



May 28, 2025 Town Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Dean Smith, Dana Rutter, Avery Ferguson, Corey Oberlin, Vernon Miller, Ray Rodriguez, and Johnny Bachman.

Dean announced to everyone that was in attendance they are giving their consent by being here to be included in the livestreaming event.

Dean made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 14, 2025. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Water: Avery mentioned the gentleman from the GPS mapping system are in town and will be working through the rest of the week. He noted, they may have questions for him and Corey and they will get with them before they leave town.

Hydrants are partially done. They encountered rainy weather and were unable to finish up. They also were scheduled to be at the operator expo. They will finish up sometime next week hopefully. Dean said, he had been receiving compliments from the public on how nice the hydrants looked.

The tower is in the process of getting cleaned and they should be done by the end of this week.

There's been an issue with the generator and chlorine alarm. Someone will be coming to take a look at it.

Dean asked, at the last meeting, Alex Scelzo's meter was reading slowly. He asked Avery if he had gotten that changed out yet? Avery said no, he hasn't had time. He has a list of workorders he will try to chip away at.

Wastewater: Avery said he's having an issue with one of the lift station pumps. He had to pill one of the pumps, the bolts snapped off, now the bearings are going out on it. He has ordered new bolts. He will have to call someone to replace and repair it, so this will be a costly expense more than likely. A lot of concrete will need to be knocked out, unfortunately. Dean asked if the concrete was original. Avery replied, oh yeah.

Community Development: MacKenzie said she has nothing for you guys until after the meetings next week.

Maintenance Director: Automatic Door Company was here today and installed the automatic doors for ADA compliance. They work really well.

Corey updated the council on the dig on Jefferson Street. It was an apparent sink hole. Corey assumed there was a tile that ran under there, but determined the tile is actually 50 feet to the north. There's nothing there. A culvert and two cement walls. Corey said, I guess we will just fill it back in. There's a lot of sand in there. The council was in agreement with filling the hole back up.

Corey said, the speed bumps on Cripe Dr. going into the park. Everyone is going around them. We can see tracks in the grass and it's tearing up that area. Vernon said he has two large rocks we can take and put there. Corey asked the council, what would you like for me to do? Dean said, he knows they talked about Farmer's Day activities with the hopes of slowing people down. Dana said, he would advise taking them out. If things start getting wild, then put them back down, but move them back closer to the park so vehicles cannot go around the speed bumps. Dean asked if Ray has noticed a problem with speeding back there? Ray said no. Vernon said he thinks it's the worst when football season begins. Dean and Dana reiterated for Corey to pull them out.

Dean asked about the brakes on the dump truck. Corey said he hasn't had a chance to get that looked at.

Marshal: Ray had a packet compiled of information from the Sheriffs Department, Caliber, and a budget report from MacKenzie. Ray said this is in regard to the new reporting system. If you have had a chance to read it. This sheet breaks down the cost for every department, ours would be due in increments. We would pay 90% of this total towards the end of the year. It's \$22,990. Next year, when the system is up and running, they would want the remaining 10%. There is yearly maintenance and that will be \$5,974.50 with a 3%-5% increase. Ray explained, the system they have now is not user friendly and it's hard to use. Only Elkhart City is not switching over, but everyone else in the County will be. Dean asked MacKenzie if this is feasible? MacKenzie reflected to the Excel budget sheet and went over the funds with them. MacKenzie assured Public Safety is very healthy for the time being. Looking at the blue section, MacKenzie explained this is their budget for the rest of the year, there's \$28,000 left. There's money to do this. Dean made a motion to approve the changing in systems to Caliber for the police department. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved for the Millersburg Police Department to switch to Caliber.

Park: Vernon said on the east side of the playground equipment and the lane that goes back to the lift station. There used to be a row of evergreens, but they were nasty. Tim (neighbor who lives on SR-13 and park is in his backyard) cut the evergreens and they are just stumps now. Vernon said he asked Tim about putting a row of arborvitaes for privacy and vibrancy. Tim's reply was that would be awesome. Vernon measured the length down the drive and it's 110ft. He can get 4ft arborvitaes trees for \$95.00 from Dogwood Hill Tree Farm. It will take 25 of the arborvitaes to fill the row. Vernon asked Tim, if we help you clean this up, would you be willing to pay for half of the trees? Tim said he would be willing to pay for half. We are looking at \$2,375 total cost and half would be \$1,187.50. These wouldn't get planted until the fall. Vernon said, give me time and maybe I can twist Corey's arm into helping me with this.

Vernon said he thinks he mentioned this last year. Farmer's Day Committee asked if we could run a recep from the pavilion by the ball diamonds. They need more power for the breakfast. They were running on cords and cords were all over. They need to just run the wire down the post. I think last year you told me to go ahead and get it done, but I just wanted to verify. Middlebury Electric is going to come out and get those changed. Vernon apologized and said he doesn't have a cost yet. Vernon doesn't believe it will amount to much. Vernon said he thinks it's only just 40 feet and put the recep down. Dean said he doesn't have a problem with the recep or the arborvitae. Dean said the arborvitae will look nice. Vernon said OK. He'll get some measurements on the recep and cost and see where we're at.

Dana told the Town employees he is hearing a lot of positive things from residents in the community. He said it shows how nice our town looks. Dana said you guys are all a good and active group. Thank you for what you do. It's a night and day difference from last year.

Clerk Treasurer: MacKenzie re-presented Resolution 2025-03. MacKenzie said she knows this passed at the last meeting, but the appropriation numbers were not correct. Dean made a motion to accept amended Resolution 2025-03. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote Resolution 2025-03 was unanimously approved.

MacKenzie informed the council of the Boyce automatic payment system. MacKenzie said it's more costly than she anticipated. MacKenzie got her information from Virginia (Syracuse Clerk Treasurer). They pay a monthly service fee of \$100.00, it's split 50/50 with water and wastewater. For every payment that's made, we are additionally charged 23 cents. So, the monthly service fee would be more than \$100.00 per month. Dana asked, could the service fee cost shift onto the customer? Dana said, not that we want people to take on that cost, but it sounds pricey for the town to take on. MacKenzie said she would find out more information from Virginia. She suggested maybe we need to take a poll on Facebook again, explaining the

cost to customers to see if they would be willing to do automatic payments then? MacKenzie said she would gather more information and report back at the next meeting.

MacKenzie read the "No Excess Value" letter from the RDC President, Colton Hurst. The council understood.

Old Business: 206 Oak Street. Avery explained he got a hold of the lawyer for Wingate or the lawyer of Wingate now owns that household. Dana said someone that is connected to the house approached him about looking at the property. Dana looked and said it was ungodly. Now known fact, the home was sold in a quiet sale. A landscaping crew went and assessed the house and thought it would cost \$20,000 to fix the outside landscape. Avery hasn't talked to the lawyer since his visit here, if he had even made the visit yet. Avery said he contacted County through the Building Commissioner and Health Department. They are taking mosquito samples and didn't find a problem at this point. A resident that lives next door to Petra's house, sent MacKenzie an e-mail expressing the unsatisfactory conditions of the house and how it's affecting him. MacKenzie also sent the e-mail to Avery. The e-mail detailed this resident trimming the overgrown trees/bushes from the property, and in a matter of a minute, had four ticks fall on him. Their dogs have gotten fleas from the overgrowth that is coming into their yard from the house. Dana said he is stunned that house isn't condemned. Avery said the last house we had in town that needed to be condemned took 2-3 years for that to happen, it's a process. Dana said he thinks the next-door neighbor is trying to compete with Petra's old house. A notice needs to be given to Keith Salinas. There's something living in the shed structure. The smell coming from the house is awful. Dean asked if we've given him a citation before? MacKenzie replied yes, we have given him citations before. The council also wanted MacKenzie to get a hold of the property owner to let them know what's going on.

New Business: Johnny Bachman from Borden Waste Away was here to go over the contract extension. Johnny said it was made aware to him that we weren't necessarily happy with the increase going to 4% instead of 3%, which was stated in a previous extension. Johnny explained the municipal waste CPI has been closer to 5% so the cost of business is going up. We didn't want to bump this up to 5% so we arrived at 4% hoping that would be an okay number to increase by yearly. Dean asked, when does the contract for renewal come up? Johnny said July 1. Dean said, that was certainly the big question of the additional 1% increase. MacKenzie asked Johnny, what are other municipalities looking increase wise? Johnny replied, most this year are getting 4.7% and that's why we want to lock you in now. Landfills are going up and have been increasing for several years and it's just part of the cost. Johnny said he would ask to see if the 4% could allow for a little more wiggle room. He really doesn't think this number will budge, but he'll ask anyway. This item is tabled until the next meeting.

MacKenzie said she has the Elkhart Humane Society contract. MacKenzie said it's inexpensive, they gave a good testimonial, it won't hurt to try this for a year. Dean made a motion to approve the contract. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the contract with the Elkhart Humane Society was unanimously approved.

MacKenzie said the ad for the grasshopper lawn mower was published in the Goshen News on May 23. We will received bids up until June 10 by 2:00pm. The bids will be opened during the council meeting at the 11 of June.

MacKenzie went over the tornado siren quote from Middlebury Electric. MacKenzie told the council, during the last bad storm we had, there were complaints about not being able to hear the siren. So, MacKenzie and Moe had the conversation about updating the sirens. Moe looked into it and got this quote for us. Split the quote in half and the \$32,675 would be our portion. Toni informed me she spoke with Middlebury and they told her (MacKenzie wasn't sure if they have existing sirens or not) but they were not going to put any in due to everyone having phone alerts. Dean asked, what is the fire department doing? MacKenzie said she isn't sure; Toni had to bring this to her board too. It's just something to think about. The pole and siren will be \$22,675. The \$10,000 is a one-time fee to get connected with Goshen. They'd turn on the siren for us and it would be included in the Thursday 2pm testing. Dana asked who does it now? MacKenzie said, Moe came down in the last storm but we all have keys and have to manually flip the switch. MacKenzie said, it's just something to think about right now. Is it best to go with one centralized siren in town, or have both worked on? Table until the next council meeting.

Dean made a motion to pay bills. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote bills were unanimously approved.

Dean made a motion to adjourn. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the meeting was adjourned.

X

MacKenzie Taylor
Clerk Treasurer

X

Dean Smith
Council President