

Town of Millersburg Town Council Meeting Minutes  
February 25, 2026

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Joni Miller, Dean Smith, Avery Ferguson, Jim Winkler, Gale Gerber, Corey Oberlin, Vernon Miller, Rita Van Voorst, Mike Waas, and Ray Rodriguez.

Dean called the meeting to order at 4:59pm.

Dean made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 11, 2026. Joni seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the meeting minutes from February 11, 2026 were unanimously approved.

**Marshal:** Mike Waas was in attendance. He is about to retire from the Elkhart County Sheriffs Department and is seeking part-time employment with the Town of Millersburg. Mike has been with the Elkhart County Sheriffs Department for twenty-five years. Mike mentioned he is ready to try things out in Millersburg and see how it goes. Ray told the council, the Millersburg Police Department could use Mike for his expertise. Mike told the council he has been a detective, patrol, motorcycle officer, and had a K9. His background is very well versed. He attended the academy in 2002. Being a part of the K9 unit was his favorite, he still has the dog he used to work with. Recently, he has been in the detective field for six/seven years for mainly property crimes. Mike expressed his desire to help people; it's the most gratifying part of being an officer. Mike said he comes from a small town; therefore, he is excited to come work for a small town. He mentioned he used to work with Ray on Goshen PD and Robert on Elkhart PD. Ray asked if there were anymore questions? Joni said welcome aboard. Dean said we've been talking about this for a while. Not sure on the direction we will go yet but we will consider your application and see what will happen. Mike replied, that sounds great.

**Water:** Avery got the 2021 truck transmission serviced.

Avery reminded the council to look into the class action settlement paperwork for PFAS. The deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup> to move forward with the settlement.

Tomorrow Avery and MacKenzie are meeting with Amanda from Alliance in regard to the wellhead protection phase II. Avery supplied the council with three vendors and their price to complete the delineation report. Hydrophase would be the cheapest. Avery is hopeful we can get a grant for this, the fence, and the work that will be completed on the well. Avery had

Vernon meet with him and a member of Picket Ridge Fencing to go over the proposed fence. Avery said he is aware there is parking along the wells and is uncertain what this study will determine. The well is a source of the town's drinking water, so vehicles shouldn't be parking on or near the wells. Dean asked, Avery which one he is wanting to get approved, has he worked with any of these vendors? Avery replied, Peerless is the only one he has worked with. This quote was around \$17,000 to work with Peerless. Hydrophase was a little under \$10,000 and the other quote was above the Peerless quote. Avery doesn't care who he works with as long as the standards for IDEM are being met. Gale said he has done a lot of work with Peerless. Dean asked MacKenzie her thoughts on the price. MacKenzie said it's a substantial amount of money and she doesn't like looking at the pricing, but if it's a vendor, we are comfortable with she'd rather go with them. Gale mentioned the wells are a five hundred foot minimum for wellhead protection. Dean said he is leaning towards Peerless because of their good track record. Joni agreed. Avery told the council he will keep them informed of the results of the meeting.

Avery finally received the bill from Middlebury Electric regarding the power issue last . This was a repair of the SCADA system when it was struck by lightning. This was over a \$16,000 repair for the water utility. There are funds to pay this and also repair the well.

Avery is still contemplating the meter situation with Arrow. He was able to capture a read for the March bill, but he had to drive right up to the doorway.

Avery discovered a leak within his toilet at the water plant. MacKenzie alerted Avery for the past two months he has a leak somewhere because his consumption more than tripled. He will be purchasing a new toilet.

**Wastewater:** Avery said he had a preconstruction meeting this morning in regard to the UV Plant. Everything was straight forward and smooth. The goal is to have the UV Plant up and running around March 27, prior to the April 1<sup>st</sup> when chlorine season start.

Avery said MacKenzie has been looking into funding options. MacKenzie explained within the 6204 account- sewer utility improvement has \$170,506.39. This fund only receives a monthly revenue of \$2,000 from transfers. Therefore, this fund only receives \$24,000 a year, nothing else goes into this account. The 6201 account- sewer utility operating has \$138,537.83. The monthly revenue this account receives is anywhere from \$22,000-\$28,000 a month. The income is from utility bills. Both funds are OK, the 6201 account is pretty low because of expensive repairs and chemicals to treat the plant. Avery expressed concerns paying for the entire UV plant because this would wipe out the majority of our funds. The town still owes \$186,000. So, Avery and MacKenzie met with Campbell & Fetter's Steve Birkey about taking out a \$100,000 loan to have

some cushion room in case an expensive repair or improvement is needed. The proposal from Campbell & Fetter showed terms for a 3-year loan and 5-year loan. Joni asked MacKenzie what one she is leaning towards. MacKenzie responded the 5-year loan. Also, there is no penalty for paying the loan off ahead of time if we choose to do so. Dean made a motion to approve the 5-year loan from Campbell & Fetter for the sewer plant. Joni seconded the motion and upon voice vote the Campbell & Fetter 5-year loan agreement of \$100,000 was unanimously approved.

Avery informed the council the cost of SO2 tank went up again. When the plant is functional it won't be using the SO2 to excess.

**Community Development:** The first Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan meeting will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00pm. MacKenzie invited the council to attend if they are able.

MacKenzie met with the Fall Fest planning committee last Thursday and decided the event will happen on Saturday October 17. The chili cook off will begin at noon and we will have the same events as we did last year. We will get the movie truck back out there and aim for an earlier show time, either 6pm or 6:30pm.

Lastly, Breakfast with Santa will take place on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Maintenance:** Corey got the backhoe serviced this morning. He said it only took about three hours. He doesn't have the bill for this service yet.

Corey came up to the table and showed the council a picture of one of the town pick-up trucks. Corey apologized and said he backed into something when he was plowing. Only the bumper was slightly damaged. Corey said he called around to places in the area and the bed is not worth replacing. Dean asked which vehicle has the damage? Corey replied the '09. The council wasn't concerned by the minor incident.

**Park:** Vernon told the council Corey helped him insulate the pavilion last Tuesday. They ended up using less material than Millersburg had quoted them for. Vernon is anxious to see how it handles the summer heat.

**Clerk Treasurer:** MacKenzie reminded the council she will be out of town March 8-March 12 for training in Plainfield. MacKenzie asked the council if they would like to proceed with the meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>. MacKenzie told the council Addie can do it, she just has an eye appointment in Ohio so she needs to know whether or not to keep or change the appointment

if you plan on having it. The council was OK with canceling the meeting for March 11. The next meeting will be March 25.

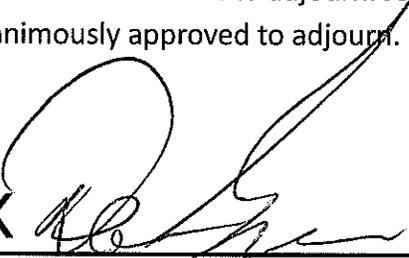
MacKenzie gave the council the Annual Financial Report for 2025. Suzy Bass already approved the report was true and complete. This was advertised in the Goshen News yesterday. MacKenzie asked the council to sign the report as an acknowledgement of receiving the report.

MacKenzie presented Retroactive Ordinance 03-2026. This Ordinance prohibits the release of public records for commercial use. MacKenzie told the council she received two emails from unknown requesters asking for specific public records. MacKenzie reached out to Janet (internal control) and the listserve and so many municipalities are getting these emails. The senders are trying to obtain information for their data centers. This Ordinance would be retroactively effective January 1, 2026. Dean made a motion to approve Retroactive Ordinance 03-2026. Joni seconded the motion. Upon voice vote Retroactive Ordinance 03-2026 was unanimously approved.

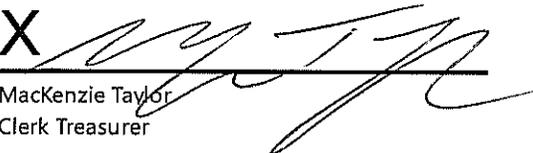
**Old Business:** Avery received the 811 locate notice for the gas leak on the corner of Elm and Larimer. Once Avery receives locates, he has forty-eight hours to complete this. From there, NIPSCO would have two weeks to do their part. Avery said at times he has been to a property for NIPSCO between six or eight times to do locates before NIPSCO ever came out. Time will tell if they fix this.

Dean made a motion to approve bills. Joni seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the bills were unanimously approved.

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

X 

Dean Smith  
Council President

X 

MacKenzie Taylor  
Clerk Treasurer