



Town Council Meeting

March 26, 2025

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Larry & Alice Randolph, Dana Rutter, Gale Gerber, Avery Ferguson, Ray Rodriguez, Corey Oberlin, Vernon Miller, Haley Hurst, Floyd Beechy, Patty Myers, Rita Van Voorst, Stacy Grosse, Addie Miller, and Dana Hawkins.

Larry reminded everyone before the meeting officially started, livestreaming will be happening. By being present and in attendance everyone is giving their consent to the matter.

Larry called the meeting to order.

Larry made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 12, 2025. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Water:** Avery said this is for water and wastewater, the 2016 Chevy truck was fixed. The radiator did not need to be fixed, luckily, so that saved some money. The truck seems to be driving fine.

Several months ago, we discussed the chlorine input. This was updated last Thursday or Friday, he can't remember which day. It's working great. Avery will keep an eye on it and tweak the system as he needs to.

Avery went over the new lead line survey information. At his conference it was explained there are some changes with the gooseneck lead line. The school and daycare/preschool will need to be annotated separately and test for lead. It is still up in the air about funds for replacement of lead lines because of what's happening with DOGE.

Avery said he spoke with a vendor while he was at conference about getting a new locator. Avery is having a difficult time locating shut offs/curb stops. The equipment Avery is currently using is extremely sensitive and inaccurate. Avery would like to have the vendor come to Millersburg and give him a tutorial of different wand models. Avery said the one he is interested in the most is \$800. Larry and Dana told Avery to set up a meeting with the vendor to find out more and this will be tabled until further information is gathered.

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Avery is also wanting to look into ground penetrating radar to locate various mains and drain systems. Avery actually met with representatives earlier today. He's working on filling out paperwork before he receives a quote. Avery mentioned, this will tremendously improve our GIS system and allow us to update our maps. Avery said he keeps running into issues and our maps we have are old and outdated. Larry said he agrees, this needs to get updated and done.

Avery told the council he experienced a water theft today. A tanker was hooked up to a hydrant at Zion Church pulling water. This was an ordinance violation and a penalty could have been placed upon him. Luckily, he was very cooperative with Rob and Avery. The gentleman that was taking the water is working on the solar farm out of town. His boss told him to go to a nearby town, hook up to a hydrant, and get water to fill his truck. Avery told the gentleman he's sure if they need water, they can work out a deal to properly meter the water loss and invoice them. Thank goodness Rita was watching all of this transpire because she alerted Avery about this. A police report was filled out as well. He pulled 1500 gallons and was only charged \$27.23; water doesn't cost that much in bulk sales.

**Wastewater:** Avery said, there's not too many issues going on right now. Chlorine treating will begin April 1. A vendor checked the feed system and it's ready to go.

Avery has had a problem on one of the valves for about a month. He warned the council that he or they may get a nasty letter from IDEM. It will be included in Avery's monthly report. Avery said, we could potentially get a violation or a scolding. Larry asked about a penalty? He said, we shouldn't.

Avery has a small project to get done. He will work with Gale and see what the cost amounts to.

**Community Development:** Newsletters are in the office. We will get those labeled, stamped, and mailed for residents to hopefully have those over the weekend.

**Maintenance:** Corey gave the council a quote from Prime Doors, it was \$16,320 for the automatic doors at the Town Hall. Corey said, he thinks that's a little too high. He called three other places and they told him, they won't do the doors. He is going to reach out to another company in hopes of getting one more quote completed.

Corey said, he was told its flag regulation to have a light shining upon it. He is trying to wrap in getting the gate wired along with the flag pole all in one. He will reach out for some quotes in regards to the gate, town hall automatic doors, and flag pole.

Corey's waiting on the dump truck to be fixed, snow is a likely possibility on Monday.

Corey mentioned there's a lot of trash coming from the gas station and behind Forest River. MacKenzie asked how the council would like to handle this, a courtesy letter, ordinance violation, an in-person interaction. Larry and Dana both agreed a courtesy letter first, verbal warning, then an ordinance violation. Larry said, let's monitor the situation.

The leak was fixed on the gas tanks. There will be no charge from C&P to us for the diesel leak.

Streetsweeper. MacKenzie told Corey she did hear back from Stewart, Town Manager of Topeka. They have a streetsweeper and said we could work something out whether they clean it for us and we pay them or we rent the vehicle, pay them, and do it ourselves. We'll just stay in touch with him and figure out a good time to get this done at a decent cost.

**Marshal:** Ray gave the council a copy of the grant Lexipol would submit for the three radios. Ray said, they will submit the grant next Wednesday and hopefully, we get three new radios out of it. Larry asked MacKenzie, if we don't get the grant, could the PD afford these three radios? MacKenzie looked in the Public Safety Fund and assured they would be able to purchase the radios on their own if they don't get the grant. Larry made a motion to approve the expense for three new radios at a cost of \$14,000, if the PD doesn't get the grant. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to spend \$14,000 on the radios if they do not get the grant.

Ray is waiting on a response back from Verkada (John and Kevin) about installing the cameras for us that would hang on the business' buildings. All businesses gave permission for the cameras to use their WIFI. Ray will bring back the quote once the installation fee is in there.

**Park:** Vernon said things are going well. Next week baseball practice will be starting. The health department would like to come out and inspect the concession stand. Vernon told them they could but not until the water is turned back on, so he will be doing that soon.

Vernon presented a sketch of the pickleball courts with the sidewalk and pavilion structure Toni Miller would like to have put up. A contractor is coming out tomorrow to make sure we are all on the same page. This project probably won't begin until May.

Vernon got new bases for one of the diamonds.

Avery wanted to bring this to the council's attention about the football youth league parking. Vernon wanted this brought up as well. The parking is very bad and congested when football begins. Spectators Park near the water plant, in front of Vernon's Park maintenance building, all around the edges and even on the well fields. People cannot be parking on the well fields, per IDEM, they need to be at least 200 feet away from those. Haley said, as a parent of one of the boys who plays in the youth league, parents truly don't know where to park. Therefore, they just park where ever. Haley believes parents would follow instructions if they knew of permitted places. The council, Avery, and Vernon would like to brainstorm a plan to let the head coach of the league know where spectators need to park. Revisit this item with solutions to reach a happy medium.

**Clerk Treasurer:** MacKenzie presented the council with a quote from Verkada/Lucidia IT. MacKenzie explained this is the cost of the camera that's way in the back to livestream our meetings. The cost of the camera is \$1,146.29, we would own this camera and pay no lease. The camera license for five years would cost \$687.47. We would pay the \$687.47 at the five-year mark. bringing the total to \$1,962.12. MacKenzie said she reached out to another gentleman in regard to this, but he didn't return her call. MacKenzie emphasized it's been so easy to work with John and Kevin and she would really like to just get this livestream feature completed with them. Larry made a motion to accept the Verkada/Lucidia IT quote for \$1,962.29 for livestreaming/recording purposes. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to purchase the camera and licensing.

MacKenzie had a quote from Boyce Systems (software that's used in the Clerk Treasurer's Office for fund, payroll, utilities, and assets). The quote had a feature for direct deposit and that cost is \$600.00. MacKenzie said an employee inquired about this and wanted to get feedback from everyone else who gets paid if they are interested in having direct deposit. This part was tabled until another meeting.

The other part of the quote from Boyce Systems is to allow ACH automatic payments for resident's when paying their utility bill. The cost for this is \$2390.00 and then annual maintenance is \$1050. MacKenzie said, a lot of residents have been asking about this, but

she is hesitant because Boyce Systems is merging with BS&A. Once that merger happens, it will be cloud based and Invoice Cloud would be included within the merger. Once the software is released, MacKenzie would like to get pricing with the merger vendor about this. It's a tricky decision, do we wait until the merger is complete and go with them, or do we get Invoice Cloud right away and stick with this system for a bit longer? MacKenzie suggested releasing a Facebook poll to get some feedback and table this until an upcoming council meeting.

**Old Business:** Avery said Nipsco has called many times to reschedule the light pole. Hopefully, this will get completed soon.

**New Business:** Drainage was discussed behind Maggie Mast's. More neighbors in the surrounding areas have heard about drainage issues or are experiencing this themselves and want some sort of resolve. Corey and Avery had a long meeting with Tony Clawson about this. It was discussed to extend the ditch that is on the east side of him. Everyone seems to be accumulating drainage off of Timber Valley. Larry said, he spoke with Larry Yoder in regard to this issue. Larry Yoder is the one who built Timber Valley Subdivision. Larry Yoder claims he went through County for everything when building that subdivision. Again, this was built in the 90's. Larry Yoder was adamant County only made him put in one drain. Avery speculated this. Avery said, Gary Kauffman went through major hoops with County when he was building Sandbrooke. Sandbrooke has more drains and just the overall layout is more friendly. Avery said, then again, we come back to the issue with the tax accounting building, County approved that stuff too and the drainage is awful out there. Gale said he has been out there to observe the area and he wants to make sure the elevations are correct to get it sloped better for Timber Valley and SR-13 area. Avery mentioned the way Timber Valley is broken up is odd, the house section is Millersburg but then the backyards are considered County. Larry asked, do you think ditches would solve the problem? Avery replied, probably right now. Timber Valley really should have a retention pond and drains on the street. Most of Millersburg's soil is clay. Dana Hawkins was in attendance to express her concerns with flooding issues. She began by saying, whoever did the blacktop job in Timber Valley, should not have the same people come back to do the road project. In the center of the cul-de-sac there is standing water and it runs into our drive way and up the drive. Dana said, she is very serious, she has to wear boots just to get in her car. She said, when she was younger and lived on a farm, they used to dig a hole, and almost put bath tub with holes in the ground to help with drainage. She said, I don't know engineering things but that is what we used to do back in the day. She expressed she is very tired of this issue and wants it to be resolved. Gale said, the problem is you need to have sandy soil to hold the water and unfortunately all of Millersburg is clay. Larry asked Dana

which home is hers in Timber Valley and she responded. Larry said he would go take a look at it and he will look around this weekend too because we are supposed to get a decent rain. Avery said, since proper drainage wasn't added, it needs a collective system or a drain system. Dana asked, who's responsibility was that, the developer? Avery replied yes and County. Gale suggested looking at the County Surveyors' Office. Corey said he has been waiting to hear back from Steve for a while to collect maps on drainage for Millersburg.

Rita began by saying she is speaking for Carl. He was asking about "jake brakes." Didn't there used to be signs on SR-13? He asked if there was an ordinance in regard to this. Ray said SR-13 hasn't had any signs. Ray said, we don't have a specific ordinance in regard to this only a nuisance/noise ordinance.

Rita asked a question on behalf on Carl. He wants to know why the speed limit is 30mph? It should be lowered town wide to 25mph. Rita said the speeders are still bad on her road.

There are many stray cats.

Larry said look into lowering the speed limit to 25 and the jake brake.

Stacy Grosse spoke up in regard to the stray cat problem. The old grain mill is infested with rats, so many cats are being drawn to the area to hunt. Stacy also said she agreed about the speeders on E Lincoln. She said she is fearful to put her children in the car. Ray asked, you've seen me out there? Stacy said, yes and I appreciate that. Larry said, they go sit on Lincoln and they'll speed on Washington and vice versa. It seems like everyone is in a big hurry for no reason.

It was asked about a county guy to come and get cats. Ray said they won't come unless they are in cages and have capacity for them. Larry suggested setting some traps. Corey mentioned, it doesn't help that there are three different people in this town that feed them.


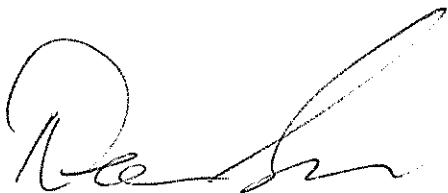
Shamara came on behalf on Simar, 303 N Benton Street. They had an outrageously high-water bill of about 68,000 gallons used for the month of March. The bill was \$923.00. MacKenzie spoke with Simar last week about this when she gave him the data log. She took time to explain it to him as well. There are days with large consumption amounts in the thousands for numerous days. It was asked if he has a water softener that could be constantly cycling. Shamara was adamant that there are no leaks and they've had two plumbers out and haven't been able to find any leaks. Avery suggested testing the toilets with Kool-Aid or food coloring. MacKenzie said, looking at the data log and the April bill,

something was going on and was fixed because April went down to 6,000 gallons. Shamara asked if one of them would come and look at their house. MacKenzie said no, they can't because they are not certified plumbers. Dana said, why don't we give him 200 adjusted off of sewer? Larry said that he was okay with that, but told him this is the only time this year we are going to do it. Larry motioned to accept 200.00 off of the sewer portion for the March bill. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to take 200 off of the sewer portion for the March bill. MacKenzie informed the council and Shamara she will remove the penalties since we had to wait in between the council meetings for an answer on the adjustment on the sewer. Council and Shamara were in agreement with removing penalties.

Stacy Grosse mentioned she is taking over for the garage sales. We would like to place a couple of ads. One in the People's Exchange and one in the Goshen News. MacKenzie said we have paid these in the past for the garage sale committee. Goshen news was \$23 or \$24 dollars, these were very small ads. Stacy said she believes the two ads in the People's Exchange was 33.60. Stacy mentioned unfortunately, these dates coincide with the Wakarusa Maple Syrup Festival, but we are hoping as we advertise Millersburg still receives a good turnout. Larry motioned to accept the expenses in paying for ads in the Goshen News and People's Exchange. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to help with costs associated to garage sale advertisement.

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

Larry 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 'Larry', written in a cursive style.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dana', written in a cursive style.