



Town of Millersburg Town Council Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2026

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Dean Smith, Dana Rutter, Avery Ferguson, Jennifer Tobey, Courtney Matthews, Lonnie from the National Weather Service, Corey Oberlin, Vernon Miller, Brian Yoder, Ray Rodriguez, Moe Yoder, and Kent Beers.

Dean called the meeting to order.

Dean made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from April 8, 2026. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the April 8, 2026 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Jennifer Tobey took the floor. She is the Elkhart County Emergency Planning Management Director. She has been with County 37 years and 21 years in emergency management. She introduced Courtney Mathews deputy director of administration and support. Lonnie is with the National Weather Services. Elkhart County is active with weather. One of two counties in the state. National weather service works out of Elkhart County's office two days a week. Jennifer said she isn't opposed to the sirens. She understands why we have the sirens. She just has a different perspective. She began discussing the history of sirens. When sirens first came out it was more of that alert when we were at war. Sirens are surfacing now because there's a potential threat for war, she doesn't mean to get into politics. Many people are attached to their sirens. Sirens are one tool in the tool box. There are a lot of opportunities to know when bad weather is coming. Weather radios, their office supports. Their office can program it for free. It's only about \$40.00 the problem is you can't find it in stores. You can order it online. The cell phone and weather apps. Sirens are kind of going by the waste side. They are expensive to maintain. Elkhart County as of right this moment. We are not creating any type of central location for the sirens to go off. It's kind of a mess. She is appointed by the commissioner. Right now, if you as a township or city chooses to have a siren and maintain it you can connect to county 911 or city 911 and have them push the button. The software we have is progressing. That comes with a lot of money. She will support whatever the town decides. She knows some people are very attached to the sirens. The sirens are meant for outdoors; they are a warning outdoor signal. Tornado sirens are not designed to be heard within the home. The weather radio is designed to get you when you are inside the home and same thing with cell phones. They had contacts with Midland directly, approximately how many homes in Millersburg. MacKenzie thought they had 398 utility customers. Jennifer said if you order from Midland directly you can get 100 weather radios for \$3500 and we can program those. Just another tool

to think about. The weather radios can be plugged into the wall or run off of batteries. Jennifer wanted to let us know other options or alternatives in weather awareness about other opportunities. Jennifer stated if we decide to go with the weather radios, they would be happy to program all of those for us. Right now, in this County, County 911 sets off Goshen. Benton has one siren that piggy backs off of Goshen. Up north has their own, Oslo. Cleveland whatever reason wanted the warning ahead of time they paired with St. Joe County. Which has been kind of a bit of a mess. In March the state exercise Bago didn't go off because they were tied into Cleveland. It just gets kind of messy because of the different times. Nappanee can set off their own or County 911 center can set them off. Normally, fire departments get the watch first and then will weather watch. Jennifer reiterated that she would support whatever the town decides. Jennifer opened the floor up to any questions. MacKenzie told Jennifer she knows this was previously discussed but wanted to ask again, if the town chooses not to upgrade the sirens and takes it off-line there is no legal repercussion against the town if a tornado comes and wipes out Millersburg? Jennifer said there is no State law that requires that. She added the reason we have them, just like in Jennifer's office, it used to be because of civil defense and traffic control. Jennifer said through time it switched over to alerting bad weather. Jennifer said by law you can decide what you want to do with that siren. Lonnie also confirmed this from the national weather service. There is no law that states you have to have so many sirens per town and what not. Jennifer said you don't have it, you will have some residents that are upset but this is where education comes into place. We were hopeful more residents would turn out to listen to Jennifer's informative discussion about weather safety tools. Brian Yoder told the room he would like to have the sirens. He said during the last event nothing showed up on his phone. He gave an example of what if he doesn't have a weather radio and his phone isn't charged and then the power goes out, then he is solely depending on the siren. There might not be a lot of people that have cell phones. Brian believes the more tools someone has, the better off they are. Moe explained, with the way the sirens are set up here in town when we get toned for a watch. The fire department will go out and manually turn on the siren. So far, it's worked well. Moe told the room, if he were to step outside when he receives the warning and hears a train coming from the north, he would not send his guys out to turn on the siren. At that point it's too late. Moe gave another example of calling 911 for a burglary. When someone calls 911, they have to wait for the call to be dispatched. When the thief breaks in, if you are trying to defend yourself, then you won't have as bad of an outcome verse on waiting on the police to get to your house. The phone thing, it's a responsibility to make sure your phones are charged, he understands sometimes things happen. Jennifer said she thinks Moe brings up a good point. Just like those tornados that happened in Michigan their sirens never went off. They didn't do anything. It was a watch and it was just a spontaneous tornado that came down and killed people and caused a lot of destruction. That was a situation where people were complaining about the siren but there wasn't even a warning. Jennifer said she isn't an expert when it comes

to weather but the National Weather Service system's technology is advancing. We have to trust our National Weather Service. When it comes to those watches and warnings she'd like all of those things to go off and not have a tornado at all. Jennifer said she understands, for many years you've been used to the siren, but that's between you and them. There are other options and you might be able to use your money a little bit better and a little bit smarter. Jennifer said if she needs to come back, she will if there's anymore questions.

Dean said he would be interested in getting some public feedback. Cost for weather radios would be \$3500 x 4 looking at \$14,000 to buy everyone in town a weather radio. One siren would cost \$40,000. Moe said for himself he is always on the side of personal responsibility. At the same time being with the town we have a responsibility that comes with that. Facebook poll is the best way to reach people and get input.

New Business: Kent Beers is a resident that resides on Cripe Street. He was here to complain about L&C Welding. This business is newer to Millersburg. During the fall, L&C Welding put in a generator without proper permits from Elkhart County. The generator faces Cripe Street and it has been a constant life disruption for residents that live on Cripe Street, Maple Street, and Blessing Street. Kent wanted to know what is going on with L&C Welding, the generator hasn't been running and it looks like a wall or something is being built around the generator. Dean told Kent we will talk about that a little later.

Water: Avery sent everyone the email for the well. The additional rebuild, it will be a \$6,000 extra charge and repair. Dean asked if it was a legitimate thing? Avery said he believes so. Dean asked MacKenzie money wise if the funds are there. MacKenzie replied yes. Dean made a motion to accept the added necessary repair on the well that is being overhauled. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the added repair was unanimously approved. Dean asked how long it will take? Avery said he doesn't have that information.

Last meeting since MacKenzie wasn't here and finances were unknown. Avery gave a quote for the water tower to be clean and inspected. The contract is through Maguire and the cost is \$3,500. Dean asked, it's an every 5-year maintenance thing that needs to be done? Avery said that's correct and this maintenance is to be performed this year or 2027. MacKenzie asked Avery to confirm that this is for a cleaning and an inspection. Avery confirmed. MacKenzie said there is money in the water tower maintenance line item to cover this cost. Dean made a motion to approve the Maguire contract. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the Maguire contract was unanimously approved.

For the PFAS settlement, Avery asked the council if they want to pursue that or have a representative here? Dean said we talked a little bit about it, he doesn't know if it's necessary. Dean asked what the total is? Avery said he doesn't know it is dependent on how affected we were. Avery said they've collected 179 million dollars so far. Dean asked what would it cost us? Avery said it wouldn't cost the town anything unless we were to win. They'd take a portion of that. Avery said he could look at getting a representative here for the next meeting. Deadline to register is June 30. Dean told Avery to have someone come in because he has a couple of questions.

Overall, a meeting coming up May 1 in Elkhart at the Aquatic Center for a meeting on a GIS Trails system. Avery is planning on attending along with MacKenzie. Avery just wanted to give the council a heads up.

Avery is going to take off April 27-April 29.

May 21 Avery will be attending an operator expo. So, he will not be on site that day.

Wastewater: Again, MacKenzie wasn't at the last meeting so finances were unknown. This is to approve a rate study for wastewater. The plant does not run well financially. It is an expensive operation. Avery said this study quote is from LWG. The previous study was completed by Baker Tilly. As you can see, the cost is quite different. We paid Baker Tilly \$7,000 to find out no increase was needed. LWG is not to exceed \$4,500. Dean asked Dana's thoughts. Dana said he doesn't want to be elected into a position and say we have to raise prices. Avery said he doesn't want to raise utilities either, but he has a business to run. Avery said, he is barely keeping up with maintenance that needs to be done. Dean asked MacKenzie. MacKenzie said it needs to be done. The last sewer increase was in or established in 2019. MacKenzie said sewer is really struggling. Dean made a motion to approve the rate study. Dana seconded the motion upon voice vote the rate study for sewer was unanimously approved.

Yesterday the blower that had gone out is now back installed. There was an issue with the outer shield and Avery plans on contacting a local weld shop to fix these for him instead of ordering a new one to save on cost. \$1,569 a piece.

The plant, most of the UV is done still waiting on the cleanup. Waiting on the cover for the clarifier. Should be out to fix up the ground tomorrow.

Had an issue with the lift station out at the park has malfunctioned. Avery made a mess having to go back there. Had to barrow a part from Goshen. It wasn't a pump issue; it was acting like it

didn't have electric. Messed around with the fuse and made sure it's not a motherboard issue. It's working fine now.

Community Development: MacKenzie told the council we had a steering committee meeting on April 15. It was a great turn out and gained another member, the Millersburg School Principle. Things have been going well with that. We received our first invoice from Abonmarche for this project. As a reminder, the town pays for it, MacKenzie submits the invoices to Indiana Department of Health along with a progress report, then IDOH will reimburse us. The reimbursement was approved and will receive that in about 30 days.

Lastly, MacKenzie has been working on booking some vendors for the fall fest.

Corey and MacKenzie, about a month ago, worked on the permit application for the drive on SR-13. It has been recommended for approval. Now it is going through the final approval stages is what the gentleman from INDOT informed MacKenzie.

Maintenance: Corey had quotes for the fence at the maintenance shop. For reference, a tree on Simar's property fell onto the maintenance fence and damaged it. Custom Fence quote amounted to \$619. Picket Ridge amounted to \$1,100. Dean made a motion to approve the Custom Fence quote of \$619. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the Custom Fence quote was unanimously approved.

Corey said the stop sign on Cook Street and Elm Street. Corey has the ordinance here from the lawyer, he recommended in putting a yield sign. Down here it's due to the council's discretion if you feel we should take it out. Dean asked Ray his opinion. Ray said all it is a curve not an intersection. Dean asked MacKenzie if we needed to have a meeting over the ordinance. MacKenzie replied if it's something the council wants to adopt right away, you can make a motion to waive the second reading and adopt it upon passage. Then, we have to publish this with the Goshen News. MacKenzie asked Corey if he only had the one with water marks on it? MacKenzie asked do you want to adopt it right away on passage? Dean said yes. Corey said there's some other issues with the ordinance about putting stop signs on Wabash. Ray said he doesn't understand where a stop sign would even go. Dean thought it would be better to rewrite the ordinance and table this until the next meeting have it ready for adoption.

The drain down near railroad street Corey believes he can start working on it tomorrow once locates are complete. Has locates called in for the house on Jefferson. Brian Yoder is also having flooding issues when it rains. Corey told Brian he believes he has a solution for him. A lot of water runs from the Carriage buildings and floods his yard along with the Tax building. Tax

Choice is built up a lot higher than Brian's property. Corey said there is a tile behind the tax place if he opens that up. Brian asked about the bank because that floods a lot too? Corey replied it goes to the fire station. Brian suggested something but Corey doesn't believe it will work. Dean wants to try Corey's idea and see how that works. Brian is worried because he had 8 inches of water in his shed. Plus, his shed is built up from ground level 6-8 inches. Dean said it was a strong rain we had over the past few days. Brian said it doesn't matter the amount; it still causes issues.

The street sweeper was here today. Corey asked Dana if they came down Maple Street. Dana said he is unsure.

Corey has a quote from Phend & Brown regarding 6 alleys and Wastewater Drive. We are waiting on another quote from Niblock. Dean asked if we should look at this now. MacKenzie said, that's fine it may just be best to wait and see what counter offer Niblock has for us.

Marshal: Ray said there has been a bit of vandalism in the park bathroom. Unfortunately, the cameras went offline during this time so we couldn't see who did it. Dana asked what did they do? Ray told them someone went into the boy's bathroom and kicked a hole in the wall and they turned the heat up. Vernon said we can't lock the heater because it's an electric heater. Dean asked about a thermostat. It's a knob right on the heater. There's not much that can be done to lock this.

Dean told Ray he has not heard recently of any comments of speeders. Ray said Mike has been coming in the morning, so he must be slowing them down.

Park: Vernon is mowing and that's about it. A lot of kids and families have been utilizing the park.

The cameras have been working. Vernon said there are a couple of kids he suspects that did the vandalism damage in the bathroom.

Vernon said the benches we have out there, they are heavy and can't be drug around. The ones by the pavilion that Jim wanted, they are a lot lighter. Vernon's fear is that they will start dragging those around on the turf. Vernon is fine with getting benches but thinks we need to get heavy ones that people can't move or drag around. Dean asked if we have a place in mind to get these from. Vernon told the council we have a couple of catalogs to look through. Corey said maybe check with Ultimate Edge they have some concrete benches sitting out that are for sale.

Clerk Treasurer: The loan came through last Thursday for wastewater. MacKenzie passed out the amortization schedule. We will start spending that money because Crosby is requesting a large amount for their completed work. After Dean signs the pay apps MacKenzie will send the payment to Crosby. The permits will be changing too since we now have the UV Plant. Commonwealth is taking care of this for us. Dean asked Avery how much chlorine have we saved? Avery said the UV has been working and the numbers are very low.

March bank reconciliation is complete, Addie did this. Suzy Bass approved and has signed off on this. Dean and Dana signed off on this as well.

MacKenzie submitted the TIF Management Report before the deadline of April 15th to the Department of Local Government Finance.

MacKenzie is working on completing the ARPA Report, these are federal dollars the town received during the pandemic. This report is due April 30th. MacKenzie said we had \$7,000 something dollars that were unobligated, so she had to send that back to the Department of the Treasury. Janet will zoom in with me on Friday to complete the report.

Elections here May 5th.

A new committee has been formed for Elkhart County Representatives and it's called MUST Committee. This is in regard to Local Income Tax. This is looking a lot more hopeful for us in regard to not losing so much revenue for this. We have a meeting May 7th to learn more about this.

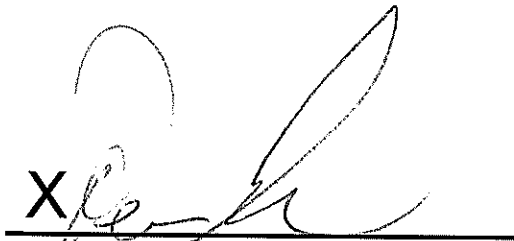
MacKenzie told the council Addie had numbers for the mosquito spraying. To have Millersburg sprayed, it would cost \$4,000. MacKenzie said she reached out to her friend from Bristol and she told MacKenzie they stopped using this company years ago and have switched to Mosquito Joe's. They get three applications and the cost for them is \$2,350 per application. MacKenzie asked if the council wanted to continue looking into this or drop it. Dana said he feels weird about this, is this something we want to do? MacKenzie asked if anyone in the room has noticed a problem with mosquitos. No one in the room has had a problem with them. Council decided to drop this.

Old Business: Weld shop. Dean said when he went by on his golf cart he saw posts. Dean asked what those are for? Kent said they are making a wall around it or something to help drain out the sound. MacKenzie told Kent from the talk she had with County, they are aware of the situation. They are on the Town's side. Larry from LC Welding is trying to work with County it

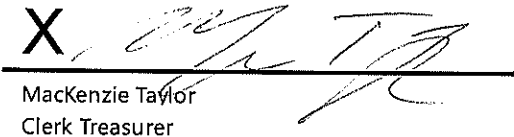
sounds like and wants to make it better for you. Jason recommended try to be graceful and give them a little bit of time to get this straightened out. If there is still disruption and you don't notice any change, please notify myself or County so we can give them something in writing.

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

Dean made a motion to adjourn. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to adjourn.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Smith', written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Dean Smith
Town Council President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MacKenzie Taylor', written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

MacKenzie Taylor
Clerk Treasurer

