

Reorganization Committee
Meeting Minutes
Authorized by the Ellettsville Town Council

Date: Wednesday, Feb 4th
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Ellettsville Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM at the Ellettsville Town Hall.

Members present were Williams Ellis, Andrew Henry, Dawn Durnil, Scott Reynolds, Mike Cornman, Kevin Farris and Jerry Sanders.

Also present were Mike Farmer, Ellettsville Town Manager, Darla Brown, Ellettsville Town Attorney and Eric Koch, Richland Township Attorney

Approval of Prior Minutes: **Minutes for the prior meeting on Jan 21 were approved. Moved by William, seconded by Mike, approved unanimously.**

Subcommittee updates:

Planning & Zoning: Reported two meetings held; reviewed current zoning framework and UDO; emphasized the need for predictable, timely decision-making and community input; confirmed public meeting February 17.

Public Safety: Reported one meeting held; members drafting plan components; confirmed public input meeting February 10.

Finance: Reported two meetings held; reviewing budgets/levies and compiling materials; meeting scheduled the following day to consolidate draft work.

Utilities: No formal meeting yet; ongoing coordination discussed regarding water/fire protection and infrastructure planning; long-range planning work referenced as already underway.

New Business: Election District Mapping Proposals (Banning Engineering vs. Shelton)

The committee reviewed proposals to prepare election district maps from Banning Engineering (higher cost) and Shelton (lower cost), noting the need for a written timeline commitment and an agreement to present proposed districts to the committee. It was also noted that only county commissioners have authority to establish voter precinct boundaries; maps could create split voter districts, though this was not expected to be a major obstacle.

A motion was made to approve the Shelton contract subject to (1) a written timeline commitment and (2) willingness to attend and give a presentation to the reorganization committee. Moved by Kevin, seconded by William, passed unanimously

The committee discussed increasing public outreach, including:

Holding outreach meetings in multiple locations (e.g., homes, churches, civic groups), following lessons referenced from Sheridan/Adams Township.

Improving communications beyond social media; suggestions from the public included PSAs and seeking additional local media coverage, radio, etc.

Mike Farmer informed the committee that yard signs are in progress.

The committee emphasized that the public can contact committee members through the website and that meeting recordings/links are being posted at EllettsvilleRichlandInfo.org

Members of the public raised concerns and questions including:

- Desire for clear definitions of “growth” and “development,” with emphasis on quality of life, traffic, safety on local roads, and avoiding uncontrolled development.
- Frustration about late awareness of the process and requests for more frequent and clearer communication, including a central calendar for subcommittee meetings and easier access to key documents.
- Questions about township services, relationship with county services, and how reorganization affects representation, planning/zoning authority, and taxes.
- Clarification requested on population figures for the town and township and how those numbers are derived. In previous meetings, the population of Richland Township had been mis-stated, because residents of the town of Ellettsville had been included in the Richland totals. The corrected numbers are approx 8500 in the Township, and 7000 in the Town
- Requests to make the Sheridan/Adams Township plan easily accessible on the committee website and to seek feedback from Sheridan residents on post-reorganization experience.
- The committee provided clarification that once the plan is finalized and submitted through required approvals, it cannot be modified after state submission; discussion noted that major implementation details must be clear for the referendum, while some operational specifics would be handled by the reorganized governing body after the election.

The committee discussed moving to weekly meetings, but decided to postpone any decision until the next, regular meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm

Submitted by: Andrew Henry, Secretary

Approved by the Committee on: 2/18/2026