

August 11, 2025

The Ellettsville, Indiana Town Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, August 11, 2025, at the Ellettsville Town Hall Meeting Room located at 1150 West Guy McCown Drive. Scott Oldham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Chief Jimmie Durnil gave a word of prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chief Kevin Patton.

Roll Call: Members present were Scott Oldham – President, Trevor Sager, William Ellis and Dan Swafford. Pamela Samples was absent. Mike Farmer – Town Manager and Darla Brown – Town Attorney were also present. Denise Line served in place of Noelle Conyer, Clerk Treasurer who was absent.

Supervisors Participating: Kevin Patton – Fire Chief, Jimmie Durnil – Town Marshal, Kip Headdy - DWP Director and Denise Line – Planning Director.

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular meeting July 28, 2025

Scott Oldham entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on July 28, 2025. William Ellis so moved. Trevor Sager seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll

Scott Oldham entertained a motion to pay Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll. Trevor Sager so moved. William Ellis seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

Resolutions

Resolution 21-2025 Additional Appropriation Local Roads & Street

Kip Headdy, Street Commissioners explained this is money that needs moved into the Local Roads and Streets to pay for the community Crossings Matching Grant. All the streets have been paved and are in good shape and we are ready to pay the local contractor. The amount is \$244,215.10 on the paperwork if it is incorrect they can correct at the next meeting. Trevor Sager made a motion to approve Resolution 21-2025 Additional Appropriation Local Roads & Street. Dan Swafford seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes. Motion carries.

Resolution 22-2025 accepting bid from Integrity Exteriors, LLC to replace Fire Station Roof

Darla Brown, Town Attorney discussed that at the last Town Council meeting there were 3 bids open for the Fire Department Roof. The lowest was from AMI Roofing for \$93,500, next was from Integrity Exterior's LLC for \$116,589.15. It is required by the Town when bids or quotes are requested they are required to accept the lowest and lowest responsible and responsive bidder and upon examination of the bids the Fire Chief determined that the lowest bid was not responsive to his request in four different ways. The bid did not include flashing along the roof line and did not include snow and ice guards, ice and water shields for the roof decking in the valley along the bay walls and roof openings or along the vents or flue pipes. The bid included a ridge vent at the peaks only. The purpose of this Resolution is to set forth the purpose that the Town might accept the next lowest bid from Integrity Exteriors for \$116,589.15. William Ellis made a motion to approve Resolution 22-2025 accepting bid from Integrity Exteriors, LLC to replace Fire Station Roof. Dan Swafford seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes. Motion carries.

Ordinance on First Reading – None

Ordinance 2025-18 Imposing a Wheel Tax and Motor Vehicle License Excise Tax

Darla Brown, Town Attorney explained if the Town wants to get local road and bridge matching funds, you are going to be required to pass a wheel tax and you can't just pass a wheel tax you also have to pass the Motor Vehicle license excise surtax so you can pass it in one Ordinance or simultaneously. The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish a wheel tax fund and motor vehicle license excise surtax fund. Under Indiana Code, you have some choices and some leeway with

regard to how much you can charge or want to charge. The wheel tax is for commercial vehicles and it is \$5-\$40. The motor vehicle license excise surtax is for passenger vehicles and it is \$7.50-\$25. She was asked to set the wheel tax at \$5 and municipal surtax at \$15 for a total of \$20. Paige Sansone from Baker Tilly calculated how much the town would make at \$5 and \$15 and she estimated the town would earn just under \$90,000.00. Dan Swafford questioned if you still get charged from the county and Darla confirmed that when you register your car every year at the BMV you would still get charged. He also had asked about when you pay the county wheel tax you are still eligible for the grant as long as you are paying this. Darla stated that Indiana Code 8-23-30-2 discusses the local road and bridge matching grant fund and at the end it says beginning on June 30, 2027 and on June 30th of each year thereafter, the state controller will make a transfer under subsection J and the state controller shall distribute the funds as follows. It further states to be eligible to receive a distribution a local unit must have adopted a wheel tax, adopted the local technical assistant program at Purdue University with an updated transportation asset management plan, which the town has and that is your Exhibit A, the Ordinance. It also states you cannot pass a wheel tax without passing the surtax. The confusion is whether we already adopted it at the county level but it is believed it has to be the local unit. Without this we cannot be eligible for grants and that is how we pave a lot of our streets and other things. Average amount is \$250,000.00. The only funds they could use are from a restricted line of about \$130,000.00 which will not go very far. Each year, if this adopted the BMV will collect the fees and has 21 days to distribute to the Town. The Town has to do an appropriation with a public hearing to use it. To be clear, it is stacked on top of the county tax. It can go as much as \$65.00 total but it was agreed to keep things as low as possible and do \$20.00. Scott Oldham offered some insight explaining that SB 1 was passed by the Indiana House Senate and signed by the governor where the state is going to drop your taxes and then it's going to tell the localities you have to raise the taxes, bait and switch for lack of better words. This is something we have to do or there will not be anything else because the State of Indiana has cut the money so much that we will have to reduce our personnel to the point where we just are not capable of doing some of the things we do currently like Firefighters, Policemen and snow removal. It will bankrupt several counties, cities or towns. This is just the tip of the iceberg so we are trying to be proactive and not push any more pain down the road than we have to. The State did not think this out and we are going to have to be the bad guys just to survive. It does not add a dime, it is about making back a little bit about what the state is going to take away. We will be lucky if we make it through the next 4 to 5 years without being so far behind that it is going to be almost impossible to grow to catch up. This is only the beginning. This will be available online and will be voted on at the next meeting.

Ordinance on Second Reading – None

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Privilege of the Floor

Valerie Dewar, Chamber of Commerce Board member suggested getting together with the Council and help with public education on this issue because this not only affects private citizens it affects our businesses.

Supervisor Comments

Michael Farmer, Town Manager reminded everyone that before the next meeting there is a Work Session at 5:00 and invited the board to attend to understand the budget and what this Ordinance will bring to the next several years. Baker Tilly will do a presentation to explain not only where we are going to be next year but the next 2 following years and our budget is going to represent what we think needs to happen for 3 years. Board members can contact the Clerk's office for budget numbers.

Jimmie Durnil, Town Marshal advised there is some paperwork in the packet he needs signed for the parade permit.

Kevin Patton, Fire Chief thanked council for approving the roof repair, he would like to discuss where to get the funds. He would like to finance it for 3 years to spread the cost out and not deplete the Cumulative building and equipment fund. He uses that for repairing fire trucks, tires engines and things and if he pays the whole thing out of that fund it will all but zero it out. He will call tomorrow and get numbers and see if they can get it for 3 years and paying it over 2 if he can. That will give him some cushion.


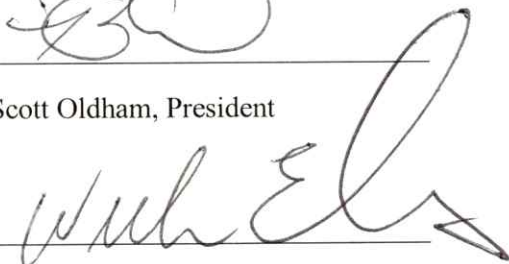


Council Comments

Scott Oldham advised we need to revisit the mass gathering permit and get some public education on it.

Scott Oldham thanked everyone in the room and their predecessors that have stuck with the Town over the years and made many sacrifices, scrimped, cut and made do year after year and saved the Town from being bankrupt and now has a general fund that will hopefully get us through these weird times. He congratulated and thanked all from the council.

Adjournment

Scott Oldham adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

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| Scott Oldham, President | Dan Swafford, Vice President |
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| William Ellis | Pamela Samples |
|  |  |
| Trevor Sager | Noelle M. Conyer Clerk -Treasurer |