



Town of Millersburg Town Council Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2026

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Joni Miller, Dean Smith, Dana Rutter, Avery Ferguson, Vernon Miller, Corey Oberlin, Andrea Milne, Tina Smith, Rita Van Voorst, Ray Rodriguez, and Jeremy Hardy.

Dean called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Dean welcomed Joni Miller to the town council. She is now taking his place of Larry who stepped down at the end of December.

Dean made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 14, 2026. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Water:** Avery presented a new contract for Services by Stouder. This contract is for Avery to have certified water operator coverage until he completes his classes and passes his exam. Avery will be solely responsible for wastewater when the transfer paperwork is done. Dean asked Avery how he likes working with Stouder. Avery replied he has enjoyed his time working with them and would like to continue a working relationship with them. The new contract is \$1,170 a month cheaper than what we've been previously paying. Dean motioned to accept the new contract with Services by Stouder. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the Stouder contract was unanimously approved.

Avery provided the council members with a document of a class action lawsuit. Avery explained the lawsuit is in regard to PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances). Several billions have been recovered in this lawsuit. Avery told the council if it's something we would like to partake in, we must complete the necessary paperwork by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Avery showed them the attorney we would have to hire to go after these funds. Dean asked what other towns are doing? Avery said he has not asked other local agencies. Avery said he received this through his email and began to inquire more about what the town would need to do to take action. Joni asked Avery what is PFAS? Avery replied it's a chemical that corporations have used to manufacture plastics, it's literally in everything and it can affect one's health. Some states are cracking down on PFAS. Avery said, in fact the town has to start testing for it. Dean suggested we table this until next month.

Avery would like to get his truck transmission filter and fluid changed on the 2021 at Leon's because Corey isn't comfortable doing this. Leon said it would be roughly \$200-\$350. Avery said he would like to have this done before he leaves for the spring conference in French Lick. Dean told Avery to get this service completed with Leon, Joni also encouraged him to do so, too.

Avery had difficulties capturing a meter read for Arrow Industries this month. Avery informed the council they have a large 2-inch meter. Through conversations with Utility Supply company and the realization they have an older meter and radio head these are the options we are left with. The radio head can be replaced for \$169.23 or the meter can be replaced for \$1,341.59. Dean asked Avery how he feels about this? Avery acknowledged he doesn't want to spend money but he would rather replace the meter in the long run. Avery stated he would like to try and capture a read for the month of February and then make a decision from there.

Last time we had a meeting Avery discussed the well head protection issue. Alliance is helping Avery through this. The town did receive an extension. The current well head protection area is based on an older model. Since the town is drawing more water than the current permit that's been issued to us, we have to redo this. Dean asked, how far will this study set us back and how far does the town need to go? Avery said he has had one estimate that was \$15,000-\$20,000 and then a contamination study is needed \$5,000-\$10,000. Avery reminded the council Peerless will be here to install a new pump (approved in 2025). He knows the budget is being tried right now. Jeremy suggested asking Peerless for a quote in regard to some of this work since the town will already be working with them. Avery also noted, sometime this year or next year the water tower is needing an inspection and possible cleaning. MacKenzie was asked if there is money? MacKenzie said yes, there is money in the water tower maintenance line.

Avery reminded the council they will have to go to a training sometime over budget/utility maintenance.

**Wastewater:** UV plant has been pushed back due to weather.

Avery expressed he has had several issues at wastewater due to the cold. The large clarifier has been down and isn't wasting properly. Avery said he would let IDEM know because the numbers won't be good.

**Community Development:** Andrea Milne came to present a proposal for Abonmarche to complete the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan that was awarded to the town through Indiana Department of Health. Andrea went on to explain the process Abonmarche will be taking to

complete this grant. We have to begin the process rather soon because everything needs to be finalized September 30<sup>th</sup>. The emphasis will be finding supporting data on who is biking in Millersburg and for what purpose. Also, finding the reason why maybe people aren't biking in Millersburg. There are many variables to identify and try to make improvements from there. We will have to form an advisory committee; this was part of the grant requirement. The advisory committee will be made up of various individuals. Four meetings are required and two public workshops. Aside from the meetings a survey will be created for those to take in Millersburg. From there, we will create a document that's usable and will maintain actionable goals. MacKenzie went on to explain to the council we have to pick an engineer firm to work with in regard to this grant. How it works is Abonmarche will invoice the town progress reports, we will pay the bill and then MacKenzie will forward this information to the state. The state will reimburse us based off of the invoices. Dana said if he would've known it worked this way he maybe would not have been in favor of it. He said if we are getting it back then it's a wash. MacKenzie said this grant will help us in so many ways and provide us with a concrete road map of the direction Millersburg will head. We have so many supporters in this endeavor as well, we have people from LaGrange County in support as well as an outreach from people in Elkhart County. MacKenzie asked if it was okay to sign the contract with Abonmarche for this grant project? Dean, Dana, and Joni agreed and allowed MacKenzie to sign the contract with Abonmarche.

MacKenzie mentioned Addie is getting newsletter information compiled. Please, let MacKenzie know by Friday if anything else of importance needs to be added.

**Maintenance:** Corey told the council he scheduled an appointment for the backhoe. There is not five hundred hours on it, but it is close. Dean told Corey he got so many compliments from so many residents in regard to snow removal.

**Marshal:** Ray said he has talked with MacKenzie and came up with some numbers for a part-time officer. Ray said he understands this will have to be strictly capped at twenty hours per week, if the council would like to go this route. Ray mentioned this was tabled at the last meeting. MacKenzie had a sheet with a break down of how much it would cost and a starting wage for the individual. Dean asked Joni and Dana what they thought. Joni asked how many officers we currently have, two? Ray nodded. Joni asked, how many part-time? Ray responded that we kind of have a part-time officer and two reserves. Dean asked about the budget. MacKenzie said this wasn't in the budget, we may need to pull cash reserves. Dana said he doesn't mind hiring a part-time officer as long as the schedule makes sense. Dana said to get him to do some early shifts. Ray said he could get a meeting set up with him for everyone to meet one another. Joni asked Ray if he had someone in mind. Dean told Joni there is an officer

that is almost ready to retire from county and he is well qualified. Dean said he doesn't have a problem hiring a part-time officer if he is needed. Help to keep speeders under control. Dean noted we will really have to watch the budget with him. Dean said, let's go ahead and with this. Ray said he will ask the new hire if he can come to the next meeting and meet with him to figure out a schedule.

Ray has been at training for the new reporting system. Ray said they are trying to go live with the program by mid-April. Ray said Robert will more than likely have to go to this training as well sometime next month. Ray said this system is a better connection to the department. Dana told Ray he thought this was already included in the system they currently have. Ray said it kind of works like that right now, but it only shows us if there are warrants for individuals. This new system will show everything to include local crime from another area.

Dean asked MacKenzie if the taxes got taken care of. MacKenzie said yes, thank you for approving that via email. The taxes were placed on the credit card for Ray's hotel stay. MacKenzie tried to call the hotel to remove these and they said they could not because it was booked through a third-party host. Lesson learned to not book with a third-party host.

Dean told Ray he was notified that a couple of pitbulls were on the loose and to keep an eye out for them. Does anyone know who they belong to? Apparently, someone in the neighborhood has seen them and knows where they live but he hasn't heard anything else. East Lincoln might have some pitbulls in the two hundred block. About a month or two ago those dogs that live across from the Dollar store were hit and killed. Ray wasn't aware of these pitbulls. Tina said she has a picture and showed Ray.

Joni said she doesn't know who would be in charge of this but the speed limit sign by her home was knocked down and asked if someone could put that up. Dean asked Corey to look into this.

Dean asked Corey about the guard rail at the overpass. Corey said he has no word on that. He is supposed to get a name from someone at county. Joni said she could help with this since she works for county.

**Park:** Vernon said he talked to MacKenzie about this and she thought it would be okay budget wise. Vernon reminded the council last fall he said he wanted to insulate the pavilion. He checked with the Lumber Yard and it will be about \$400-\$500 to properly insulate this. The council was fine with letting Vernon insulate the pavilion.

Vernon mentioned the pickleball court issue where water seems to be pooling and not draining correctly. MacKenzie said when she ran into Toni at the bank a while back, she made it sound like she was going to contact Jake or someone from the company he works for. Vernon said he will check with Toni.

**Clerk Treasurer:** MacKenzie had an inter-local agreement with the town and the Elkhart County Humane Society. MacKenzie said the price to renew services stayed the same at \$1,900. Dean made a motion to approve the contract with the Elkhart County Humane Society. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the contract was unanimously approved.

MacKenzie had a pay application for Crosby. Crosby is performing the work at the wastewater treatment plant. Dean signed Pay App One for Crosby.

MacKenzie had closeout papers that needed Dean's signature for the CCMG 2024-02 and CCMG 2025-01. MacKenzie will send this off to INDOT for the closeout.

MacKenzie informed the council she will be gone March 8-March 12 for an annual conference in Plainfield.

MacKenzie informed the council she is working with Joe Wells on Capital Assets this Friday.

The Annual Financial Report is almost done and will have it for the council at the next meeting.

MacKenzie presented an amended salary ordinance in regard to Holly starting her job. Dana made a motion to approve the amended salary ordinance. Joni seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the amended salary ordinance was unanimously approved.

**Old Business:** Last month we tabled about our legal advisor. Dean said he hasn't come up with anyone else. Dean asked Dana and MacKenzie if they had found anyone and both replied no. Dean said he suggests proceeding with Jackson Beck. Dana and Joni agreed with this.

There is still a complaint about the gas leak over on Larimer and Elm. Avery said he doesn't know if this will get fixed anytime soon. Avery said he spoke to someone from NIPSCO and they told him they rate leaks on a scale of 1-3, 1 is the highest level of importance. This was rated at a 2. Avery's contact told him they would kick this up to his boss. There is no clarity as to when they will get this fixed. Dana said he is worried someone may walk by with a lit cigarette and blow something or someone up. Since it's been leaking so long hopefully, they give the

homeowner a break on his NIPSCO bill. Avery said all we can do is keep calling and complaining about it until they come and fix it.

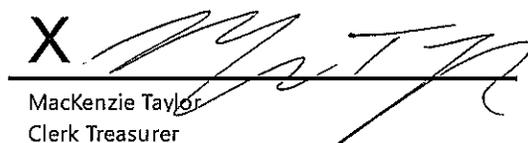
Avery told the council he has a lot of stuff he needs to get rid of/recycle. There's a lot of scrap metal from old meters and he would like permission to scrap these items. Dean asked Corey if he has anything to scrap. Corey replied he would probably have a dump truck load. Joni said OmniSource takes about anything. The council is fine with getting rid of these items from the utility plants and the maintenance department. Dean asked MacKenzie to write letters of authorization for Avery and Corey to take old obsolete scrap metals to OmniSource and the County Landfill.

**New Business:** Dean asked if someone is taking over the garage sales. Avery said, Alexis Fine stepped up and is going to. MacKenzie applauded Addie for reaching out to her and getting her to do this. Avery said there is no date set yet, a survey is going around right now to confirm a date. Avery said, right now it is looking like it'll be mid-May. Even though the large trash pick-up day is earlier than the garage sales, the homeowner will still be responsible for removing their items. Maybe next year since someone is in charge, we can try to correlate the two events better.

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 it was unanimously approved to adjourn.

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Dean Smith  
Council President

X   
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MacKenzie Taylor  
Clerk Treasurer