

Statement delivered during Public Comment
Village Council Meeting – March 9, 2026
Submitted for inclusion in the official record

I am speaking tonight as a resident of this Village.

I resigned my position effective immediately, February 23rd after significant reflection. Public service is not easy, and I never expected it to be. The workload was never the issue. For me, the challenge was ensuring that governance remained transparent, that roles were clearly defined, and that independent judgment was respected within the Council structure.

I understand that there may be disappointment surrounding my resignation. However, stepping aside was not a matter of being unable to handle the responsibility. It was a decision grounded in principle.

Healthy local government depends on more than majority votes. It depends on balanced authority, clear procedural guardrails, and an environment where elected officials can deliberate openly without informal pressure.

I remain proud of the work accomplished during my tenure and grateful to the residents who supported me. I sincerely hope the Village continues strengthening its governance framework for the benefit of everyone.

Keri Hochertz