

November 10, 2025

The Ellettsville, Indiana Town Council met for a special meeting on Monday, November 10, 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 by Chris Clouse.

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

**Supervisors Participating:** Chris Clouse–Deputy Fire Chief, Jimmie Durnil – Town Marshal, Kip Headdy - DPW Director and Jeff Farmer – Wastewater Supervisor.

**Approval of the Minutes for the Regular meeting October 27, 2025**

**Scott Oldham** entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on October 27, 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. Dan Swafford seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

**Resolutions – None**

**Ordinance on Second Reading**

**Ordinance 2025-25 Creating a Separate Vehicle Replacement Fund for the Stormwater Utility**

**Kip Headdy**, Street Commissioner discussed having a vehicle replacement line for Stormwater Utility. It would be a non-reverting fund. It is funded by a portion of Stormwater fees. William Ellis made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-25 Creating a Separate Vehicle Replacement Fund for the Stormwater Utility. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion Carries

**Old Business - None**

**New Business**

**Santa on Sale Street December 13, 2025**

**Michael Farmer**, Town Manager explained Santa on Sale Street will be Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Santa will arrive on the Fire truck at approximately 9:30 am. Come early for breakfast and the library will have crafts and letter writing to the North Pole.

**Michael Farmer**, Town Manager discussed Consolidation with Richland Township. He read the following: Richland Township and the Town of Ellettsville are exploring a proposal to formally reorganize into a single governmental entity. This proactive step would be a part of a collaborative effort to protect essential public services, preserve local identity and create a more efficient and sustainable structure for future growth for the entire township.

Recent changes to state tax laws (Senate Bill 1) have placed increased pressure on rural townships and small towns to operate more efficiently with fewer resources. At the same time, there is growing discussion at the state level about eliminating township government altogether. The proposed reorganization allows Richland Township and Ellettsville to take the lead in shaping their shared future rather than reacting to outside decisions.

This proposed reorganization would aim to give everyone—both in Richland Township and Ellettsville—a shared voice to shape the community. Through reorganization, local leaders hope to preserve what makes this area special while working smarter planning more effectively and building a stronger, more connected reorganized town together.



Scott Oldham added, this is not an annexation but is a reorganization of two governmental bodies. Mike Farmer added that it is only a move to explore the proposal. Vetting of the process is first the culmination of a reorganization committee and sub committees. They would form a plan that would be voted on by the Township advisory board and the Ellettsville Town Board. The plan would move to a referendum that would be voted on in November of 2026 and become the new entity on January 1, 2027. At this point, the process would be to explore how it can be done, the costs and what implications. There is a meeting on Friday at 3:00 at Town Hall with Baker Tilly and the advisory board will be there and hopefully some town board members can attend along with lawyers. There will be a lot of vetting on the physical aspects of the reorganization and how it might better fortify the fire department and allow for future economic redevelopment and how the process would work and where the money would come from. Scott Oldham clarified, this will go to the Township advisory board and the Town Council Board if we are going to move forward to moving it to a referendum. If it goes to a referendum, it means everybody in the Township will get to vote on it and the majority would have to approve it. The meeting will be recorded and there will be tons of public meetings and open doors to answer any and all questions. Other Townships have done this and one thing that drove this initial conversation was the state and the governor expressing an overwhelming desire to do away with Township governments. Dan Swafford expressed that he would like all meetings to be public so that all council members can be present. William Ellis made a motion to enter into an agreement to look at the facts for reorganization with the Township of Richland and start the process to form committees. Dan Swafford requested an amendment suggesting all meetings be public. Trevor Sager seconded. Dan Swafford made an amendment to the motion that all the meetings will be held publicly so that more than 2 board members can attend. There was a lot of discussion on logistics of meeting dates and being able to accommodate every member involved. Dan Swafford made a motion that all meetings pertaining to this subject be public so that all council members can attend. Pamela Samples seconded. It was agreed that it was complicated between public meetings and attendance suggesting legal advice once Darla was in attendance. Roll call vote for the amendment: Scott Oldham – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion carries. Roll call for the original motion: Scott Oldham – no; Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion carries.

**Michael Farmer**, Town Manager commented that Friday night there was an outage in Town. Very few people except those within the outage knew it was happening. Police, Fire and the Department of Public Works spearheaded the job and repaired a 12" water main and commended them for their efficiency and collaboration.

#### **Privilege of the Floor – None**

#### **Supervisor Comments**

#### **Council Comments**

**Scott Oldham** congratulated Mr. Wells and the Edgewood Marching Mustangs for winning State finals for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row. It is an incredible program and they continue to succeed.

**William Ellis** thanked Mike Farmer and the Township board of Richland. This consolidation is the most historic and one of the biggest things that Ellettsville has considered. It is not to be taken lightly and he encourages the public to reach out with any questions and concerns.

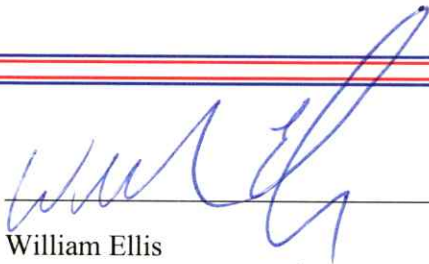
#### **Adjournment**

**Scott Oldham** adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.



Scott Oldham, President

Dan Swafford, Vice President



William Ellis

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Pamela Samples



Trevor Sager



Noelle M. Conyer Clerk -Treasurer