)(2) of the Village Charter, the Mayor has the authority to appoint committees, with the confirmation of the Council, and to control such committees that are not created as formal "committees of Council";

WHEREAS, the Mayor has proposed the formation of an ad hoc committee to be known as the "Aging Well Committee" for the purpose of analysis of community needs for the Village's aging population;

WHEREAS, the Mayor has appointed Joy Banish, Co-Chair, Jan Bohinc, Co-Chair, Grace Ann Bourne, Cathy Divincenzo, Debra Hymer, Chris Kramer, Elaine Motylinski, Olivia Onysko and John Onysko to the Committee and is seeking Council confirmation of those appointees;

WHEREAS, this Council desires to confirm the formation of the Committee and the Mayor's appointees thereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Resolved by the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: This Council hereby confirms the Mayor's formation of an ad hoc Mayoral committee to be known as the "Aging Well Committee" and the Mayor's appointees thereto of Joy Banish, Co-Chair, Jan Bohinc, Co-Chair, Grace Ann Bourne, Cathy Divincenzo, Debra Hymer, Chris Kramer, Elaine Motylinski, Olivia Onysko and John Onysko for the purpose set forth in the recitals to this Resolution.

Section 2: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and related to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3: This Resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public general welfare and convenience in order for the aforesaid Committee to meet at the earliest possible time to begin its duties and for the efficient and effective governance of the Village's affairs; wherefore, provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of Council elected or appointed thereto, it shall take effect

immediately upon its passage and execution by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed the _____ day of _____, 2026.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk

APPROVED:

Mayor