

Enrolled Minutes of the Seventieth Regular Meeting or Special Meeting
For the Thirtieth Highland Town Council Regular Plenary
Business Meeting (In person) Monday, September 14, 2026

The Thirtieth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in its regular plenary session on Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:30 o'clock P.M. in the regular place, the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana.

*This meeting was convened as an in person meeting and lived streamed to the Town of Highland Facebook. Facebook permits the public to observe and record the proceedings but allows no interaction between and among the Town Council and members of the public. The public is able to participate in person. Councilor George Georgeff, Councilor Doug Turich, Councilor Alex Robertson, Councilor Tom Black and Councilor Philip Scheeringa all participated in person.

Pursuant to HMC Section 2.05.130(A)(2), the Town Council considered and reviewed the agenda in an informal proceeding in the plenary meeting room before the president called the meeting to order.

The Town Council President Georg Georgeff presided over the meeting. The Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak, was present to memorialize the proceedings. The meeting was opened with Councilor Philip Scheeringa reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and offering a prayer.

Roll Call: Present on roll call were Councilors George Georgeff, Doug Turich, Alex Robertson, Thomas Black and Philip Scheeringa present. Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak was also present. A quorum was attained.

Additional Officials Present: Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta; Glenn Schlessner, Fire Chief; Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra; Ed Dabrowski, Director of Information Technology; Building Commissioner Kenneth J. Mika; Park Director Mindi Ray; Public Works Director Mark Knesek were present. Building Commissioner Kenneth J. Mika and John Reed, Attorney with JPR Legal Services were absent.

Guests: Theresa Badovich (remotely) and Robin Carlascio (remotely) of the Idea Factory were also present.

Minutes of the Previous Meetings: The minutes of the August 28, 2026 Plenary meeting were approved by general consent.

Special Orders: None

Comments from the Public or Visitors: None

Staff Reports: The following staff reports were received and filed.

2026
TOWN OF HIGHLAND INJURIES FOR THE MONTH
AUGUST

CASE	DATE	DEPARTMENT	DESCRIPTION	Record Only No Med Treatment	OSHA Recordable	Not OSHA Recordable	Filed with WC Insurance
	OF INJURY						
RO-11	8/25/26	Public Works	While exiting Truck EE was holding on to door and grab bar foot slipped from top step, felt pop in Left Shoulder	X		X	X

RO = Record Only

DEPT	2026		2026				
	INJURIES	YEAR TO	2025	RESTRICTED	LOST DAYS	RESTRICTED	LOST DAYS
	THIS MONTH	DATE	Total Injuries Last Year	DAYS THIS YEAR	THIS YEAR	DAYS 2025	2025
PARK & REC		2	1				7
FIRE							
POLICE		1	5	26	171	0	29
STREET		2	2		24		4
WATER SEWER			2				
Public Works		4			50		
REDV							
BUILDING		1	1				
TOTALS	0	10	11	26	245	0	40

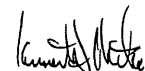
Effective January 1, 2002 OSHA changed the recordkeeping guidelines. We now count the number of days lost from the day after the injury until the employee returns to work. Weekends, holidays, vacation days or other days scheduled off are included in the lost days count to a maximum of 180 days

Building Report August, 2026

PERMIT TYPE	#	Res.	Comm.	Est. Cost	Fee Collected
Commercial Buildings	0			\$ -	\$ -
Comm. Additions/Remodel	1		1	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 558.00
Signs	2		2	\$ 3,820.00	\$ 265.50
Single Family	0			\$ -	\$ -
Duplex/Condo	0			\$ -	\$ -
Residential Additions	0			\$ -	\$ -
Residential Remodeling	101	101		\$ 4,012,264.00	\$ 31,805.00
Concrete/Asphalt/Flatwork	8	8		\$ 44,300.00	\$ 1,146.00
Garages	0			\$ -	\$ -
Sheds	1	1		\$ 2,673.00	\$ 141.00
Decks & Porches	3	3		\$ 22,560.00	\$ 816.00
Fences	7	7		\$ 67,875.00	\$ 1,654.50
Above/In ground pools	2	2		\$ -	\$ 108.00
Drain Tile/Waterproofing	3	3		\$ 27,668.00	\$ 753.00
Misc: Demo (2); Road Cuts (4)	6	6		\$ -	\$ 729.50
Total Building Permits	134	131	3	\$ 4,206,160.00	\$ 37,976.50
Electrical Permits	57	56	1	\$ -	\$ 6,407.00
Mechanical Permits	17	17	0	\$ -	\$ 2,035.00
Plumbing Permits	7	7		\$ -	\$ 946.25
Water Meters	0			\$ -	\$ -
Water taps	0			\$ -	\$ -
Sewer/Storm Taps	0			\$ -	\$ -
Total Plumbing Permits	7	7	0	\$ -	\$ 946.25

August 2026 Code Enforcement: 263 Investigations, 56 Warnings & 12 Citations were issued.
 Inspections done for the month of August 2026 were as follows: 22 Building Inspections,
 7 Plumbing Inspections, 2 HVAC and 28 Electrical Inspections. There were 2 Electrical Exams given.

Submitted By:


 Kenneth J. Milka

Mark Herak

From: Denise Beck
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:43 AM
To: Mark Herak
Cc: Glenn Schlessner
Subject: August Fire Stats

Fire Calls: 298
Year to date total: 737

Denise Beck

Administrative Assistant
Highland Fire Department
2901 Highway Ave.
Highland, IN 46322
(219)-923-9876

Communications:

Migration Celebration – September 19th, Highland Heron Rookery
Backyard BBQ - September 24-27th
September Big Crawl – September 29th
Highland Fright Ride, Friday, October 2nd
Highland Fire Department Open House, Saturday, October 4th
Fall Clean Up. Tuesday, October 20th
Trick or Treats - Saturday, October 31st from 5:00 to 7:00

Appointments:

• **Statutory Boards and Commissions**

Executive Appointments (May be made in meeting or at another time)

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

Home Rule Boards and Commissions

Legislative Appointments

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

Home Rule Commissions

1. **Main Street Bureau Board:** (17) appointments to be made by the Town Council.
Term: Two years ending 1 Jan 2027. *Currently only 9 of 18 appointed.*

Councilor Robertson moved the appointment of the following person to a fifteen (15) month term on the Main Street Board of Directors, seconded by Councilor Black. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives. The motion passed. The following persons were appointed to the Main Street Board of Directors:

- 1). Nichole "Niki" Hitt, 948 N. Glenwood Avenue, Griffith, Indiana



RECEIVED
SEP 16 2026
HIGHLAND
CLERK-TREASURER
OFFICE

**Town of Highland Board or Commission
Candidate Information and Application**

Please return completed form to Office of the Clerk-Treasurer

Name: Nichole "Niki" Hitt

Home address: 948 N Glenwood Ave Griffith, In 46319

Telephone Number (Home): _____ (If unlisted, please leave blank)

Alternative Number: 312-579-6929 (cell)

Home-mail address: jakeSmomo8@gmail.com

Work e-mail address: Niki@hydrantpetcenter.com

Vocation: Marketing & Program Director

Business Name: Hydrant Pet Center

Business Address: 8630 Kennedy Ave

City: Highland State: In Zip: 46322

If applicable, please indicate who referred you: Ben Tomera

Indicate the Board or Commission in which you are interested in serving:
(You may indicate more than one)

☐ Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals
Members of a BZA may not hold other elective or appointive office in municipal, county or state government, except as permitted by I.C. 36-7-4-902. Member must be a resident

☐ Board of Sanitary Commissioners
Silent on qualifications

- ☐ Board of Waterworks Directors
Silent on qualifications
- ☐ Park and Recreation Board
Members shall be appointed on the basis of their interest in and knowledge of parks and recreation.
- ☐ Redevelopment Commission
Member must be 18 years old & reside in unit
- ☐ Economic Development Commission
Members of an Economic is required to disclose pecuniary interests. One of three is nominated by County Council; one of three is nominated by Town Council; all are appointed by Town Council President. See I.C. 36-7-12.
- ☐ Plan Commission
Citizen members shall be appointed because of the member's knowledge and experience in community affairs, the members' awareness of the social, economic, agricultural, and industrial problems of the area and the member's interest in the development of and integration of the area. Further, citizen members may not hold other elective or appointive office in municipal, state or county government and must be a resident.
- ☐ Community Events Commission
No person shall be appointed as voting member of the Commission who has not attained the age of 18 years, who is not a resident of Highland or who holds any other town office by appointment or election.
- ☒ Highland Main Street Organization
This council, the details of which are still being formulated, will be dedicated to promoting growth, development, and stability in the Highland downtown and to utilize public/private partnerships to achieve these goals. Members will strive to effectively and efficiently develop steps to restore, revitalize and promote the downtown of Highland. The four tenants of the Main Street Program, are (1) Promotion, (2) Organization, (3) Design and (4) Economic Restructuring.
- ☐ Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners
Appointees must be of good moral character and legal residents of the Town
- ☐ Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
No appointee may hold an elective or appointed political office while serving on the bureau. Appointing Authority shall give sole consideration to individuals who are knowledgeable about or employed as executives or managers in following businesses: Hotel, Motel, Restaurant, Travel, Transportation, Convention, Trade Show, Riverboat, banking, real estate, and construction.
- ☐ Tree Board
A person must be a resident with an interest in or knowledge of the Urban Forestry Plan adopted for Highland.

Please provide a brief written statement regarding why you wish to serve on the commission or board you have checked above. You may attach added paper if needed. Further, you may attach a resume.

I would be honored to serve on the Highland Main Street Board and use my experience in Marketing, Community engagement, and partnership development to support our local business community. I am passionate about bringing businesses and community partners together and welcome the opportunity to help promote, strengthen, and revitalize downtown Highland!

Do you know of any reason why you may not be able to be covered by a surety bond?

☐

Yes

☒

No

Please provide a list of previous or present involvement or service in the Town of Highland or elsewhere.

Ready NWI Stakeholder - Center of Workforce Innovations
Workforce Development Committee - Highland/Griffith Chamber of Commerce
Non profit Committee - Highland/Griffith Chamber of Commerce
Executive Director of Development - Dogs 4 U Inc - NW Indiana

Please return your completed application (pages 1-3) to the Town of Highland, Office of the Clerk-Treasurer • 3333 Ridge Road • Highland, Indiana 46322. E-mail: mgriffin@highland.in.gov

NIKI HITT

Marketing • Community Engagement • Partnership Development

Griffith, IN 46319 | 312.579.6929 | jakesmom08@gmail.com

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROFILE

Community-focused marketing and partnership leader with 15+ years of experience in marketing, business development, event planning, fundraising, and stakeholder engagement. Currently leads marketing and community outreach for Hydrant Pet Center in Highland and development efforts for Dogs 4 U. Experienced in building trusted relationships among local businesses, nonprofits, workforce organizations, and community leaders, with a strong interest in supporting Highland's business community, local events, and long-term vitality.

COMMUNITY & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- **READY NWI Stakeholder** — Center of Workforce Innovations
- **Workforce Development Committee** — Highland/Griffith Chamber of Commerce
- **Nonprofit Committee** — Highland/Griffith Chamber of Commerce
- **Executive Director of Development** — Dogs 4 U Inc. — Northwest Indiana

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Marketing Director | Hydrant Pet Center | Highland, IN | Feb. 2026–Present

- Lead marketing strategy, community outreach, local partnerships, promotions, and events for a Highland small business and its state-certified Grooming Academy.
- Build relationships with businesses, nonprofits, workforce agencies, schools, community organizations, and regional partners to develop collaborative programs and opportunities.
- Manage campaigns, events, vendors, budgets, schedules, communications, and follow-up from concept through completion; helped execute a first-time community event drawing approximately 400 attendees.
- Support workforce and career-pathway initiatives through partnerships with Vocational Rehabilitation, workforce-development organizations, and apprenticeship resources.

Executive Director of Development | Dogs 4 U Inc. | Northwest Indiana | 2026–Present

- Lead sponsorship outreach, donor stewardship, community partnerships, fundraising initiatives, and collaborative events for a foster-based 501(c)(3) dog rescue.
- Develop relationships with businesses and community organizations to expand resources, visibility, and sustainable mission support.

Development Director | American Heart Association | Northwest Indiana / Remote | Jul. 2024–Jan. 2026

- Directed the Northwest Indiana Heart Walk program, including corporate partnerships, volunteer leadership, marketing, sponsorship development, event logistics, and participant engagement.
- Built executive-level relationships with businesses, donors, sponsors, healthcare organizations, and community leaders across Northwest Indiana; developed revenue strategies that exceeded fundraising goals.

Catering Manager / Corporate & Event Planner | MISSION BBQ | Merrillville, IN | Mar. 2020–Jan. 2023

- Planned and executed corporate, community, wedding, and private events for groups of up to 1,000 guests while managing vendors, budgets, timelines, and client coordination.
- Increased annual business sales by 30% through relationship development, local marketing, client retention, and community outreach.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lead Generation / Sales, The Louie Ortiz Group (2024) • Inside Sales Representative, Angi (2023–2024) • Brand Ambassador, Signature Marketing, Inc. (2017–2023)

Community Partnerships • Local Business Support • Marketing & Promotion • Event Planning • Stakeholder Engagement

General Orders and Unfinished Business:

1. **Proposed Ordinance No. 1852:** An Ordinance amending the Highland Municipal Code, by adding to Title 10 Vehicles and Traffic, a new Chapter 10.50 to be styled Electric Bicycles ("E-Bikes") and Electric Scooters ("E-Scooters")

**First introduced by Councilor Black at the Town Council Plenary meeting of July 6, 2026.
There was no further action.*

The Council delayed action as Attorney Reed was absent from the meeting.

New Business:

1. Resolution No. 2026-32: A Resolution ratifying and approving Addendum 3, an emergency extension and modification of the Town's Debris removal contract from \$2,300,000 to \$3,300,000.

Councilor Scheeringa moved the passage and adoption of Resolution No. 2026-32. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives, no negatives. The motion passed. The resolution was adopted pending the signature of the municipal executive.

**Town Council of the Town of Highland
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-32**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND, LAKE
COUNTY, INDIANA, ACTING AS THE WORKS BOARD AND PURCHASING
AGENCY, RATIFYING AND APPROVING AN EMERGENCY EXTENSION AND
MODIFICATION OF THE TOWN'S DEBRIS REMOVAL CONTRACT**

WHEREAS, the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana ("Town"), has been responding to an emergency resulting in substantial quantities of debris requiring immediate removal, hauling, processing and disposal; and

WHEREAS, a local emergency has been declared for the Town, and state and federal emergency declarations applicable to the emergency are in effect; and

WHEREAS, the emergency conditions have created a threat to public health, welfare and/or safety requiring continued debris-removal operations; and

WHEREAS, the Town previously entered into various debris removal and monitoring contracts with Looks Good Services of MS, Inc. ("Contractor"); and

WHEREAS, the Original Contract was approaching its authorized contract limit while debris-removal operations remained necessary and ongoing; and

WHEREAS, interruption of debris-removal operations would adversely affect the Town's ability to protect public health, welfare and safety and to respond to the emergency; and

WHEREAS, an Emergency Debris Removal Contract Extension and Modification ("Extension") was executed on behalf of the Town on August 24, 2026, extending the additional compensation not to exceed \$1,000,000, resulting in an aggregate contract maximum not to exceed \$2,300,000; and

WHEREAS, an Emergency Debris Removal Contract Extension and Modification ("Extension") was executed on behalf of the Town on September 14, 2026, extending the additional compensation not to exceed \$2,300,000, resulting in an aggregate contract maximum not to exceed \$3,300,000; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council, acting as the Works Board, is the purchasing agency for the Public Works Department pursuant to Highland Municipal Code § 3.05.030; and

WHEREAS, Highland Municipal Code § 3.05.050(D)(1) identifies the Public Works Director or the Director's designee as the purchasing agent for the Public Works Department; and

WHEREAS, Highland Municipal Code § 3.05.065 authorizes special purchases without soliciting bids or proposals when permitted by Indiana Code 5-22-10; and

WHEREAS, Highland Municipal Code § 3.05.065(E) authorizes a special purchase when there exists, under emergency conditions, a threat to public health, welfare or safety; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 5-22-10-4 authorizes a purchasing agent to make a special purchase when emergency conditions create a threat to public health, welfare or safety; and

WHEREAS, Highland Municipal Code § 3.05.065(B) requires a special purchase to be made with competition as is practicable under the circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that, because of the continuing emergency, the need for uninterrupted debris removal, the Contractor's existing mobilization and operational capacity, and the public health, welfare and safety considerations involved, competition or a new procurement process was not practicable to the extent that such process would interrupt or materially impair the emergency response; and

WHEREAS, Highland Municipal Code § 3.05.065(C) requires a written determination documenting the basis for the special purchase and the selection of the particular contractor; and

WHEREAS, Highland Municipal Code § 3.05.070 recognizes modifications to municipal contracts concerning the period of performance, price, quantity and other contractual provisions; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that the Extension was necessary to continue the Town's emergency debris-removal operations and was in the best interests of the health, welfare and safety of the residents of Highland; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council further finds that sufficient appropriations, resources or other lawful budgetary authority are available to support the additional amount authorized by the Extension; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council now desires to formally confirm, approve and ratify the Extension and all actions taken on behalf of the Town in connection therewith, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, ACTING AS THE WORKS BOARD AND PURCHASING AGENCY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Approval and Ratification.

The Emergency Debris Removal Contract Extension and Modification dated August 22, 2026, between the Town of Highland and Contractor, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference, is hereby approved, confirmed and ratified in all respects, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Section 2. Emergency Finding.

The Town Council hereby determines that emergency conditions existed and continue to exist that constitute a threat to public health, welfare and/or safety and that the emergency special-purchase provisions of Highland Municipal Code § 3.05.065(E) and Indiana Code § 5-22-10-4 apply to the Extension.

Section 3. Competition Finding.

The Town Council hereby determines that competition was not practicable under the circumstances to the extent that requiring a new competitive procurement would interrupt or materially impair the Town's emergency debris-removal operations.

Section 4. Contractor Selection.

The Town Council hereby approves and ratifies the continued selection and use of Contractor as the debris-removal contractor based upon the Contractor's existing mobilization, equipment, personnel, experience, performance, availability and ability to continue the emergency work without interruption.

Section 5. Contract Amount.

The additional compensation authorized by the Extension shall not exceed \$2,300,000, and the aggregate maximum compensation payable under the Original Contract, as amended, shall not exceed \$3,300,000.

Section 6. Authority to Execute Documents.

The Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Council President, the Public Works Director, and/or such other officer or official authorized by law or municipal ordinance to

execute such documents as may be necessary to implement this Resolution and the Extension, provided that no such document may increase the maximum amount authorized herein without further approval of the Town Council or other legally authorized purchasing authority.

Section 7. Emergency Procurement Records.

The Public Works Director and municipal purchasing officials are directed to maintain the written emergency determination, contractor-selection determination, contract, Extension, invoices, payment records and related procurement documents in accordance with Highland Municipal Code § 3.05.065 and Indiana Code § 5-22-10.

Section 8. Clerk-Treasurer.

The Clerk-Treasurer is authorized and directed to process payments properly due under the Original Contract and Extension, subject to applicable appropriations, budgetary authority, contract terms and all applicable state and federal requirements.

Section 9. Federal and State Reimbursement.

Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to waive or alter any applicable federal, state or local requirement concerning reimbursement, grant eligibility, documentation, procurement, audit, record retention, debris eligibility, or cost recovery.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall be effective upon its passage and adoption and, to the fullest extent permitted by law, shall confirm and ratify the Extension and actions described herein as of the date on which the Extension was executed.

DULY PASSED, ADOPTED AND ORDERED by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, acting as the Works Board and purchasing agency, this 14th day of September, 2026, having been passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND, INDIANA

George Georgeff, President, Town Council, Town
of Highland, Indiana

ATTEST:

Mark Herak, Clerk-Treasurer,
Town of Highland, Indiana

EMERGENCY DISASTER DEBRIS REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL SERVICES AGREEMENT-ADDENDUM 3

OWNER: TOWN OF HIGHLAND, IN

CONTRACTOR: LOOKS GREAT SERVICES OF MS, INC.

EMERGENCY DISASTER DEBRIS REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL SERVICES
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND, IN AND LOOKS GREAT
SERVICES OF MS, INC.

Not to Exceed Extension

The \$2,300,000.00 not to exceed amount in Addendum 2 is amended to \$3,300,000.00

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Addendum as of the dates written below.

OWNER:

Town of Highland, Indiana

By: George Gerdorf

Print: GEORGE GERDORF

Date: 9-8-26

LOOKS GREAT SERVICES OF MS, INC.

By: Sean Hunt

Print: Sean Hunt

Date: 09/08/2026

2. Controlled Event Permit. Action regarding permission to conduct a Car Show on a public way submitted by the Highland Fire Fighter's Association as part of their annual Fire Department Open House to be held on October 3, 2026.

This is a controlled event under Chapter 5.25. Section §5.25.020(B) requires action by the Town Council in an open regular or special session. .

- (b) Request from Highland Fire Fighters' Association seeking permission for its event of October 3, 2026 as a controlled event.

When the applicant is the municipality, through its executive departments, its administrative bodies, or agencies, no formal application is required provided that a request shall be filed in sufficient time to permit the town council to act in a regular or special meeting in advance of the event.

The Town Council must act in a regular or special meeting upon the application or request, where it may, in its discretion, issue such permit and likewise, in its discretion, may refuse the issuance of a permit.

****The motion should be to move to approve the special event without alcohol permit (SEAP) for the Highland Fire Fighter's Association Car Show to be held on October 3, 2025. The Street Closure will be Highway Avenue from Langels to 5th Street from 9:00 o'clock a.m. to 4:00 o'clock p.m. (Recommendation of the Fire Chief**

Councilor Robertson moved to approve the request from the Highland Fire Fighter's Association to conduct a controlled event, where alcohol will not be dispensed on Highway Avenue, a public way, from Langels to 5th Street during the hours of 9 o'clock a.m. till 4 o'clock p.m. Councilor Scheeringa seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were four (4) affirmatives and no negatives and one (1) abstention with Councilors Georgeff, Robertson, Black and Scheeringa voting in the affirmative and Councilor Turich abstaining. . The motion passed. The controlled event permit on a public way for the day of October 3, 2026 was granted.

3. **Proposed Ordinance No. 1858:** An Ordinance of the Town of Highland, Indiana, Approving and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds by the Town of Highland Sanitary District and the Appropriation of the Proceeds thereof and addressing all Matters Related thereto.

Councilor Black introduced and filed Proposed Ordinance 1858. There was no further action.

(Introduce Only)

ORDINANCE NO. 1858

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
HIGHLAND, INDIANA, APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS BY
THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND SANITARY DISTRICT AND THE
APPROPRIATION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF, AND ADDRESSING
OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO**

WHEREAS, the Board of Sanitary Commissioners (the "Board") of the Sanitary District of the Town of Highland, Indiana (the "District") proposes to issue bonds pursuant to IC 36-9-25 (the "Bonds"), in order to finance a project consisting of sanitary district sewer improvements, including, without limitation, design and construction of a new North Fifth Street Lift Station and appurtenances and facilities pertaining thereto as part of the District's compliance with a federal Consent Decree (including providing funds to the Hammond Sanitary District for the cost of sanitary district sewer improves that serve the Highland Sanitary District) and all costs related thereto, including expenses in connection with or on account of the issuance of the Bonds (collectively, the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Indiana (the "Town Council"), as the fiscal body and the legislative body of the Town of Highland, Indiana, now desires to approve the issuance of the Bonds and the appropriation of the proceeds thereof (the "Additional Appropriation");

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND, INDIANA, as follows:

Section 1. Approval of Bonds. The Town Council hereby approves the issuance by the District of not to exceed \$30,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of its Bonds to provide for the financing of the Project and related costs, and the Additional Appropriation of the proceeds of the Bonds and any investment earnings thereon for such purposes. The interest rate on the Bonds to be issued by the District shall not exceed six percent (6.0%) per annum. A portion of the Bond proceeds may be applied to pay capitalized interest on the Bonds if determined to be necessary or appropriate by the President of the Board with the advice the Board's financial advisor. The final maturity date of the Bonds shall not be later than twenty (20) years after their date of issuance. The Bonds may be subject to redemption prior to maturity on terms determined by the Board prior to the sale of the Bonds, with the advice of the Board's financial advisor. The Bonds shall be payable from a special tax levy of the District.

Section 2. Authorization of Other Actions. The President of the Town Council, any member of the Town Council, and the Clerk-Treasurer of the Town, and any other officer, employee or agent of the Town, is hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the Town, to execute and deliver any contract, agreement, certificate, instrument or other document and to take any action as such person determines to be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purposes of this Ordinance, such determination to be conclusively evidenced by such person's

execution of such contract, agreement, certificate, instrument or other document or such person's taking of such action.

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Town Council as required by law.

Introduced and filed on the 14th day of September, 2026. Consideration on the same day or at the same meeting of introduction was not considered, pursuant to I.C. 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this 12 day of October, 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ opposed.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

George Georgeff, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

Attest:

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer (IC 33-42-4-1; IC 36-5-6-5; IC 36-5-2-10.2)

4. Authorize the proper officer to publish legal notice of a public hearing.
If approved, the public hearing to consider the additional appropriations in the amount of \$92,240.25 in the Redevelopment General. If approved, the public hearing will be held on September 28, 2026 at 6:30 P.M. O'clock in the Municipal Building, 3333 Road Highland.

Councilor Black moved to authorize the proper officer to publish legal notice as indicated. Councilor Scheeringa seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The proper officer was authorized to publish the notice as indicated.

**TOWN OF HIGHLAND
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL
APPROPRIATIONS**

Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, that the Town Council of said Municipality in said Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, at 6:30 p.m. on the 28th day of September 2026, will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year in the following funds:

Redevelopment General

2216-0000-40019	2655 Garfield Promissory Note	\$92,240.92
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<i>Total for 400 Series:</i>	<i>\$92,240.92</i>
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Total for the Fund:	\$92,240.92
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Funds to support these additional appropriations in the Redevelopment General Fund shall be supported by miscellaneous revenue, unreserved unobligated fund balance on deposit to the credit of the fund.

Taxpayers appearing at such meeting shall have a right to be heard thereon. The additional appropriations, as finally made, will be filed with the Department of Local Government Finance, for its review. The Department of Local Government Finance shall make a written determination of the sufficiency of funds within fifteen days of receipt of a certified copy of the action taken.

TOWN COUNCIL of HIGHLAND
George Georgeff, President

By: Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer

Comments from the Town Council:

(Good of the order)

- **Councilor Doug Turich:** *Metropolitan Police Commission • Liaison and Plan Commission Member • Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals Liaison • Liaison to Building & Inspection Department*

Councilor Turich said Building Commissioner Ken Mika was off today and Councilor Turich did not have any updates on Ken's behalf.

Councilor Turich then acknowledged Commander John Banasiak who was filling in for Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta and he gave the following report:

Town Council Meeting Monday September 14, 2026

Since the last Town Council meeting of August 24, 2026:

Murder: zero

Rape: zero

Robbery: zero

Burglary: Two (2)

1: Porte De Leau Condos on 45th. A safe was taken from a condo. Suspect is a family member as there was no forced entry.

2: Garage in the 3000 blk of Laporte St. Found somebody entered and had been sleeping in a car parked in the garage. Nothing was missing and the suspect's phone was found in the car. Charges are pending.

Stolen vehicles: One (1). A Honda Accord was taken from the 2400 block of 81st St. Suspect is the ex-girlfriend as the keys were missing after a custody exchange.

Shoplifting: Five (5) reports made with one arrest. Kohl's with an adult female from Highland being arrested.

From our full month of August stats:

1,052 calls for service

43 adults were arrested or charged

280 tickets written

221 warnings were written

108 crash reports were taken

18 people were injured in the crashes
60 vehicles towed for various reasons
14 DUI arrests

Upcoming events to note:

This Wednesday Sept. 16th at 6:30pm is our next Crime Watch meeting
in the PD Community room

Sunday September 27th, is the Annual Victory for Veterans Motorcycle
Ride Fundraiser from Wicker Park. This year, the event has been
moved up one hour, now starting at 10:30am, to hopefully lessen the
impact on traffic in Highland and nearby towns and cities.

Councilor Turich said he had a couple of questions for the group. He asked Councilor Georgeff and Clerk-Treasurer Herak about going to the 12-hour shifts for the police department. He said he has actively worked with the PD and the Police Commission over the last 8 months to do a feasibility study showing that we can move to a 12-hour shift without increasing headcount and without increasing overtime, unless the way that people call off changes. He said we can support a 12-hour shift. He said they are asking the members of the police department to vote on two different items. One of them is what kind of shift rotation would you like to see? The two options are: rotate every 8 weeks or once a year. Once that is determined, then we'll take a vote on whose interested in moving to 12-hour shifts. If the department decides that they want to move in that direction, what steps are required from the PD side to make that effective at a Council level?

The Clerk-Treasurer said the Police Commission has the final say, if the 12 hour shift does not increase the headcount and without increasing overtime and the issue how vacation time will be determined is resolved.

Councilor Turich said he has support of the police commission at this time and vacation time has already been converted from days to hours. He said they resolved the overtime requirements and comp time issues. He said it has all been laid out in this feasibility study, which he will share with the Council. He said there is one additional topic to finalize. He then wanted to know if any ordinances had to be changed.

The Clerk-Treasurer advised that the employee handbook would have to be modified to reflect the 12 hour shifts.

Councilor Georgeff asked if it has been determined the time of the shifts? He was concerned if you started the shift at 6 o'clock a.m., the afternoon shift would never interact with the administration.

Councilor Turich said all departments in Northwest Indiana work the 6 o'clock a.m. to 6 o'clock p.m. He said if an administrator wants to see an officer, the administrator should either come in early or stay late.

The Clerk-Treasurer asked about metrics or if kpi's been established so we don't see a drop in productivity the last four (4) hours of the shift.

Councilor Turich said all of the KPIs and metrics have been identified and we'll be able to measure productivity. He said this will be a one-year pilot program that will be put in place January 1st of 2027 and then evaluate once in July of 2027 and then again in October of 2027.

His second question pertained to AED's. He said he brought this topic up a couple of weeks again. He said he asked the Council about placing AED's in the supervisor cars. He relayed a situation where an individual was in cardiac arrest, five officers showed up before the ambulance but none had an AED. He asked if funding could be found to purchase AED's for the supervisor's cars. He said he has a quote for \$17,000 for 9 units. He said if we buy now, any old ones that we want to turn in, they'll give us a \$200 credit, so that would reduce the cost a little bit. His ask is there any room in a budget line item outside of the PD that can

cover that for this year? He asked because at the last commission meeting, it was reported that there is not a lot of fluff available as we have to pay for overtime to cover the short shifts.

Councilor Georgeff said the PD should have sufficient funds in their own budget with all the officers who have retired or left.

The Clerk-Treasurer said we can do an additional out of the public safety income tax.

Councilor Turich suggested that maybe he and Councilor Georgeff, along with the administrative assistant and one of the commissioners can go through the budget and kind of find out where we are.

Councilor Turich then passed a handout to the Council regarding the Highland Parks Department Labor Capacity sheet he prepared. He said back in July, he had approached the Parks Department and the Park Board about doing labor capacity calculations. I received nothing back. My challenge right now is my information is based on the information that I was able to collect from Gateway and the Town's website. The Town has about 250 acres of green space that the Parks Department is required to maintain on a weekly basis or what we consider during our growing season. Based on the metrics which I found online, which is from actually Austin, Texas, which is the one park system I found, which is very organized. They have a document that lays out for each acre of property, how long it takes to do the work. He said he converted those labor hours into a utilization chart. If I apply that information to the Highland Parks Department, the Highland Parks Department is completely overutilized or put it simply, they have more work than people to complete the tasks and it by a significant amount. If we compare Highland to best case scenario from Austin, Texas, Highland is utilized at 153% and the worst case scenario, based upon the national standard that says most people in an 8-hour day, are only working 85% of the time, when considering breaks lunches, driving to and from work, the utilization level rises to 180%. He said the Town wants to continue to strive for excellence. We want our parks to look good and we want our buildings to look good. The challenge right now, based on this information and the math that Councilor Turich completed, there is not enough hours in a day to support all of the park property and continue lawn maintenance and care for the Town Hall, the Police and Fire Stations. He said he asked the Police Department and the Police Commission to go out and get quotes from an external vendor to maintain these properties moving forward. He said he would like to see a line added in the budget to include the lawn care and maintenance by an outside contractor for the Police and Fire Stations and the Town Hall. He added, when he walks up to the Police Station or Town Hall, the weeds and the length of the grass around these buildings needs to be addressed.

His last question pertained to a meeting hosted by Councilors Georgeff and Scheeringa. It was held at a local restaurant and several department heads were in attendance. He said he wasn't invited and he heard about the meeting from people at the restaurant. They asked

him why he wasn't there and what was the purpose of the meeting. He said he was unaware that there was a meeting or what the meeting was about.

Councilor Georgeff said he scheduled it.

Councilor Turich asked Councilor Georgeff that in the future, if meetings are scheduled to let the entire Council be kept in the loop. He said he asks because if people ask him, hey, we saw several of the Council and department heads meeting in the open, what is going on and he can respond intelligently.

Councilor Georgeff said, none of our councilmen should be required to notify the other Councilman if or when they're meeting with our department heads.

Councilor Turich responded then the other Councilors are not going to know what's going on.

Councilor Scheeringa said to Councilor Turich, that he is the liaison to the Park Department and if Councilor Turich requests information, he should go through him first.

Councilor Turich said he did. He said he sent Councilor Scheeringa an email on July 22nd and he included all of the Park Board members, requesting the information he passed out earlier and got from Gateway. He said no one responded, including Councilor Scheeringa. He said as an elected official of this Town, it is hard for me to answer questions when I don't know why people are meeting.

Councilor Scheeringa said instead of sending me a text like you did, you could have called me and I would have told you.

Councilor Turich said, yes you would have told me, after the fact. Why couldn't you tell me before the meeting took place.

HIGHLAND PARKS DEPARTMENT | LABOR CAPACITY

Highland, Indiana • 250 Acres of Existing Park Space

BOTTOM LINE: The Parks Department is over capacity maintaining our existing park system. A full maintenance cycle across the 250 acres requires approximately 1,038 labor hours per week. At peak staffing, only 680 labor hours are available, creating a labor utilization of 153%. Because staff members are typically on task only 85% of the time, actual available capacity is approximately 578 hours, driving the utilization to 180%. To successfully keep up with the maintenance of the park system, we need to hire an additional 9 seasonal employees during the growing season.

1 | CURRENT LABOR HOURS AVAILABLE BY SEASON

SEASON	STAFFING	LABOR CAPACITY	CAPACITY REALITY
SPRING Mid-March-Late April	Core staff + seasonal hiring ramp	Varies by staffing date	Grass cutting begins in mid-March; capacity builds toward peak
SUMMER Late April-Aug. 1	17 outside crew	680 hrs available*	BEST CASE: 1,038 hrs required + 680 hrs available = 153% utilization
FALL Aug. 1-Oct.	9 outside crew after 8 seasonal employees leave	Below peak capacity	Capacity declines while mowing/cleanup requirements continue

2 | WHAT IT TAKES TO MAINTAIN 250 ACRES

BENCHMARK	PARK ACREAGE	REQUIRED HOURS	PEAK CAPACITY
4.15 labor hrs / acre	250 acres	1,038 hrs	680 hrs

BEST CASE UTILIZATION | $1,038 \div 680 \times 100 = 153\%$

REALISTIC UTILIZATION | $1,038 \div (680 \times 85\%) \times 100 = 180\%$

Benchmark: 4.15 labor hours per acre for a full-service mowing cycle (mowing + blowing + line trimming/detail work), based on Austin, Texas parks maintenance benchmark. This is used as a planning benchmark, not claimed as a universal national average.

3 | CURRENT EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE WORK

4 Zero-turns	1 16-ft mower	10 Weed Whackers	6 Blowers	2 Tractors	2 Edgers	17 Outside crew peak
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4 | LABOR IS ALSO REQUIRED FOR

• Ball fields and athletic-field preparation	• Restrooms and park facilities
• Travel, Equipment setup/maintenance	• Landscaping and seasonal planting
• Playground and park amenity maintenance	• Tree work, storm cleanup and general grounds work
• Special events and event setup/support	• Work orders and weather recovery

5 | CONCLUSION

The Parks Department does not have enough labor capacity to fully cover its existing 250 acres. If the Parks Department continues to mow the Town Hall, Police Station and Fire Department locations, it will continue to struggle to keep up with the park system's own green space. To protect park maintenance capacity, the Town needs to hire an outside service to mow these municipal locations.

RECOMMENDATION: Contract with an outside lawn-care service for Town Hall, the Police Station and Fire Department locations so Parks Department crews can focus their limited labor capacity on maintaining the Town's existing park space.

- Mowing: 1.60 hours/acre
- Blowing: 0.30 hours/acre
- Line trimming: 2.00 hours/acre
- Litter/recycling: 0.25 hours/acre
- Total – 4.15

Source: municipal parks labor-time benchmark of 4.15 labor hours per acre came from "services.austintexas.gov"

• **Councilor Alex Robertson:** *Fire Department Liaison • Redevelopment Commission Member • Public Works Liaison • Liaison to Main Street Bureau • Liaison to the Tree Board • Liaison to the Highland Neighbor for Sustainability.*

Councilor Robertson began by asking Councilor Georgeff if the memorandum is ready as it was supposed to be addressed tonight and he didn't see anything on the agenda or claims.

Councilor Georgeff said he has not seen it and he advised that he received a telephone call from the Town Attorney that he would not be in attendance at tonight's meeting as he was called out of town.

Councilor Robertson asked if there is anything that we can do to help Attorney Reed because it seems like he's not present when he needs to be present or doesn't have the documents prepared in a timely manner. He asked why Attorney Reed could not have sent an associate from his firm?

Councilor Georgeff said Attorney Reed explained to him that this call came up at the last minute, otherwise he would have sent an associate.

Councilor Robertson said we really need to have an executive session and it needs to be scheduled today. He said he brought this up before that we need to talk about personnel matters in an executive session and we never got a response from Attorney Reed. He said we should have it whether or not Attorney Reed can attend. It seems like a crap shoot if he attends our meetings and its becoming unacceptable. He said we need to have an executive session to figure this out.

The Clerk-Treasurer was asked to advertise for an executive session on Monday, September 21, 2026, at 6:30, in the upper chamber of the Town Hall.

Councilor Robertson then acknowledged Public Works Director Knesek began by saying he received a report from the debris removal hauler. He said as of yesterday, they've worked 26 days, hauling debris and cutting trees down. He said Highland is at 140,218 cubic yards and they have removed 402 trees. He said they have trimmed 2,546 hanging branches. He said they have a total of 76 concrete damage sites so far. He said we've gotten a few more from cutting these big trees down and some of the big logs are falling and hitting concrete and breaking the concrete. He said the tree contractor didn't really have any other options. He said they are dropping them safely. He said once all the debris is picked up and all of the stumps removed, he will start assessing how much concrete damage exists and get some estimates. This would include sidewalks, driveways, aprons and curbs. He re-mentioned what Councilor Georgeff said earlier, the vendor with the corkscrew that breaks up the stumps, will be in Highland after they finish in Lake Station. They're planning on being here maybe next week or mid or late next week. He said paving will begin on Ridge

Road, next week. They will start with pulling concrete and replacing it. Once the concrete is complete, the contractor will start on the paving. He is hoping to have Ridge Road done before the celebrity motorcycle ride and the freight ride. He said the street probably won't be stripped.

Councilor Robertson asked the Public Works Director plans on plowing Prairie Avenue with the recently installed speed bumps. He asked if the speed bumps would be removed.

Mark Knesek said the speed bumps would remain and the plow operators will have to raise their plows. He added, one section is missing and needs to be ordered.

Councilor Robertson said he has received several phone calls residents wanting speed bumps in their neighborhood. He wanted to know the criteria so he could tell the callers.

Councilor Georgeff said the criteria hasn't been established yet but the Traffic Safety Committee is working on it and hopes to present to the Council shortly.

Councilor Robertson asked if the Traffic Safety's starting time couldn't be changed so more members of the public could attend as many would like to attend, especially when considering the topic of speed bumps.

Councilor Black said its at its scheduled time to accommodate the members of the police department who work shifts.

Councilor Robertson acknowledged Fire Chief Glenn Schlessler began by saying the concrete work at the Central Station is ongoing. He said he has three (3) trucks lined up for service that suffered some damage to the electrical systems when the generators malfunctioned (backfeed). He said the radio antenna was also damaged in the storm. He mentioned that the Department is ramping up for the Fire Department Open House, the first Saturday in October. He said he hopes to have some generator bids for the Council as both generators failed (South and Central). He said both are old and beyond repair capacity.

• **Councilor Tom Black:** *Redevelopment Commission Liaison and Member • Member of the Lake County Solid Waste Management District Board • Regional Planning Commission (NIPRC) • Shared Ethics Representative • Liaison Traffic Safety • Liaison to the Sanitary Board*

Councilor Black acknowledged Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra who gave the following report:

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Revision of Outdated Plans & Development of New Plans

- **Update Comprehensive Master Plan (updating 2007)**
 - The Planning Commission held the public hearing and approved the plan, it will be present to the Town Council for final adoption September 28, 2027.

These plans will be uploaded and available to the public online on progress and implementation of short term and long-term strategies.

REDEVELOPMENT OF GATEWAY KEY PARCELS

Indianapolis Blvd.

- **Redevelopment of the 8401 Indianapolis Parcel (old Ultra parcel)** A developer would like to meet with the Town to discuss a new development there.

Big Restaurant Crawl September 29th from 4-9, with the \$7.00 specials. Jose's, Sakura Bowl, Langels, Growlers, SIP, Relish Hot Dog, Dan Pierogies, The Counter, and Fuzzyline are all participating. There will Bands and Craft Vendors.

Councilor Black said he would have an update on the Solid Waste Board at the next meeting, as the board is meeting this Thursday.

• **Councilor Philip Scheeringa:** • *Park Board Liaison* • *Information Communications and Technology Department Liaison* • *Redevelopment Commission Member*

Councilor Scheeringa acknowledged Mindi Ray, the Parks and Recreation Superintendent, began by thanking Councilman Turich for his matrix and information on staffing. She said she started to work on it but with the August 11th storm, she hasn't had much time to spend on it. She said she will be proposing some staffing restructuring at this Thursday's Park Board Meeting. She said she wants to amend the salary ordinance, increase staffing and propose a revision to the on-call policy. She said the Park Department has a lot of fun things happening now to the end of the year, including the Freight Ride and Pumpkin Plod. She reminded everyone that both events offer early bird pricing. She said the early bird registration ends for the Fright Ride on September 18th and the pumpkin plot, early bird pricing will end on October 16th. She said you are also able to register online. She said the staff is gearing up for the backyard barbecue which is the last weekend in September. She said they are replacing the damaged fencing around Main Square Park. The trunk & treat at Main Square will be October 27th. She said spots are still available for anyone who wants to participate.

Councilor Scheeringa then acknowledged IT Director Ed Dabrowski, who said he have been working with some of our telecommunication vendors to use as lessons learned during the storm to strengthen our systems. He met with Horizon on some enhancements they have in their circuitry and the 5G network to alleviate some of the problems experienced with police and fire. He said he has to go through each piece of equipment to see what equipment was damaged during the storm as a lot of the electronic equipment is very sensitive to being on a generator for a continuous period of time. He said a lot of people are experiencing failures on their home appliances like refrigerators or dishwashers because of the extended use of being on a generator. He said the Town lost a copier at the Fire Station which is covered by insurance. The new one will be delivered in October. He said he is experimenting with Starlink for the Police Department. He said it was mounted last week. He said he is seeing increases in internet service. The increases range from 3 to 5%.

• **Councilor George Georgeff:** *Town Executive (I.C. 36-1-2-5-(4); I.C. 36-5-2-2; I.C. 36-5-2-7);* • *Board of Trustees of the Police Pension Fund, Chair (By Law)* • *Budget Committee Chairman* • *Redevelopment Commission Member* • *Liaison to the Board of Water Works* • *Member of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIPRC)*

Councilor Georgeff started with an update on the parking permits in the 9100 block of Waymond Avenue. He said it's been almost a year since the Council approved the parking by permit signs in the 9100 block of Waymond. He said he has been receiving calls from residents asking about the permits because the signs say permit parking only and if you live in that neighborhood and on that block, where do they attain the permits. Councilor Georgeff said residents can go to the police station and up the stairs, to the Chief's secretary

and she will provide you with permits. He said the residents will have to show some form of identification. He said the permit parking was established due to the fact that the management of the Hamptons apartment complex, placed restrictions upon their residents and their parking causing their residents to park outside of the apartment complex and in front of the residents homes.

He said he talked with the Town's consultant from ER Assist, Laura Matula. He advised that there is a meeting coming up on the 17th of September and several department heads will be attending that meeting. She's going to speak on behalf of the Town and provide all the documentation and information needed for us to obtain reimbursement from FEMA. Laura said it doesn't appear to be problem for Highland to get reimbursed for their expenses. She did tell George that the Town will probably have to increase the addendum again and also advised that the Town will have to sign another contract with a third party vendor. This vendor will come in and hollow out the stumps of the remaining uprooted trees so they can be picked-up and removed. The remaining stumps are too heavy for the machinery to pick-up. These expenses are not reimbursable by FEMA. He clarified that these are the stumps that are standing perpendicular to the ground or the ones that have the roots out of the ground,

Public Work Director Knesek said he thought these stumps, which are still in the ground were reimbursable. He said the grinding of the stumps still in the ground are not covered by FEMA.

Councilor Turich said the stumps are in the parkway and the Town should really think about covering the cost to the residents.

The Public Works Director said that since Highland is a Tree City USA, the responsibility will be with the Town.

Councilor Georgeff said ER Assist will be putting out a procurement contract to see if the Town can't hire a contractor to grind the stumps and give them a volume discount.

Public Works Director Knesek said he was thinking about purchasing a stump grinder, which attaches to their backhoe but these trees are way too big.

Councilor Turich asked who will be responsible for the stump grinding. The Town or the resident? He said he wants to be clear as there are a lot of questions on social media.

Councilor Georgeff said he has had conversations with the Tree Board about purchasing trees and providing them to the residents free.

Councilor Turich said we should outline the phases for the residents. The first phase is to remove the trees and debris. Phase two is to grind the trees still in the ground, fill in the

holes and put down seed. Phase three is to grind the stumps in the parkway. Phase four is to offer to the residents replacement trees or fill in the holes with either seed or sod.

Public Works Director Knesek said he wanted to clarify. Yes, FEMA will reimburse for the removal of the perpendicular trees and roots but when it comes to backfill. The contractor will remove the stump, shake the stump and let any loose dirt fall back in the hole but it is the responsibility of the Town to fill in with any additional fill.

Councilor Turich said that should be one of phases as we don't want anyone walking and tripping and falling.

Councilor Scheeringa asked to revisit the parking by permit only signs in the 2000 block of 44th place. There are signs on that street as well and a resident texted Councilor Scheeringa on where could they obtain permits?

Councilor Georgeff advised them to attain them from the Chief's secretary.

That concluded comments from the Council and President Georgeff then turned it over to comments from visitor's or residents, reminding them to limit their comments to 2 minutes.

Comments from Visitors or Residents:

Steve Lima, Highland, passed out this handout and discussed with the Council:

Hello,

My Name is Steve Lima. My Wife CHRISTINE AND I LIVE AT 3518 44th Pl. On Sept 6 At Approx 230AM OUR HOUSE WAS STRUCK BY A RECKLESS/SPEEDING AND ITX-ICATED DRIVER. The Vehicle TRAVELING E/B ON 44th Pl, DROVE ACROSS OUR NEIGHBORS LAWN, 3512 44th Pl, ROBBED TO LAND ON MY LAWN DESTROYING THAT, ALONG WITH ALL THE FRONT LANDSCAPING.

IT THEN COLLIDED INTO OUR FRONT CEMENT STAIRS, CRUSHERING THEM INTO FRAGMENTS. THE VEHICLE THEN SIDESWIPE THE FRONT OF OUR HOUSE DAMAGING EVERYTHING FROM THE LANDSCAPING, FOUNDATION, FRONT PORCH AND SIDING ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE END OF THE HOUSE, EVEN CAUSING DAMAGE TO MY OTHER NEIGHBOR PROPERTY, AT 3522 44th Pl.

The Police Report, # 26 HI165188, SHOWS THE DRIVER ARRESTED FOR DWI.

Myself AND THE BELOW MENTIONED RESIDENT OF THIS BLOCK ARE ASKING FOR THE TOWN TO ADDRESS THIS MATTER TO CONSIDER INSTALLING (AT THE VERY LEAST) A STOP SIGN AT THE CORNER OF O'DAY AND 44th St. ALONG WITH AT LEAST ONE SPEED BUMP TO SHOW RECKLESS/SPEEDING CARS WHICH OFTEN SPEED DOWN O'DAY/44th Pl.

IN CLOSING, WE HOPE THAT THE VILLAGE COUNCIL WILL ADDRESS THIS PRESSING AND DANGEROUS MATTER.

OVER

Thank you,

Stephania & Cristine Lind

Stephania (Christine Lind)

CHRIS ERFMEYER 3512 44TH PL.

Chris Erfmeyer

Taylor Erfmeyer 3512 44th Pl
Taylor Erfmeyer

DAN GAMALERI 9628 O'DAY DRIVE
Dan Gamaleri

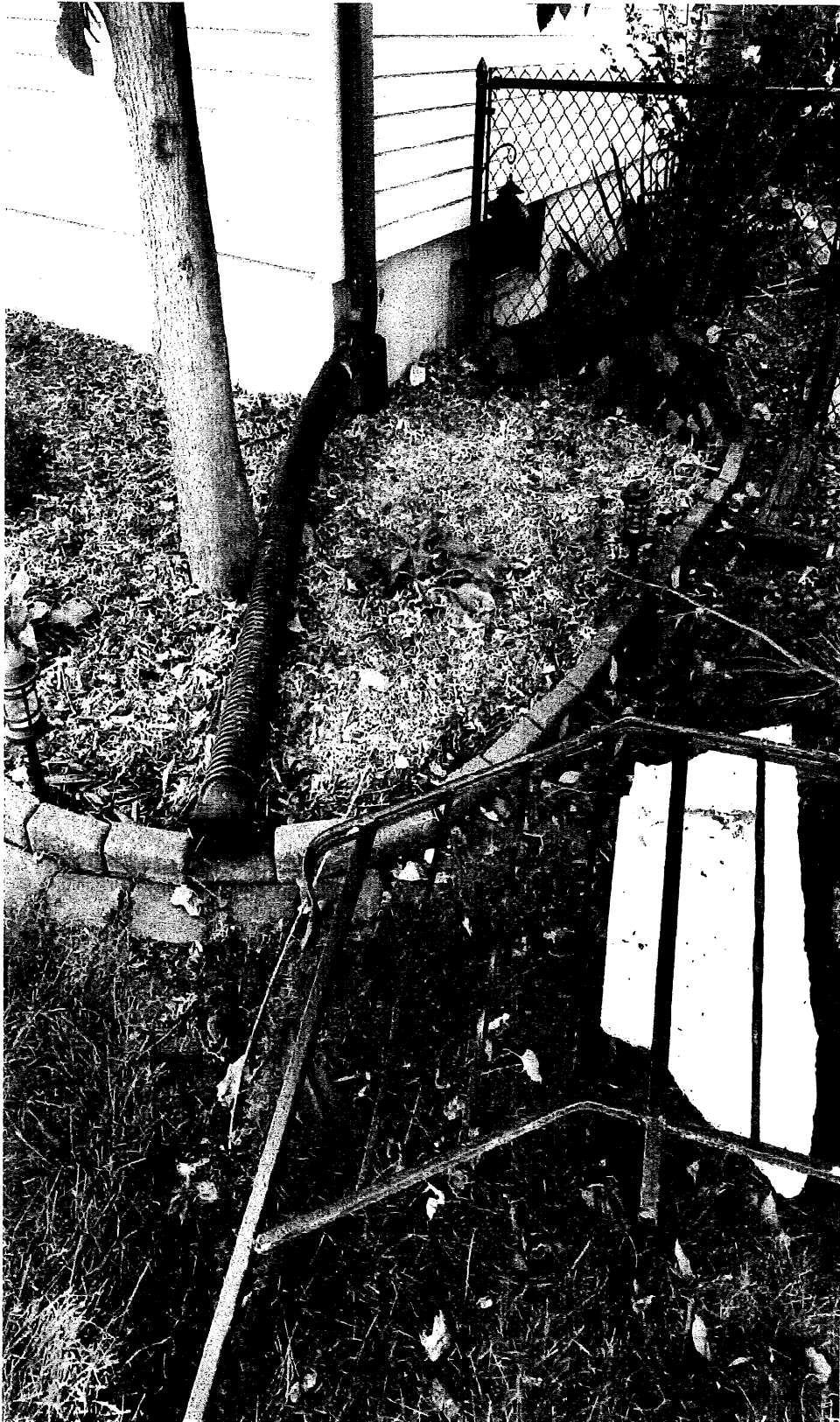
Julie Gamaleri 9628 O'Day Drive
Julie A. Gamaleri

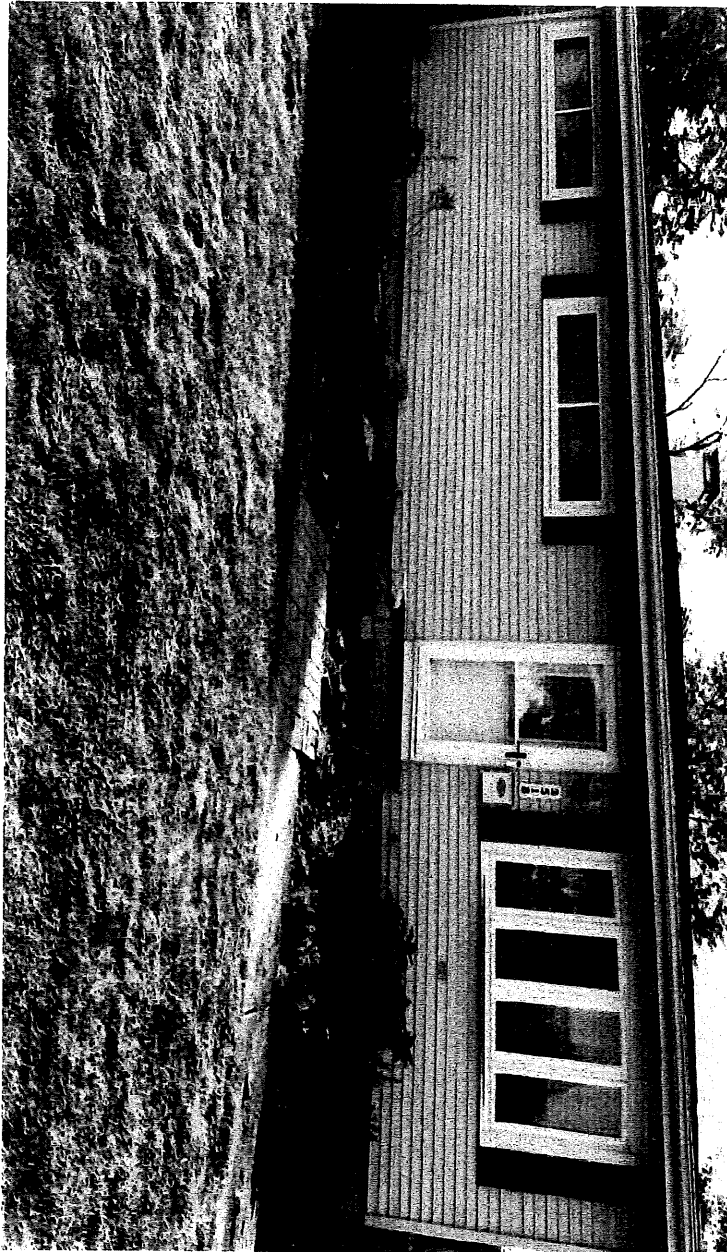
George Mapouco 3522 44th Pl
George Mapouco

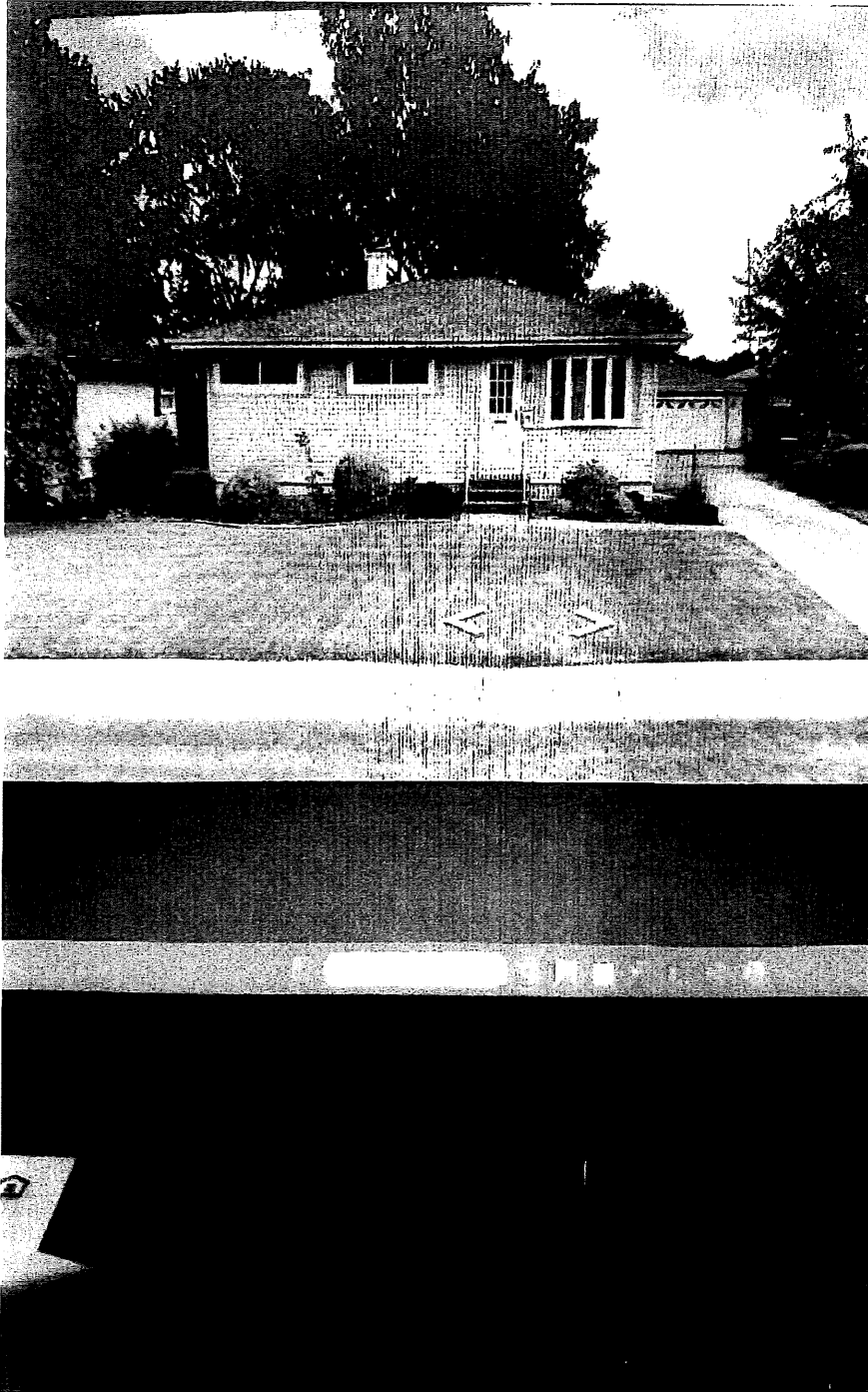
Liane Ellis-Tucker 3532 44th Pl.
Liane Ellis

STEVE MACK 9636 Liable Dr.









aboutblank

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Dan Gamaleri, Highland, said he lives three (3) houses from Steve. He said he lived in his house since 1979. He said he and his wife got signatures for a three-way stop sign in the 90's at O'Day and 44th Street. He said they turned it in but felt it must have been swept under a rug because they didn't hear anything about it. The idea was to slow drivers down, not just drunks. People on their cell phones, texting and not paying attention. He said when they hit the curve, they go straight and don't curve, with two (2) wheels of the car on the parkway or sidewalk and in many cases, the cars have ended up on the front lawn of the houses. He says he sits in his living room, watching the ballgame and seeing these cars drive up on the side walk or parkway through his picture window, knowing they are not paying attention. He said it is more dangerous now as the neighborhood is changing to younger families and you have mothers walking their children. If this isn't addressed now, it is only going to get worse. There is a three-way stop sign in Steve Lima's request. If the Town doesn't have money for speed bumps, then at least they can install a stop sign. At least the stop sign will force drivers to slow down. He said the only other stop sign is at O'Day and 42nd Place. There is roughly 4-1/2 blocks before the stop sign at Liabile. There's nothing to slow drivers down once you hit the curb. He invited the Council to visit his neighborhood and check out what's he saying as it is dangerous. He's even see other cars having to swerve to get out of the way.

Steve Mack, Highland, he says he lives on the starting line or finishing line of the Liabile Road drag strip. He said he lived here for over 20 years, going back to 2006. The first he lived there, somebody lost control of their car and hit head on one of Maple Trees in his parkway. He said the speeding is out of control. People don't care. He said he yells slow down and the drivers flip him off. He said he talked with Councilor Georgeff back in June on the phone, and you turned me on to Commander Banasiak. Steve said I realize there is only so much police resources but something physically needs to be done. He said he had suggestions he would like to discuss with the Traffic Safety. He said it is particular dangerous with people trying to go straight out of boulevard estates. You have to inch out to see oncoming traffic. He said he suggested speed bumps 18 years ago and he was told speed bumps were not an option because of the snow plows. He said he's not buying it because he lived in Westminster, Colorado and they get more snow there than here and they have speed bumps everywhere. He said they are not seeing as many older people but younger families with little kids, with moms with strollers and kids on bikes. You have walkers and joggers and dog walkers. It has really increased the last five (5) years. He said he's seen mothers with minivans doing 45 mph through the neighborhood.

Scott Houldieson, Highland, asked about the plan for the removal of the large root bases. He asks because he still has one in his parkway on Parrish Avenue. He said it is massive. He said the double trailer came by to remove it and it couldn't pick it up. He was wondering if the Town had a plan.

Councilor Georgeff said in the very near future, the Town will be signing a contract with a third party vendor who will come in and they will hollow out the center of the trunk which will reduce the weight so the double trailer trucks can pick up and dispose of it. The vendor will pick up the tree and shake loose the dirt which will fall back into the hole. He said it hasn't been determined regarding the plan to replace the fill. This will come after all of the debris is picked up. Once that gets done, then they're going to move to the stumps,

hollowing them out and removing them. They will then come back and take down the trees that appear dead or wouldn't survive the winter. These trees will be taken down free of charge. The residents will have to remove the stump. ,

Councilor Georgeff asked the residents to complete a survey indicating how many hours they spent helping their neighbors or friends in the community. He said the Town gets credit against the 2.5% the Town has to pay. He said everything that our residents, have done to help each other, counts towards our contribution to that 6.25

Councilor Georgeff asked if there were any other comments. Hearing none, he closed comments from the public and brought it back to the Council. He then asked for a motion to pay claims.

Payment of Accounts Payable Vouchers. There being no further comments from visitors or residents, Councilor Robertson moved to allow the vendors accounts payable vouchers as filed on the pending accounts payable dockets, covering the period August 26, 2026 through September 11, 2026. Councilor Turich seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The accounts payable vouchers for the vendor docket were allowed, payments allowed in advance were ratified, the payroll dockets were ratified, and for all remaining invoices, the Clerk-Treasurer was authorized to make payment.

Accounts payable vouchers August 26, 2026 – September 11, 2026 in the amount of
\$1,178,072.83

General Fund, \$434,879.35; MVH Fund, \$10,730.32; LR &S, \$10,373.48; MVH Restricted \$7,027.30; Public Safety Income, \$20,315.00; Donation, \$854.66; Community Crossing Grant Fund, \$172,957.14; MCCD, \$28,421.15; Gaming Revenue \$1,075.33; ICT Fund, \$19,666.63; Insurance Premium, \$230,165.14; Derecho Disaster Recovery, \$241,607.33

Payroll Docket for payday of September 4, 2026, by fund:
General, \$389,526.27

Payroll Docket for payday of September 4, 2026:

Office of Clerk-Treasurer, \$17,935.96; Building and Inspection Department, \$11,543.73; Metropolitan Police Department, \$149,789.64; Public Works Department (Agency), \$114,408.77; Fire Department, \$9,340.79 and Information and Technology Department, \$4,441.37

Total Payroll: \$307,460.26

Adjournment of Plenary Meeting. There being no further business on the agenda, the Town Council President declared the regular plenary meeting of the Town Council of Monday, September 14, 2026, adjourned at 7:48 o'clock p.m.

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Town Council at its meeting of September 28, 2026.